



Disciples of Christ Creation Care

Stewardship: As people of faith, we heed the call to be faithful stewards and caretakers of God's creation by limiting the future impacts of climate change on God's Earth. Already, climate change has damaged the precious balance of God's creation, including increasing the number of threatened species, causing long-term drought, and melting Arctic ice. To reach our goal of stewardship, we are called to:

1. Follow recognized scientific guidelines and recommendations in order to protect all of God's creation and prevent catastrophic damage to God's Earth and God's people. Following their recommendations, our governmental legislation and our actions should include comprehensive and aggressive emission reductions that aim to limit the increase in Earth's temperature to 2 degrees Celsius or less. Legislation should focus on the short term goal of reducing U.S. and Canadian carbon emissions to reach a 15 to 20 percent reduction in carbon by 2020 with a long-term vision to achieve carbon emissions that are 80 percent of 2000 levels by the year 2050.
2. Avoid catastrophic climate change, which would devastate God's creation, make disaster and relief responses more difficult, and endanger the future of the planet. Although climate change impacts are already being felt, we must ensure that God's people and planet are protected from the catastrophic effects that may occur if we fail to significantly curb our carbon emissions.
3. Hold major emitters responsible for their actions and work to significantly reduce their carbon emissions.

The Alverna Covenant

Whereas:

- * God has created the world with finite resources;
- * God has given to us the stewardship of the earth;
- * God has established order through many natural cycles.

And it is evident that:

- * We are consuming resources at a rate that cannot be maintained;
- * We are interrupting many natural cycles;
- * We are irresponsibly modifying the environment through consumption and pollution;
- * We are populating the earth at a rate that cannot be maintained;

As a member of the human family and a follower of Jesus Christ, I hereby covenant that:

- * I will change my lifestyle to reduce my contribution to pollution;
- * I will support recycling efforts;
- * I will search for sustainable lifestyles;
- * I will work for public policies which lead to a just and sustainable society;
- * I will share these concerns with others and urge them to make this Covenant.

The General Board recommends that the General Assembly
ADOPT Business Item No. 0921. (Debate time: 12 minutes)

Excerpted from: <http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/files/ENV0921.pdf>