Dear Faith Leader,

You can help transform how we talk about living and dying in America--changing us from a culture that doesn’t talk about crucial concerns through the end of life to one that does. Please add your voice and consider hosting a *Conversation Sabbath.*

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 those important in our lives about what matters most when it comes to care through the end of life. Imagine hundreds of faith communities talking about these intimate, vital matters! It just might spark a national conversation. See our [Fact sheet here](https://theconversationproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/CS-Fact-Sheet.pdf).

You see, our mission at [The Conversation Project](http://www.theconversationproject.org/) is to ensure that everyone’s wishes for care through the end of life are understood and respected. We know through our surveys that 92% of Americans think it is important talk with their loved ones and doctors about what matters most to them. Yet only 32% have done so. Some say it is scary. Or they just don’t know how to start a conversation. Your preaching, [our Conversation Starter Guide](https://theconversationproject.org/get-started#Your-Conversation-Starter-Guide) and our [Getting Started Guide for Faith Communities](https://theconversationproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/ConversationProject-CommunityKit-Congregations-English.pdf) can help.

Many tend to think it’s somehow too soon to have these crucial conversations. Too often, however, it ends up being too late. The faith community is a powerful voice for change. We invite you to join others in the cultural shift from a reluctance of talking about care wishes through the end of life to starting conversations about living and dying well. Initiating conversations, such as by hosting Conversation Sabbath, is an open invitation to encourage, share, and celebrate our readiness:

* Our readiness to talk about a topic that touches us all: the reality of our mortality
* Our readiness to share our wishes for care through the end of life with people who matter to us and with health care team members
* Our readiness to ground our conversations about the kind of care we want in our values and faith and to talk about a topic that touches us all

*You* can bring this rich, spiritually mature conversation to your community through your preaching, pastoral care, and programming. We have [free resources](https://theconversationproject.org/faith) to help you, including examples of various faith communities who have enacted “conversations” as a spiritual practice, and sample sermons from previous participating Conversation Sabbath preachers.

Please join us in having conversations and help your faith members preserve their voices should the time come that they cannot speak for themselves. [Click here to sign-up for our monthly newsletter](http://forms.ihi.org/the-conversation-project-email-sign-up) for tips and examples from other communities about how to make having conversations 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 understood and respected.

Yours in peace,

Our Team at The Conversation Project