



# Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

**November 13, 2023**

## **RESPONDING TO CLIMATE EMERGENCY IN THE USA**

The earth, lovingly created as an environment for life to flourish, shudders in distress because creation's natural and living systems are becoming exhausted from carrying the burden of human greed and conflict. Humankind must awaken from its illusion of independence and unrestrained consumption without lasting consequences.

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:4b

[The church] should...be in the forefront of those who would mediate this needless destruction...[of the environment].

—Doctrine and Covenants 150:7

World Conference Resolution 1325 calls Community of Christ to join with others in declaring a climate emergency and for administrators at all levels to lead the church toward increased awareness and Responsible Choices through actions that support healing of the Earth.

As people of the Temple dedicated to peace, we proclaim the reconciling and restoring purposes of God revealed through Jesus the peaceful One, whose name we bear. We recommit ourselves to sacramental living that respects and reveals God's presence and reconciling activity in all creation. We proactively join with God as stewards of the Earth: 1) to reduce carbon emissions as individuals and as a faith community; 2) to consider the impact of climate change on the environment when reviewing policies and strategies; and 3) to support organizations and groups that peaceably raise awareness or act in response to the climate crisis.

### **Learn More**

- Earth Stewardship Team: [CofChrist.org/environmental-justice/](https://CofChrist.org/environmental-justice/)
- *Responding to Climate Change*, free conversation guide from *The Christian Century*: [www.christiancentury.org/free-guide-climate-change](https://www.christiancentury.org/free-guide-climate-change)
- Creations Justice Ministries: [www.creationjustice.org](https://www.creationjustice.org)
- North American Climate Justice Team: Climate Change Colloquy Series, [CofChristclimatejustice.org](https://CofChristclimatejustice.org)
- Redwoods Peace Colloquy: Sacred Soil, December 8–10, 2023, <https://mailchi.mp/cofchrist-spmc/redwoods-peace-colloquy>
- Accelerating Climate Action: Refocusing Policies Through a Well-being Lens (OECD), [www.oecd.org/environment/cc/Highlights-Accelerating-Climate-Action-Refocusing-Policies-through-a-Well-being-Lens.pdf](https://www.oecd.org/environment/cc/Highlights-Accelerating-Climate-Action-Refocusing-Policies-through-a-Well-being-Lens.pdf)
- Project Zion Podcast: Climate Brewing series, [www.projectzionpodcast.org/series/climate-brewing/](https://www.projectzionpodcast.org/series/climate-brewing/)

- *In Deep Waters: Spiritual Care for Young People in a Climate Crisis*, by Talitha Amadea Ah
- Summer 2024 Community of Christ reunion resources will be focused on the theme, “Healing the Earth: A Restoration Imperative.”

### **Do Something**

- Encourage congregations to engage with their communities on environmental issues and collaborate in addressing climate change at the grassroots level.
- Encourage prayer and reflection on the climate crisis to deepen one’s commitment to environmental stewardship and social justice. Integrate this focus in worship and other gatherings.
  - Earth Day worship outlines: [www.HeraldHouse.org/products/earth-day-worship-outlines-pdf-download?\\_pos=1&\\_sid=e3b3ac8c6&\\_ss=r](http://www.HeraldHouse.org/products/earth-day-worship-outlines-pdf-download?_pos=1&_sid=e3b3ac8c6&_ss=r)
  - The Green Lectionary podcast: [www.creationjustice.org/green-lectionary-podcast.html](http://www.creationjustice.org/green-lectionary-podcast.html)
- Challenge individuals to use their personal power to change their consumption habits and share their desires for a more sustainable world with our communities, employers, and those who represent them politically.
- Advocate. Call on Christians to engage in advocacy aimed at promoting climate-friendly policies and holding corporations and governments accountable for their environmental impact.
- Stress the importance of working with people of other faiths and secular organizations to address the climate crisis collectively. Recognize that environmental stewardship is a shared responsibility.
- Develop or identify resources in coordination with the Earth Stewardship Team and others to help leaders and individuals identify ways to reduce carbon emissions.
- Highlight the disproportionate impact of climate change on vulnerable communities, locally and globally. Advocate for policies and actions that prioritize the needs of marginalized and low-income individuals and communities.

### **Church Statement Actions**

- WCR 1325 The Climate Emergency (adopted April 25, 2023)
- WCR 1224 Earth Stewardship Committee (adopted April 9, 1992)

### **Apostles serving the USA Fields**

Janné Grover  
 Robin Linkhart  
 Lach Mackay  
 Shandra Newcom  
 Dave Nii  
 Mareva Arnaud Tchong (Hawaii)  
 Angela Ramirez (Southern Texas)