

# Just Transition To Clean Energy



**Seventh Generation Interfaith  
Coalition for Responsible Investment**

2020 Conference

12 October 2020

## Welcome to the 2020 SGI Conference

*"Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."*



The late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, while small in stature, had a large influence on American history. Given today's political discourse, we will miss her civility. It is natural to feel defensive as we face the concurrent super-disruptors of a global pandemic, historic recession, extreme weather, and racial unrest, all amid the most intense election year in modern times. But if we are truly inspired by faith, we must engage one another with the recognition that each of us was created in the image of our creator. This is what sets our faith-based coalition apart, and the reason for our success. To quote another passing hero, Representative John Lewis said *"Faith is being so sure of what the spirit has whispered in your heart that your belief in its eventuality is unshakable."*

I want to welcome our members and guests to Seventh Generation Inter-faith's 2020 conference. Unfortunately, we are not able to come together physically this year; but this is an important time to meet and recommit to our mission to *build a more just and sustainable world for those most vulnerable*.

Our conference theme is **Just Transition to Clean Energy**. The power sector is a major contributor of greenhouse gases in this country and a critical enabler to the decarbonization of the transportation, residential and industrial sectors. However, the speed and equity of this decarbonization is dependent on integrating the concerns of all the key stakeholders. This requires consideration of vulnerable workers and a variety of affected communities when addressing the challenge of stranded assets and ensuring that the investments in low-carbon strategies and technologies create an inclusive, sustainable economy. These concerns are acknowledged in both the Paris Climate Agreement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). We cannot accomplish one SDG at the exclusion of the others. I'm excited to hear from our expert panel to address these issues from a variety of perspectives.

In closing, I want to congratulate Sister Ruth Geraets, PBVM, for receiving the 2020 Father Mike Crosby Award in recognition of her many years of dedicated service to socially responsible investing and the SGI coalition. Thanks to our sponsors for their generous financial support to enable us to continue our work. And finally, I want to thank our Board of Directors for their guidance and the Conference Committee and staff who worked so hard to organize this event.

Peace and All Good,  
Frank Sherman

## Welcome from the SGI Board President

Dear SGI members and friends,

Welcome to the Seventh Generation Interfaith Coalition for Responsible Investment 2020 annual conference.



We are living in unique and challenging times. The coronavirus changed our work environment to virtual offices, meetings, learning and this conference. The most recent rule changes at the SEC will challenge our work and methods for engaging in shareholder actions. Climate change is still a priority for us and the reason for this year's panel discussion and conference theme, *"Just Transition to Clean Energy."*

We are pleased that you joined us for the conference and challenge you to make a difference in your lifetime and for the seven generations to come.

We congratulate Sister Ruth Geraets, PBVM, for receiving the 2020 Father Mike Crosby Award in recognition of her many years of dedicated service to socially responsible investing and the SGI coalition. I am honored and proud to have worked with Sister Ruth on the SGI Board.

I would like to thank Frank, Chris and Natalie for continuing the work that Father Mike Crosby started 47 years ago. Their leadership is our strength and future. I also want to thank the SGI Board for their time and dedication. And finally, I want to thank our sponsors for their support of our work, our members, and our initiatives to create a better life for people and planet.

Peace and blessings,  
Dan Tretow  
SGI Board President

## Today's Program

### Panel Discussion

**Welcome** Frank Sherman  
Executive Director, SGI

**Overview** Christopher Cox, SGI

**Panelists** Tom Content  
Executive Director, [Citizens Utility Board](#)  
(moderator)

Vonda Brunsting  
Program Manager, [Just Transition Project](#)  
Harvard's Kennedy School of Government

Christina Herman  
Program Director on Climate and the Environment  
[Interfaith Center on Corporate responsibility](#)

Cari Anne Renlund  
Vice President and General Counsel  
[Madison Gas and Electric Company \(MGE\)](#)

Peggy Kelsey  
Executive Vice President  
[WEC Energy Group](#)

Bob Stone  
Assistant Business Manager  
[International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 2150](#)

## Panelists:



**Tom Content** is the Executive Director of the Citizens Utility Board of Wisconsin, the nation's first CUB formed in 1979 as a non-profit, nonpartisan consumer advocate for the residential and small business utility customers of Wisconsin. Tom leads a three-person staff that advocates for fair and affordable utility rates and reliable and safe utility service. Tom joined the Citizens Utility Board in 2017 after working for 30 years as a journalist. He became interested in energy and what it costs households while sitting in the back seat, waiting for what seemed like forever, during the gas lines of the '70s. After graduating from Boston University's College

of Communication Tom worked at newspapers in suburban Boston and suburban Philadelphia before moving to Wisconsin. He reported on utilities and worked as business editor at the Green Bay-Press Gazette in the 1990s and then moved to Milwaukee, where he covered energy, utilities and sustainable business for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. His reporting on energy and climate change won the National Press Club's Stokes Award for Energy Writing in 2007. Tom lives with his wife and daughters in Glendale, Milwaukee County.



**Vonda Brunsting** is the Program Manager for The Just Transition Project at the Initiative for Responsible Investment (IRI) within Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. Before joining the IRI, she was the Director of the Capital Stewardship Program at Service Employees International Union (SEIU), which was created to engage the capital markets and financial institutions in innovative ways.

Prior to her time with SEIU, Vonda worked as a community organizer in Chicago, New York, and Boston with the Industrial Areas Foundation. In addition, she co-founded the Trustee Leadership Forum for Retirement Security

here at the IRI. She earned her B.A. from Calvin College and A.M. in Public Policy from the University of Chicago.



**Christina Herman** has twenty-two years of experience with non-governmental and faith-based advocacy organizations working on human rights and sustainable development issues.

Before joining ICCR, Christina was the Associate Director of the Justice, Peace/Integrity of Creation Office, Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, USA. From 2006 to 2015, she represented the US Oblate Province and the international OIP Investment Fund in shareholder advocacy with Fortune 500 corporations on water, climate change and

global access to medicines. Her work with ICCR members on climate change focuses on corporate adoption of science-based targets for GHG emissions reductions, methane reduction across the natural gas supply chain and pursuit of a Just Transition in a decarbonizing economy. She holds an MA in Modern History from the University of Oxford.



**Cari Anne Renlund** is Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary at Madison Gas and Electric Company (MGE), a community energy company located in Madison, Wisconsin. She is the officer in charge of the Legal and Risk Management; Safety, Sustainability and Environmental Affairs; Government Affairs; and NERC Compliance and Generation Operations (NERC) divisions. In this role, Cari Anne also leads partnerships with investors and external stakeholders, including a partnership with the City of Madison to help achieve common energy goals.

She serves on the Boards of MGE Foundation, Inc., a charitable foundation that funds activities and events for nonprofit organizations in the MGE service territory; Customers First Coalition, an alliance for reliable electric service, stable electric rates, and effective consumer protections in Wisconsin; Cool Choices, a nonprofit promoting sustainability and voluntary carbon reductions; and the Wisconsin Utilities Association.

Prior to joining MGE, Cari Anne was a Shareholder and member of the Executive Committee at DeWitt LLP. She is a graduate of University of Wisconsin-Madison, Law School and St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wisconsin.



**Margaret "Peggy" Kelsey** joined WEC Energy Group as executive vice president in September 2017 and assumed responsibilities as general counsel and corporate secretary in January 2018.

In this role, Kelsey is responsible for all legal matters affecting the company. She also is corporate secretary to the WEC Energy Group board of directors and manages all governance matters. She also oversees the company's human resources, administrative services, compliance, facilities and environmental functions.

Kelsey was previously general counsel, corporate secretary and vice president – legal and corporate communications at Racine, Wisconsin-based Modine Manufacturing Co. Previously, she was a partner at Quarles & Brady LLP, where she was a member of the litigation group.

Kelsey holds a B.A. in history from Mount Mary University, a J.D. from Georgetown University and an M.B.A. from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee.



**Robert (Bob) Stone** was born into a military family in El Paso Texas. When his father retired from the Army the Stone family relocated to Butler, Wisconsin. Bob attended Hamilton High School in Sussex, Wisconsin and then attended college for a couple of years. In 1992, he took a job as a cable installer working in the Milwaukee Underground Department for Wisconsin Electric Power Company and joined the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers local 2150 – the largest IBEW local in the state of Wisconsin. Later, Bob transferred to the Oak Creek Power plant as a Power Plant Electrician. In 1999, he was appointed as a shop steward for IBEW local 2150. It was at this time that

he began his interest in the leadership of his local union. He was elected to several leadership positions over the course of the next 10 years including being elected as IBEW Local 2150 President in 2009. In 2015 Bob was hired as a Business Agent for the Utility sector of Local 2150. In 2018, he was promoted to Assistant Business Manager and is currently serving in that capacity. Bob Chairs the IBEW local 2150 Safety committee. He has served on the Milwaukee Area Technical College Electrical Apprenticeship Advisory Board and is a delegate to the Milwaukee Area Labor Council. He is a member of the Board of Directors for the Customer's First Coalition and was appointed to and currently serves on Governor Ever's Climate Change Task Force.

## Fr. Mike Crosby Award: Sr. Ruth Geraets, P.B.V.M.



Sister Ruth entered the Presentation Convent in August 1961. She earned a Bachelor Degree in Elementary Education and Mathematics at Northern State University and went on to obtain a Masters of Arts Degree in Pastoral Studies from the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN. For 21 years, Sister Ruth taught in Catholic Schools in MN and SD. Her ministry then led her to McDowell County, WV, where she worked with Catholic Community Services serving with those made poor as coal companies were leaving the area. Her compassionate heart led her back to South Dakota where she directed shelters for abused and neglected women and children on the Cheyenne River Reservation. She was Coordinator of Formation and Director of Novices 1999-2011. In January 2008, she was appointed Congregational Treasurer, a position she still holds today.

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our principal sponsor  
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**Thank you, Seventh Generation Interfaith Coalition**

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## Seventh Generation Interfaith Coalition for Responsible Investment

The National Catholic Coalition for Responsible Investment (predecessor to Seventh Generation Interfaith) was founded in 1973 by Rev. Michael Crosby of the Midwest Capuchin Franciscans and Sisters Charlita Foxhoven and Alphonsa Puls of the School Sisters of St. Francis. NCCR was the first coalition to join the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) to enhance our shareholder advocacy for systemic change. The membership has grown to 29 faith-based institutions and financial services firms located in the midwestern United States.

The name was changed to Seventh Generation Interfaith in 2015 in reference to the Great Law of the Iroquois whose love of mother earth and all creation led to their credo to consider the impact of their decisions on the current generation as well as for seven generations into the future. We continue to broaden our membership beyond our Catholic roots to include all people of faith and moral values who want to live out our mission in the stewardship of our resources. Through the lens of faith and the promotion of human rights, SGI members work builds a more just and sustainable world for those most vulnerable by integrating social and environmental values into corporate and investor actions. We welcome you to join us!



The Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) pioneered the use of shareholder advocacy to press companies on environmental, social, and governance issues. The coalition of over 300 global institutional investors currently represents more than \$400 billion in managed assets. Leveraging their equity ownership in some of the world's largest and most powerful companies, ICCR members engage management to identify and mitigate social and environmental risks resulting from corporate operations and policies.

Today, ICCR members seek: to eliminate forced labor risks in global supply chains; to curb GHG emissions to align with the Paris Climate Agreement; to develop sustainable food systems, affordable and accessible health care, and financial services; and to improve corporate water stewardship policies. They engage companies through direct dialogue, filing shareholder resolutions, voting proxies, participating in annual shareholder meetings, convening issue roundtables and public advocacy on priority issues.

*Inspired by faith, committed to action*



Seventh Generation Interfaith actively seeks institutional investors to join our ministry. For more information about joining Seventh Generation Interfaith, please call 414-509-8452 or send an email to:  
[SeventhGenerationInt@gmail.com](mailto:SeventhGenerationInt@gmail.com).



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