



# FAITH & FACTS Global Warming

## Economic and Environmental Justice

### What does the Bible say?

God saw everything that God had made and indeed, it was very good. **(Genesis 1:10)**

Praise God, you highest heavens. **(Psalm 148:4)**



There is no faithfulness or loyalty, and no knowledge of God in the land... The land mourns, and all who live in it languish; together with the wild animals and the birds of the air, even the fish of the sea are perishing. **(Hosea 4:1,3)**

The earth dries up and withers, the world languishes and withers; the heavens languish together with the earth. The earth lies polluted under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed laws, violated the statutes, broken the ever-lasting covenant. **(Isaiah 24:4-5)**

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. **(2 Chronicles 7:14)**

### What does The United Methodist Church say?

All creation is the Lord's and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God's creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings. (Social Principles ¶160)

The adverse impacts of global climate change disproportionately affect individuals and nations least responsible for the emissions. We therefore support efforts of all governments to require mandatory reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and call on individuals, congregations, businesses, industries, and communities to reduce their emissions. (Social Principles ¶160.D)

Members should also work to make their own congregations more aware of the issue of global warming and create policies and practices which reduce greenhouse gas emissions from congregational infrastructure (church buildings, parsonages, vehicles, etc.) (2008 Book of Resolutions, "Resolution on Global Warming")

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. (2008 Book of Resolutions, "Energy Policy Statement")



### What do the facts say?

- Carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping pollution, mainly from cars, power plants and other industrial sources that burn gasoline, coal and other fossil fuels, are collecting like a blanket in the atmosphere. (In the last century, carbon dioxide levels in our atmosphere have increased by more than 25%.)
- 11 of the last 12 years rank among the 12 warmest in recorded history.
- Scientists predict that by 2100, the Earth will be 2 degrees to perhaps more than 6 degrees warmer than it is today, leading to the further melting of polar ice caps and a potentially devastating rise in global sea levels.
- By 2020, between 75 and 250 million Africans are projected to be exposed to increased water stress due to climate change. Worldwide, that number is projected to reach 1.8 billion by 2080.



### What do you say?

Take action for justice ...

- **Drive smart and drive less:** Use a fuel-efficient car or better yet choose an alternate method of transportation: public transit, biking, or walking. Less miles driving = less CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere!
- **Use CFLs:** Compact fluorescent bulbs last up to 10 times as long as incandescent bulbs and will keep half a ton of CO<sub>2</sub> out of the air.
- **Conserve energy:** Turn off the lights, take it easy on the air conditioning, and investigate using "green energy" such as wind or solar power.
- **Write your elected officials** and urge them to address the global climate crisis now! In the U.S., ask your Senators and/or Representative to co-sponsor comprehensive legislation to reduce U.S. carbon emissions and ensure additional assistance is included to protect those living in poverty in the US and around the world. Take action at [www.umpower.org](http://www.umpower.org).



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