



Michigan Interfaith Power and Light (MiPL)

...*Faith in Action*....

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In 2002, Father Charles Morris, St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, Wyandotte, MI, teamed with the Mark H. Clevey, VP, SBAM ENERGY STAR Program, to launch an IPL in Michigan. The purpose of Michigan Interfaith Power & Light (MiPL) is to *involve communities of faith as stewards of God's creation by promoting and implementing energy conservation, energy efficiency, renewable energy and related sustainable practices.*

MiPL Board of Directors: Dick Brown...Danielle Conroyd...Al Conner...Rev. Peggy Garrigues-Cortelyou (President)...Ginny Jones (SSJ)...Ed Kohl...Ada Kidd...Rev. Charles Morris...Iman Achmat Salie, Paul Stankewitz...Betsy Winkelman...



MiPL Newsletter

Vol III No. 1, Winter 2005

Mark H. Clevey, MPA, Senior Editor

Message from the Director

One-hundred people from across Michigan's faith community gathered at the Hannah Community Center in East Lansing to network, listen to powerful presentations by noted speakers and view their ministry through a fresh prism. Thanks to an agreement with NativeEnergy™ this was the first event in Michigan that was designated climate neutral. This year's conference was underwritten by grants from the Michigan Energy Office and the Small Business Association of Michigan, ENERGY STAR program.

This year's Conference was also unique in that it purposefully had a regional dimension to it. Representatives from Ohio (Bill Doty and Sr. Leanne Jablonski) made presentations and Sara Spoonheim (from

the Illinois IPL helped lead one of the workshops. One of our major keynote speakers was Cal DeWitt out of the University of Wisconsin and founding President of the AuSable Institute. This Great Lakes Interfaith Energy Conference provided an opportunity for the participants to get a regional perspective on resources and activity among some of our neighboring States.

The day began with a wonderful presentation by Dr. Debra Rowe of Oakland Community College on how MiPL helps congregations save money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and how we might infuse the concepts of sustainability into our houses of worship. Cal DeWitt, biology professor at the University of Wisconsin, spoke of the centrality of direct experience with nature and the need to be engaged as prophetic witness for the faith community. Late morning workshops followed.

In one Sr. Leanne Jablonski, a climate scientist and coordinator of Ohio's Interfaith Climate and Energy Campaign, gave a analysis of the Union of Concerned Scientists report on global warming in the Great Lakes States. In the other track Billy Doty and Rev. David Preuss both gave practical suggestions as to how congregations can reduce their costs. During lunch John Sarver of the State Energy Office gave an update on the State of Michigan Renewable Energy Program and the EDGE2 work, a coalition of stakeholders in State government committed to the inculcation of energy efficiency throughout all sectors of State government, business and the greater economy.

Following lunch Bob Gough, with the Intertribal Coalition on Utility Policy, presented an

overview of the impacts of global warming and the possibility of wind development in Indian Country. The final workshops were presented on the topics of practical energy efficiency (Doug Black) and on site renewable generation (Dave Lankheet) in the "Reducing Costs" track. At the same time, Sara Spoonheim and Debra Rowe led participants in a process on "Practical Steps to Engage Your Congregation".

The 2005 Conference will take place at the University of Detroit/Mercy and should prove to be a major event for the faith community as more congregations are discovering that it pays spiritually and practically to embark on the path to sustainability.

Rev. Charles Morris

Meet the MiPL Board

Rev. Peggy Garrigues-Cortelyou grew up in Elmhurst, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, and was active in the local United Methodist Church. She attended the University of Michigan, where she designed a major that included environmental studies, religion, and sociology. She also met her husband, Carter, there, and together they attended seminary in Washington, DC, and received their Master of Divinity degrees. While there, she participated in a program of interfaith dialogue between Jewish and Christian seminary students along the east coast.

After moving back to Michigan, she has served as pastor in United Methodist congregations in Howell, Fenton, Gladwin, and Chelsea. She earned certification in Educating and Counseling with Nature, and has led numerous workshops, retreats, and worship services for church groups that celebrate and honor our connections with creation. She currently serves as acting Assistant Minister at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Ann Arbor, and lives with Carter, and their two boys, Jeremiah and Isaac, in Manchester. She joined the MiPL board in February of 2004, and is excited to be deepening her commitment to both interfaith work and the promotion of sustainable and renewable energy use by accepting the position as President of the Board of MiPL.

MiPL Congregations Reduce Global Warming

We are very excited to announce the first assessment of Michigan Interfaith Power & Light's impact on reducing costs and greenhouse gasses. Doug Black, who conducts the energy assessments for MiPL (under our ENERGY STAR grant from SBAM), has ascertained that, collectively, MiPL congregations in implementing the energy assessment recommendations, are saving \$18,630 annually in their electric bills. They are reducing CO₂ emissions by 1,301 tons [lifecycle]. That is the equivalent to keeping 368 SUVs off of the road or planting 612.7 acres of trees. Way to go, MiPL

congregations. You are showing the world what collectively the faith community can accomplish.

(Editors Note: I am especially pleased with this progress. This is truly Faith In Action at its Best!!)

Online Media Tools for MiPL Members

Green Media Toolshed (GMT) is an Internet-based resource for environmental communicators. GMT provides a wide-range of tools and resources to help environmental groups communicate more effectively among each other and the public.

Among its services, GMT provides its members with access to: an online media database of TV, radio, Internet, and print media outlets with insights into how to contact them and what stories might be most saleable; polls and opinion research; media training advice and content from experts to help you develop your message; a library of reports, fact sheets, logos, experts, Internet links, and video files that can be used to create a media campaign and tools that can be integrated into your Web site, such as an online 'press room.'

To become a GMT member, you must be a 501 (c) (3) organization, have viable use for Green Media Toolshed's Services, and bring some form of relevant equity to Green Media Toolshed. Examples of equity include media contacts, images, research, contributions to the online calendar or library, equipment, supplies or labor/staff volunteer

time. There is a yearly membership fee for joining Green Media Toolshed. Membership fees are on a sliding scale based on your organization's overall operational budget from last year as well as your organization's scope of outreach, whether national, regional or state-specific. For more information, please visit www.greenmediatoolshed.org.

(Source: CONGREGATIONS UPDATE, a publication of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Volume 6, Issue 1, Winter 2005)

Socially Responsible Investing - Part III

In this issue we would like to feature the work of the Indigo Financial Group in Lansing who provides energy efficient mortgages. A new homeowner will be saving \$740/year in utility costs and, in one example, will be reducing their monthly payments by \$60 as compared to a conventional mortgage payment. According to Indigo loan officer Joel Wiese, energy efficient mortgages are a tool that can save 30% to 50% on utility costs.

The way the energy efficient mortgage works is that once a homebuyer has been pre-qualified for the loan, the home is subject to an energy audit to determine its efficiency. The applicant then gets to choose from a "menu" of improvements that will help contribute to the efficiency of the home. Funds for those energy efficiency improvements are placed in escrow and rolled into the mortgage when the work has been completed after the closing takes place.

Another advantage of the Energy Efficient Mortgage is that the amount the homeowner can borrow to make improvements is based on 15% of the appraised value, rather than on the equity that is available. As Mr. Wiese states, "The majority of homeowners in America know they are throwing their hard earned money away with old windows and inefficient appliances. The good news is that you now have the ability to make a change very quickly and affordably, and put your money to better use."

If you would like more information as to how members of your congregation can make home improvements, lower their utility bills and save money in the process please contact Joel Wiese at the Indigo Financial Group at (517) 483-5121 or toll free at (877) 867-7095. You may also visit them on the web at www.EnergyEfficientMortgage.com. For Energy Efficient Mortgages in the Lansing area Go to <http://www.energyefficientmortgages.com/news.htm#lsj121204>.

Finally..., A Detroit Edison Renewable Energy Program

A Detroit Edison Renewable Energy Program was included in a recent Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) order. The program will be available to all Edison customers on a voluntary basis and should be approximately 1% of the company's residential sales by the end of calendar year 2006. The company should expand the program to approximately 2%-3% of the company's residential sales by the end of calendar

year 2008. The MPSC has directed Detroit Edison to undertake a survey by July 1, 2005 to inventory all available renewable resources and those that might be developed within the Detroit Edison service territory. The company is expected to file an application on or before July 1, 2005 to implement a program.

(Editors Note: IT'S ABOUT TIME)

New LED Desk Lamp Available

Julia Soulliere of Integrated System Management has announced that TCP lighting now offers a LED desk lamp [GALAXE LED Desk Lamp]. The lamp uses only 5 watts and will never have to replace any bulbs. It has an adjustable head and neck, and is available through MiPL for around \$15. If you have any questions feel free to contact Rev. Morris at (734) 552-0104.

EarthCare Teams...

MiPL has received a renewal of its grant with the Small Business Association of Michigan, ENERGY STAR program. Starting in January 2005, MiPL will be offering assistance to members to form *EarthCare Teams* within their congregations. An *EarthCare Team* is a group that takes the primary responsibility for the cultivation of creation awareness and religiously

motivated environmental activities at their congregation. Typically *EarthCare Teams* are led by lay people and involves both members and employees of the congregation.

EarthCare Teams oversee such things as energy audits, the purchase and use of energy efficient products and renewable energy technologies, recycling programs, environmental curriculums and lessons in congregation schools, environmental sermons and community programs. *EarthCare Teams* also join together to educate policy makers about the relationship between public policy choices and the environment

Resource for MiPL Earth Care Teams: New Employee Energy Awareness Posters

The U.S. EPA has developed six posters that *MiPL Earth Care Teams* can use to increase their congregants awareness of energy use, including: energy costs, energy goals and targets, individuals who help save energy, home energy savings opportunities and steps to increase the efficiency of compressed air systems. The posters were created in Microsoft PowerPoint so that they can be easily customized with your congregation's logo and energy program information. Different size posters can be printed by simply scaling the poster dimensions to the desired paper size.

Additional tips and information about the posters are included in the downloadable file. To view and download these posters, please visit the ENERGY STAR Web site at http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=energy_awareness.bus_energy_employee_posters.

New Interfaith Power & Light Groups Open in DC and VA

Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light (GW IPL) and Virginia Interfaith Power and Light (VIPL) have commenced operating in the DC Metropolitan area and throughout the state of Virginia. The groups have similar goals, including:

- Promoting faith-based stewardship of creation
- Defining, developing, and sharing models for “Green Congregations”
- Supporting legislative energy advocacy priorities
- Providing speakers and other materials—including print brochures, guides, and more—to educate, inspire, and equip faith communities
- Sponsoring and encouraging compact fluorescent light bulb sales projects, and other use of energy-efficiency products
- Encouraging the purchase and/or installation of electricity from clean, renewable sources

The two groups are currently developing Web sites and other online resources for the congregations and others that they serve. VIPL can be found online at <http://www.vipl.org>; with GW IPL at <http://www.gwipl.org>.

Steve Brown, an ordained Presbyterian pastor on early retirement and volunteer at VIPL, convened the steering team. He says “there’s an enormous amount to be done in Virginia for energy

conservation. What VIPL can do is raise awareness in communities of faith and empower them to begin making conservation-related changes. We will also build a good base from which we can work on advocacy issues and eventually collaborate with state utilities on renewable energy.” Currently, green energy is available only in some counties in northern Virginia, and the western tip of the state, through the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), which has a financial incentive program. VIPL is using existing materials from the ENERGY STAR Congregations Network at rallies and personal visits to congregations, where they distribute the guidebook, handouts, and more.

GW IPL is a project of the Churches’ Center for Theology and Public Policy (<http://www.cctpp.org>) and the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington. The organization promises to “work with congregations to organize group purchases of key energy efficiency products and equipment.” In other parts of the country, similar groups have saved their member congregations 15% to 50% on new refrigerators, exit signs, and lighting. Congregation members can personally join in the savings, as well.

Rabbi Daniel Swartz, a veteran of interfaith and environmental work, coordinates Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light. “Faith groups have always been most successful at transmitting values when they ‘walk their talk,” Rabbi Swartz noted. “GW IPL is working to help congregations and other religious institutions in the Greater Washington area do just that. We show them the justice and faith dimensions of energy choices, and we guide them through the technical

details so that making the right choice is as easy as possible," Rabbi Swartz added.

Interfaith Power & Light groups seek to be "faithful stewards of God's creation by responding to global warming through the promotion of energy conservation, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and related sustainable practices." Their aim is to support renewable energy; solar and green power where available; and energy efficient appliance purchase and installation. As Pastor Brown says, "our number one goal is to support environmental stewardship in faith communities."

Reverend Sally Bingham, the National Director of Interfaith Power & Light, says "the faith community has led every major movement in the US. No institution is more suited to preach clean air, water, and land than the institution that professes a love of God and God's creation." Bingham helped launch both VIPL and GWIPL earlier this season. The launches of both programs were coordinated together for the sake of consistency. Both intend to coordinate with each other and work with existing interfaith resources in DC and nationwide to help IPL and other groups build an effective energy-efficiency advocacy network.

(Source: CONGREGATIONS UPDATE, a publication of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Volume 6, Issue 1, Winter 2005)

New Guidebook and Resource for Congregations from Washington

The Washington, D.C. Energy Office has worked for years to make our nation's capitol more energy-efficient, and to provide assistance to local families struggling to pay their energy bills. Although their focus has primarily been on residences, the office last year opened an environmental department. Part of that new department is the Green Faith Initiative, which has just released a new guidebook for congregations.

This first edition, a 72-page publication, called the 'Green Faith Guide,' is online at <http://dcenergy.org/Green%20Faith%20Guide.pdf>. It provides numerous ideas for communities of faith looking to improve their environmental stewardship through energy efficiency. You'll find tips on Greening the Kitchen, Pesticides, Landscaping, Permaculture, Youth Activities, and more.

Although published by Washington's energy office, this guidebook is a powerful tool for congregations nationwide. The DC Energy Office's website is <http://dcenergy.org>. The new Green Faith Guide can be downloaded from that page in PDF format.

Ben Rosenthal, Co-coordinator of the Green Faith Initiative said, "This is an opportunity for congregations and their members to use less energy, to save money, and to protect and restore our environment for generations to come."

The D.C. Energy Office is currently producing a brochure that will be sent out, with copies of the guide, to local congregations to obtain feedback that will be used to shape this program in the future. "Keeping in touch with congregations, encouraging them to change, and learning about how they do change," is important to the future of the Initiative, according to Rosenthal. "This is not a one-time deal; we have an advisory group made up of clergy and environmentalists in the DC area, many of whom have national representation, but we're giving them a local focus to represent faith groups in our area." Quarterly meetings will be held to discuss different themes, as Green Faith changes and adapts gradually over time. There's more to come in the future from this group—and their Web site will continue to function as a resource for congregations locally and nationally.

(Source: CONGREGATIONS UPDATE, a publication of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Volume 6, Issue 1, Winter 2005)

The Open Space of Democracy

Terry Tempest Williams is a Mormon who grew up in Salt Lake City, Utah. She recently published a book called The Open Space of Democracy in which she calls for a new Declaration of "Interdependence." The following are excerpts from this work:

"I would submit that we can protect and preserve the *open space of democracy* by carrying a healthy sense of indignation within us that will shatter the complacency that has seeped into our society in the name of all we have lost – knowing there is still so much to be saved.

What does the open space of democracy look like? In the open space of democracy there is room for dissent. In the open space of democracy there is room for differences. In the open space of democracy, the health of the environment is seen as the wealth of our communities. We remember that our character has been shaped by the diversity of America's landscapes and it is precisely that character that will protect it. Cooperation is valued more than competition; prosperity becomes the caretaker of poverty. The humanities are not peripheral, but the very art of what it means to be human.

In the open space of democracy, beauty is not optional, but essential to our survival as a species. And technology is not rendered at the expense of life, but developed out of reverence for life. Reverence for life. In the future, brave men and women will write a Declaration of Interdependence that will be read and honored alongside the Declaration of Independence: proof of our evolution, revolution of our own growth and understanding.

The open space of democracy provides justice for all living things – plants, animals, rocks, and rivers, as well as human beings. It is a landscape that encourages diversity and discourages conformity. Democracy can also be messy and chaotic. It requires patience and persistence. In the open space of democracy, every vote counts and every vote is counted.

When minds close, democracy begins to close. Fear creeps in; silence overtakes speech. Rhetoric masquerades as thought. Dogma is dressed up like an idea. And we are told what to do, not asked what we think. Security is guaranteed. The lie begins to carry more power than the truth until the words of our own

founding fathers are forgotten and images of television replace history. An open democracy inspires wisdom and the dignity of choice. A closed society inspires terror and the tyranny of belief. We are no longer citizens. We are media-engineered clones wondering who we are and why we feel alone. Lethargy trumps participation. We fall prey to the cynicism of our own resignation.

What is at stake? Everything we value, cherish, and love. Democracy. It was true in 1776. And it is true in 2003. This is the commitment we make to a living, breathing, evolving republic. Thomas Jefferson said, "*I believe in perilous liberty over quite servitude.*" May we commit ourselves to "perilous liberty over quiet servitude?" This is the path of intellectual freedom and spiritual curiosity. Our insistence on democracy is based on our resistance to complacency. To be engaged. To participate. To create alternatives together. We may be wrong. We will make mistakes. But we can engage in spirited conversation and listen to one another with respect and open minds as we speak and explore our differences, cherishing the vitality of the struggle." (1)

(1) Terry Tempest Williams, The Open Space of Democracy (MA: The Orion Society) 2004

Breadcrumbs along the Path....

Prime numbers and their properties were first studied extensively by the ancient Greek mathematicians. An integer greater than one is prime if its only positive divisors are itself and one (otherwise it is composite). For example: 15 is composite because it has the two prime divisors 3 and 5. 1, 3 and 5 are only divisible by themselves or one.

Mathematics is a gift given to us by God. It is a tool we can use to understand the harmony that exists between and among all living things. **January 3, 2005 – 01/03/05. 1, 3 and 5 are the first three Prime Numbers. This happens only once each century!** We celebrate Prime Number Day as a celebration of this harmony.

EPA's Green Power Partnership

In August 2004, the City of Moab, Utah, became the first community in the nation to meet and exceed the EPA Green Power Partnership's minimum benchmark for green power usage with voluntary purchases. Hopefully, with MiIPL's help, one or more Michigan communities will be a **CLOSE SECOND!**

EPA's Green Power Partnership provides assistance and recognition to organizations that demonstrate environmental leadership by choosing green power. Green Power Partners are commercial, industrial, and public sector organizations that pledge to procure an amount of renewable energy proportional to their annual electricity use.

MiIPL Members who join the Partnership are eligible to receive high-quality information about the green power market, including green power products and other opportunities to support renewable energy. In exchange for joining the

Partnership, EPA offers Partners credible information, technical assistance, and recognition.

The Green Power Partnership offers Partners the following information:

- Purchasing and communications guides
- Information and statistics on the environmental impact of green power purchases
- Access to the network of Green Power Partners
- Green Power Locator to identify suppliers nationwide
- Sample Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for green power procurement
- Current market information on green power markets

The Green Power Partnership offers Partners the following assistance:

- Press and communications support
- Use of the Partnership logo
- Participation in Partnership-sponsored promotional opportunities, such as events, fact sheets, or awards.
- Eligibility for the Green Power Leadership Awards
- Profile of the Partner on the "Our Partners" page of the Web site

Partnership eligibility and requirements can be found on the following Web site:

<http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/join/index.htm>

New Michigan Residential Energy Code

A New Michigan Residential Energy Code will become effective February 28, 2005. The revised Michigan Uniform Energy Code is based on Chapter 11 of the International Residential Code as amended by Michigan. Compliance can be demonstrated by meeting the requirements of the code, the International Energy Conservation Code, or the Energy Star Homes Program® or by achieving a Home Energy Rating System (HERS) score of 83 or better. New code: <http://www.michigan.gov/cis/0,1607,7-154-10575--,00.html>.

Did You Know...?

...The *Kyoto Protocol* officially starts on February 16, 2005. Ratification by Russia put the treaty into effect. Only 4 industrialized countries now remain outside the treaty: U.S., Australia, Liechtenstein, & Monaco.

...Every time a light, a computer, or a motor is turned on, a power plant consumes fuel to generate energy. When fossil fuels are burned to produce electricity, pollutants and greenhouse gases are released into the atmosphere, affecting climate change and increasing smog and acid rain. If you lower your waste of energy, this helps reduce the need for power generated and that means less environmental harm. A good way for congregations to cut energy use and save money is to join EPA's free ENERGY STAR Congregations Network (<http://www.energystar.gov/congregations>).

Editors Elucidation

Is Michigan Missing the Boat? Again?

Rutgers University in New Jersey has launched an Eco Industrial Park and Complex to give commercial push to biobased products such as green fuels, liquid organic fertilizers, microturbine spinoffs and aquaculture. The Rutgers EcoComplex is a full-fledged research and education facility and business incubator owned and operated by Rutgers. The EcoComplex is part of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station.

So....., why not Michigan?? Michigan is a state with world class industrial might and agricultural acumen that should own the biobased marketplace! We have: (a) the market (automotive, furniture and other durable goods products); (b) the intellectual capital (i.e., MSU Composite and Structures Center and the MBI International); (c) green entrepreneurs ready, willing and able to launch new cutting-edge businesses and breakthrough biobased products; and (d) the need – 190,000 plus manufacturing jobs lost in the last three years, a bleeding economy, a crying need for leadership, most plastics are made from imported oil derivatives, etc. We could be inventing, manufacturing and selling highly competitive and profitable bio based plastics, recyclables, fuels, products and materials. We could be spinning biobased technologies, products and cutting-edge businesses out of the MSU Composite and Structures Center and the MBI International on a routine basis – generating royalty revenue for MSU to use to EDUCATE OUR CITIZENS FOR

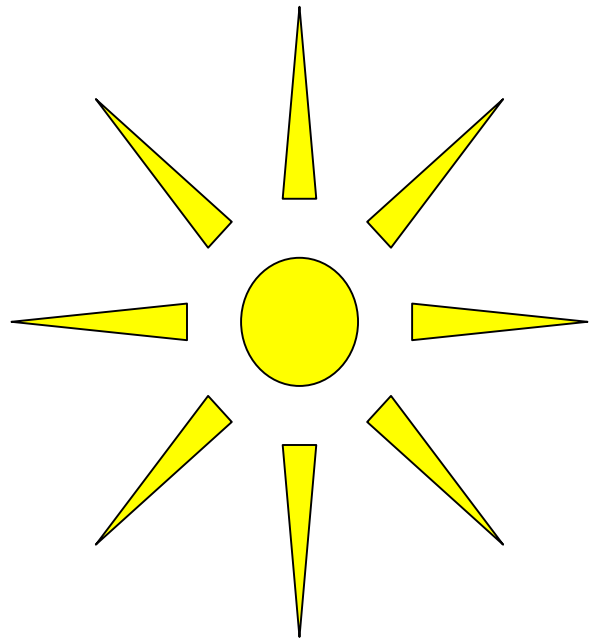
THE JOBS OF THE FUTURE. We could recapture the 190,000 lost jobs and associated revenues by positioning Michigan to be the world leader in the rapidly growing worldwide market for biobased products.

So why not Michigan?? It is lack of faith? Lack of Leadership? What? As this point, I think we need a lot more than *faith* in our policy makers – we need FAITH IN ACTION.

Mark H. Clevey, Senior Editor

(For more information on the Rutgers EcoComplex see “In Businesses,” November/December, 2004).

Think Spring!!





MiIPL 2005 New Membership Form

Contact: Mr. Ms. Mrs. Dr. Rev. Rabbi Imam Sr. Other: (_____)

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

P.O. Box _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip+4 _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-Mail: _____ www: _____

MiIPL is organized exclusively for the purposes of receiving and administering funds for charitable, [religious,] educational and scientific purposes as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law. Annual Dues are \$100.00/Congregation, \$75.00/Partner, \$50.00/Individual). Please check payment method:

- Please make ENCLOSED Checks Payable To: "MiIPL"
- MasterCard Visa Discover American Express Other: _____
Card # _____ Expiration Date (mm/yy) _____

Signature: _____

Please mail completed Membership Form AND Payment to: Rev. Charles Morris, Executive Director, MiIPL, P.O. Box 4606, East Lansing, MI 48826.

Michigan Interfaith Power and Light (MiIPL)
c/o Urban Options, Inc.
405 Grove Street
East Lansing, MI 48823