

Church of God In Christ International

RESOLUTION

Climate Change

Whereas, It is basic COGIC doctrine that as Christians, we must respond to and foresee human suffering, in this real world and,

Whereas, the prospect of the wide reaching impact of climate change and its potential to burden our communities (particularly the poorest among them) with suffering compels us to take action and recognize our role and responsibilities in confronting climate change. Earth's changing climate, we have learned, poses serious human challenges; we here articulate the "basics" of what we have learned about this, and,

Whereas, this is not our world, it is God's. Therefore, any damage we do to this world is an offense against God Himself (Gen. 1: Ps. 24; Col. 1:16). We are ordered to share God's concern for abuse of His creation. When God made mankind, He commissioned us to exercise stewardship over the earth and its creatures. "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it.." (Ps.24:1) "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." (Gen. 2:15). Further, we must care about the environment and climate change because we are called to love our neighbors, to do unto others as we would have them do unto us and to protect and care for the "least of these" (Matt. 22:34-40; 7:12; and 25:31-46) and,

Whereas, the consequences of climate change will certainly hit the poor hardest (IPCC 2012). Poor nations and individuals are equal parts of our human family and have fewer resources to cope with major threats and,

Whereas, the following are widely recognized facts about climate change from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and are important foundations for an informed approach to the challenges of climate change:

- ❖ Global atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases have increased markedly as a result of human activities since 1750 and now far exceed pre-industrial values determined from ice cores spanning many thousands of years.
- ❖ The global increases in carbon dioxide concentration are due primarily to human activities (fossil fuel use, land use change and agriculture – IPCC 2007).
- ❖ Warming of the climate is unequivocal and now evident in increases in air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global average sea level (IPCC 2007) and.

Whereas, the following are widely recognized throughout the scientific community as the major threats that climate change presents to human society (IPCC 2012):

- ❖ Increases in the frequency of heavy rainfall are likely to occur in many regions of the world (IPCC 2012).
- ❖ The duration and intensity of droughts are projected to increase in some regions of the world (IPCC 2012).
- ❖ Global sea-level rise may exceed 1 meter by 2100. Without significant mitigation, sea level rise of several meters is to be expected over the next few centuries (The Copenhagen Diagnosis, 2009).
- ❖ As carbon dioxide increases in the atmosphere, these effects will also increase (IPCC 2007).
- ❖ The latest United Nations' IPCC report was prepared as a consensus of hundreds of the world's experts on this issue. The situation may in fact be worse than described here, and

Whereas, In light of these truths, protection of the atmosphere and addressing human suffering are both moral responsibility and spiritual answers to the divine commandments that humanity take excellent care of the earth (Gen. 2:15) and that people love God and their neighbors (Matt. 22:37).

We therefore resolve to acknowledge these truths within our communities and grow together in our understanding of climate change.

- We pledge to find ways to reduce the impacts and risks of climate change through promoting stewardship habits and increasing awareness in our homes, businesses, relationships and in our congregations.

We further resolve to engage in measurable stewardship actions by reducing energy consumption and using sustainable practices in our homes and buildings, including houses of worship to model the action we seek.

We further resolve, as COGIC members, to seek good council in peer-reviewed climate scientists to increase the power of our knowledge and actions (Prov. 12:15, 15:22).

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