

## 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)**

He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ **(Matthew 22:37-39)**

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 everlasting 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?

**Climate Change:** “Global warming and climate change are already creating extreme conditions that threaten the entirety of life on earth. Over industrialization, widespread deforestation, and overreliance on fossil fuels are but some of the human activities that have contributed to the buildup of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide in the earth’s atmosphere. A sharp upsurge in greenhouse gases over the past decades already has resulted in a steady rise in sea levels, growing acidification of the world’s oceans, increased droughts and famines, and the intensification of extreme weather events. Climate scientists warn that the window of opportunity for reversing the negative effects of global warming and climate change is rapidly closing. Without concerted action by individuals, churches, communities, shareholders, businesses, governments, and international organizations, the negative effects will become irreversible.” **(Community of All Creation, Creation in Peril, B. Global Warming and Climate Change)**

**Energy Transition:** “The burning of fossil fuels, including coal, oil and, to a lesser extent, natural gas, is the greatest single contributor to the buildup of greenhouse gases and the consequent warming of earth’s atmosphere. To reverse the current trajectory of global climate change, increased investments are needed in the research, development, and distribution of alternatives to fossil fuels, including, but not limited to, solar, wind, geothermal and hydrogen-based energy sources.” **(Community of All Creation, Creation in Peril, C. Dependence on Fossil Fuels)**



# CLIMATE JUSTICE



**CHURCH & SOCIETY**

The United Methodist Church

Living **FAITH** Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**

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# CLIMATE JUSTICE

### What do the facts say?

- In the last two-hundred years - due to heat trapping pollution, mainly from cars, power plants, and other industrial sources that burn gasoline, coal, and other fossil fuels - carbon dioxide levels in our atmosphere have increased by more than 50%.
- Average global temperature has increased by 1.2°C (2°F) since the pre-industrial era. This number might seem small, but it means a significant increase in accumulated heat.
- The global average temperature is expected to reach or exceed 1.5°C (about 3 degrees F) above preindustrial levels in the next few decades and could rise as much as 2-4°C above preindustrial levels if we don't stop emitting greenhouse gases. (NOAA)
- 2024 was the warmest year on record according to NASA scientists, beating the record set in 2023. The ten most recent years were the warmest on record.
- Communities of color and low income communities experience higher overall temperatures, more days that exceed 100°F, and are at higher risk of dangerous heat exposure than other communities. (Yale School of the Environment)
- Dangerous extreme heat is affecting more people around the world than ever before. Extreme heat causes health problems, increases in violent crime, and psychiatric distress.



### What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

**Lower your impact** and find ways to reduce your carbon footprint.

- Choose modes of transportation that reduce or eliminate fossil fuel consumption.
- Consume local and seasonal food products that are cultivated in more sustainable ways.
- Conserve energy: turn off the lights, reduce air conditioner use, and investigate using "green energy" alternatives such as wind or solar.
- Connect with other United Methodists who are committing to a just and equitable transition to net zero emissions.

**Raise your voice:** Contact your elected officials and urge them to address the global climate crisis now! Ask them to support investing in a clean energy future, reducing emissions and providing adaptation assistance for those struggling to survive in a changing climate.



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