



Statement after a Meeting with Governor Jay Inslee

On Wednesday, February 10, the Faith Action Network (FAN) brought twelve Washington State religious leaders to Olympia for a meeting with Governor Jay Inslee.

Our primary agenda for the day was to share with the Governor our support for the moral imperative to protect the most vulnerable in our state, as well as the environment in which we live. We understand that disagreements about the best policies and strategies to achieve the goals so many of us share for our state are a basic part of political life, including that of our legislature. Yet, we left Olympia deeply concerned that the methods of expressing disagreement have taken a turn for the worse that we have not seen before in Washington State politics.

While we do not claim to know all the ins and outs of the State Senate's public firing of State Transportation Secretary Lynn Peterson on February 5, we do know it violates long-standing practices of how disagreements about executive branch leadership have been handled in the past. In our view, best practices should include communication with one's opponents, respect for all parties involved, seeking solutions to resolve differences, and preserving relationships with those who disagree with us so that the difficult work of legislating and governing can continue.

We fear that the outcome of the events of recent weeks will make it very difficult if not impossible for the legislature to move forward on the critical agenda that is ahead of it including supplemental budget requests for children, families, and the mentally ill; housing support; voting rights and racial inequity in our state.

We hope and pray that all leaders of our state government, particularly our legislators, will step back from the brink, put the common good ahead of political gain, and re-dedicate themselves to the work of legislating for the well-being of our state.

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Friends Committee for Washington Public Policy

The Very Rev. Steven Thomason

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Tom Ewell

Friends Committee on Washington Public Policy of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Rev. Richard Lang

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Faith Action Network is a statewide interfaith advocacy 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization through which thousands of people and 107 faith communities across Washington State partner for the common good. Together, we are a powerful voice of the faithful building a more just, peaceful, and sustainable world.