



## United Methodist Church Statement on Climate Change

The crisis facing God's earth is clear. We, as stewards, have failed to live into our responsibility to care for creation and have instead abused it in ways that now threaten life around the planet. The scientific consensus is clear that human activities are leading to a warming of the surface temperatures of the planet and the effects of this warming are being felt now and will be felt more intensely in years to come.

As a matter of stewardship and justice, Christians must take action now to reduce global warming pollution and stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world whose land, livelihood and lives are threatened by the global climate crisis.

### Biblical and Theological Context

"The scale of human activity has grown so large that it now threatens the planet itself. Global environmental problems have become so vast they are hard to comprehend. ... The vast majority of scientific evidence suggests that carbon dioxide from fossil fuels has already caused a measurable warming of the globe. Confronted with the massive crisis of the deterioration of God's creation and faced with the question of the ultimate survival of life, we ask God's forgiveness for our participation in this destruction." (2004 *Book of Resolutions*, "Environmental Justice for a Sustainable Future,"

"A transition to energy efficiency and renewable energy sources will combat global warming, protect human health, create new jobs, and ensure a secure, affordable energy future." (2004 *Book of Resolutions*, "Energy Policy Statement,"

"The U.S. must move beyond its dependence on high carbon fossil fuels that produce emissions leading to climate change and ratify the Kyoto Protocol under the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change." (2004 *Book of Resolutions*, "U.S. Energy Policy and United Methodist Responsibility,"

Scripture references: Isaiah 24:4-5 and 2 Chronicles 7:14

### What GBCS\* is Doing

GBCS advocates for the United States to adopt mandatory global warming emissions reductions and re-engage in the global dialogue and international framework for combating this clear and present danger. In collaboration with ecumenical and interfaith allies, GBCS supports a climate and energy campaign that focuses on both state and federal action. In addition, GBCS provides educational and worship resources to bring this issue into the life of the church.

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\*General Board of Church & Society of the United Methodist Church