

Dear Faith Leader,

You can help transform how we talk about dying in America--changing us from a culture that doesn't talk about crucial end of life concerns to one that does. Please add your voice to *Conversation Sabbath* this **October 25-November 3, 2019**.*

It's a simple idea: We are inviting faith leaders throughout the country to preach or teach about the vital importance of having values-centered conversations with our loved ones about what matters most when it comes to care at the end of life. Imagine hundreds of congregations talking about these intimate, vital matters during one week in the fall! It just might spark a national conversation.

You see, our mission at [The Conversation Project](#) is to ensure that everyone's wishes for end of life care are expressed and respected. We know through our surveys that 90% of Americans think it is important talk with their loved ones and doctors about what matters most to them. Yet fewer than 30% have done it. Some say it is scary. Or they just don't know how to start the conversation. Your preaching, [Conversation Starter Kit](#), and our [Getting Started Guide for Faith Communities](#) can help.

As clergy, we see how avoiding conversations about our hopes for care at the end of life can leave family members in the dark. Confusion about a loved one's wishes can result in strife at the bedside, increased grief and depression for caregivers, and lasting damage in relationships among the people we love the most.

Many tend to think it's somehow too soon to have these crucial conversations. Too often, however, it ends up being too late. During *Conversation Sabbath*, you can share your faith's teachings on this critical topic and encourage your congregants to talk in a familiar setting about what matters most to them--not wait for a medical crisis in the ICU.

You can bring this rich, spiritually mature conversation to your community through your preaching, pastoral care, and programming. We have free resources to help you, including sample sermons from previous participating Conversation Sabbath preachers.

Please join us for *Conversation Sabbath* and help your congregants preserve their voices should the time come that they cannot speak for themselves. [Click her to sign-up for our monthly newsletter](#) for tips and examples from other faith communities about how to make Conversation Sabbath a success in your congregation!

Thank you for lifting your voice to make a difference in how everyone's unique wishes for care will be expressed and respected.

Yours in peace,

[Rev. Rosemary Lloyd](#)

Advisor to Faith Communities for The Conversation Project

* If these dates pose a challenge in your community, please consider celebrating at another time of the year. Let us know what works for you—we'd love to learn from you.