

August 2021

GuideOne Insurance
Attn: Ms. Jessica Snyder, CEO
1111 Ashworth Road West
Des Moines, IA 50265-3538

Dear Ms. Snyder,

We, the undersigned congregations, religious organizations, and faith leaders, in practicing the tenets of our respective faiths, urge you to align GuideOne's business practices with the Paris Climate Agreement and GuideOne's own message of "Make Positive Change Possible" by immediately ending support for new fossil fuel projects and rapidly phasing out underwriting services for existing fossil fuel projects and companies not aligned with a [1.5°C limit to global warming](#).

As leaders and organizations in the faith community, we see a moral imperative to address the climate crisis with the urgency it demands. Many religious orders have taken steps to divest from fossil fuels, for example, in recognition of the need to stop financing the industries driving climate change and to instead enable the transition to a clean energy economy, now.

Insurance companies have a key role to play to accelerate the transition away from fossil fuels and toward renewable energy. Most importantly, they can end insurance coverage for and investments in the coal, oil, and gas companies and projects that are driving climate change and harming our planet and its people.

Notably, GuideOne leadership has said the company wants to provide coverage to coal companies and utilities that have lost insurance coverage from other insurers. This is concerning due to coal's harmful effects on the planet and human health. Coal is the most carbon-intensive fuel and the pollution from burning coal kills over 10,000 Americans prematurely every year. Over 25 insurance companies worldwide have adopted their own policies to limit and/or end coverage for coal due to the financial risk and to align with their sustainability goals. Given GuideOne's role as a values-based insurance company, we urge you to join them.

We are aware that GuideOne also currently provides insurance to renewable energy. Given the urgent need to decarbonize our energy economy, we encourage GuideOne to step into a leadership position by investing heavily in renewable energy and other solutions to climate change, helping to accelerate the transition to a clean energy future.

Specifically, we are calling on GuideOne Insurance to:

1. Immediately stop insuring new and expanded coal, oil, and gas projects.
2. Immediately cease insuring coal companies.
3. Phase out, in line with a 1.5°C pathway, insurance for oil and gas companies.

4. Divest all assets, including assets managed by third parties, from coal, oil, and gas companies not aligned with a 1.5°C pathway.
5. Bring stewardship activities, membership of trade associations and public positions as a shareholder and corporate citizen in line with a 1.5°C pathway in a transparent way.
6. Establish robust due diligence and verification mechanisms to ensure clients fully respect and observe all human rights, including the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) as articulated in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We respectfully request a meeting with you to discuss this matter within one month of receipt of this letter.

We look forward to your response and to working with GuideOne to align your business practices with your stated values of doing good for the communities, and therefore the planet, that we all call home.

Sincerely,

Congregations and Faith Organizations

Alabama Interfaith Power & Light
Catholic Charities - Gallup, New Mexico
Center Chapel United Methodist Church
Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church
Ethical Humanist Society of the Triangle North Carolina
Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Albuquerque, NM
First Unitarian Universalist Church of New Orleans
Forever Changed Ministries
GreenFaith
Hindu American Foundation
Iowa Interfaith Power & Light
Iowa Methodist Federation for Social Action
Islamic Society of North America
Metropolitan Community Church of the Quad Cities
Michigan Interfaith Power & Light
Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light
Nauraushaun Presbyterian Church
Soto Zen Buddhist Association

Faith Leaders (affiliation included solely for identification purposes)

Sister Ann Jackson, Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center
Pastor Bret Myers, First Congregational United Church of Christ
Britt Vickstrom, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Cecille Thompson, Johnston River of Life

Rev. David Reginald Shogren (ret.), United Methodist Church, Iowa
Rev. Dick Clark (ret.), Walnut Hills United Methodist Church
Rev. Duffy Peet, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bozeman
Eloise M. Cranke, Methodist Federation for Social Action, Iowa Chapter
Rev. Dr. Gregory I. Simpson, Nauraushaun Presbyterian Church
Deaconess Irene DeMaris, Iowa Interfaith Power & Light
Rabbi Jacob Siegel, JLens
Elder Jacqueline Thompson, Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church
James Martin-Schramm, First Lutheran Church
Sr. Pastor Jan Gregory-Charpentier, United Parish of Upton
Jane Alderman, Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Catholic Church
Jeffrey Benz, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Rev. Joan Fumetti, United Church of Christ
Pastor Jonathan Heifner, St. Paul's United Methodist Church
Rabbi Jonathan L Rubenstein, Temple Sinai, Saratoga Springs
Sister Joyce Rupp, Servants of Mary
Kara Grady, St. Thomas Aquinas Parish
Laura Oliver, Milo United Methodist Church
Sister LaVerne Dolphin, Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Leanne Williams, Andrew's Episcopal Church, Des Moines
Linda Goff, First Unitarian Church of Des Moines
Rabbi Linda Motzkin, Temple Sinai, Saratoga Springs
Pastor Lisa Ross Thedens, First Presbyterian Church of Rowley, Iowa
Miriam Ginsberg, New Synagogue Project
Rachel Payne, Boston University School of Theology
Ranae Fagan, Trinity United Presbyterian Church
Rev. Dr. Martin Lohrmann, Wartburg Theological Seminary
Sister Margaret Stratman, Servants of Mary
Rev. Medea Saunders, United Methodist Church
Rev. Nathan Williams, Covenant Presbyterian Church of West Des Moines
Paul Sweson, Walnut Hills United Methodist Church
Rev. Robin Blakeman, West Virginia Interfaith Power and Light
Rod Stevens, Immanuel United Methodist Church
Rev. Roxanne P. Klingensmith (ret.), St. James Episcopal Church
Rabbi Ruhi Sophia Rubenstein, Temple Beth Israel
Sarah Beth Alcabes, New Synagogue Project
Pastor Stacey Nalean-Carlson, Glenwood & Canoe Ridge Lutheran Churches
Steve Birdlebough, Friends Committee, California
Teresa Krueger, Neighborhood Unitarian Universalist Church of Pasadena, CA
Rev. Timothy J. Smith, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Rev. William Ranney, United Methodist Church