

Resources for Clergy & Congregations on the Climate Crisis & Related Justice Issues

Current as of:
September 2, 2021

DO A CONGREGATIONAL READ: Join hundreds of congregations and read Jim Antal's book [Climate Church, Climate World](#). It was featured on Earth Day [in the Chicago Tribune](#) (2018) and by the [AAR](#) (2020). Go to my website <https://www.jimantal.com/> to see what people like Bishop Desmond Tutu, Prof. Walter Brueggemann and Bill McKibben have to say about it. Two excerpts from the book are posted online as an invitation to read the book.

- [The Interlude](#) is an imagined final letter from a pastor to her congregation as the church closes on Ash Wednesday 2070. The church had been serving a city on the eastern seaboard of the United States since the church's founding in the seventeenth century. Following several category 6 hurricanes, endless border wars, hundreds of millions of refugees fleeing flooded cities, permanent deployment of military to protect the interests of the rich, and billions of people dying from uncontrollable disease, drought, and starvation the church is finally closing its doors.
- [The Epilogue](#) is a speech given by a teenager in 2100 to a gathering of the World Council of Churches. She celebrates the great turning that allowed civilization to persevere. Millions are watching on line. The in-person participants are grateful for the air conditioners, powered by solar energy, that have reduced the outside temperature by 25°F to the standard setting of 88°F.

WATCH AND DISCUSS THESE BRIEF 6 min. VIDEOS: [Christianity and Climate Crisis](#) is a new series (2021) of 9 online videos featuring Katharine Hayhoe, world famous climate scientist and Evangelical Christian. The videos are only six minutes long leaving plenty of time for discussion:

- What the Bible says about the natural world;
- Climate change is a poverty issue,
- How to persuade others to care about climate change,
- What we can do as a church,
- Speaking to other Christians about climate change,
- Grateful for fossil fuels but time to move on,
- Climate change is a threat multiplier,
- There can be a better future and
- It is not too late.

SIGN UP to be part of [ThirdAct](#) – Bill McKibben's new initiative seeking to harness the wisdom, energy, time, skills, networks and resources of elders (people over 60) to assure that we leave a fair and stable planet for our kids and grandkids and all future generations. Sign up here <http://ThirdAct.org> and spread the word. If you're part of a congregation, this is a chance for elders to **embrace a new VOCATION** that will help determine the trajectory of our common future. And subscribe to Bill McKibben's new newsletter [The Crucial Years](#)

[EcoAmerica](#) produces research on best practices for climate communication, such as these recently (2021) released two page action sheets. The front includes "What You Need to Know" and the back includes "What You Need to Do."

1. [Climate Solutions for Your Home and Neighborhood](#)
2. [Climate Solutions for Your Workplace and Congregation](#)
3. [Climate Solutions for Your Community](#)
4. [Climate Solutions Advocacy with Policy Makers](#)

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Suggestions and Strategies for Congregations to Become a Creation Justice Church from UCC Minister for Environmental Justice the Rev. Dr. Brooks Berndt:

- A Kairos Call to Action as of Sept 2020: https://www.ucc.org/a_kairos_call_to_action
- 10 Ways to Mobilize (Aug 2020): [Ten Ways to Mobilize - United Church of Christ \(ucc.org\)](https://www.ucc.org/ten-ways-to-mobilize)
- Creation Justice: Where Are You Called to Serve? Climbing the Ladder of Engagement (Feb. 2019): https://www.ucc.org/creation_justice_where_are_you_called_to_serve

Links to Additional UCC Resources:

- Creation Justice Church Program overview:
https://www.ucc.org/creation_justice_churches
- Six Steps to Becoming a Creation Justice Church:
https://www.ucc.org/how_it_works_becoming_a_creation_justice_church
- Creation Justice Church Best Practices (ideas for projects):
https://www.ucc.org/best_practices_for_creation_justice_churches
- Creation Justice Covenant: https://www.ucc.org/creation_justice_covenant

Sign up for the UCC's environmental justice newsletter: [The Pollinator](https://www.ucc.org/the-pollinator)

The Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas serves as Missioner for Creation Justice in both the UCC and the Episcopal Church. Her terrific website, www.RevivingCreation.org includes about one hundred lectionary-based sermons about climate change and Creation care. Subscribe to her monthly newsletter here <http://revivingcreation.org/newsletter/>

In 1987, the UCC's Commission for Racial Justice published the first report to comprehensively demonstrate **environmental racism** across the nation with its report [Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States](https://www.ucc.org/toxic-wastes-and-race-in-the-united-states). A [20th anniversary report](https://www.ucc.org/20th-anniversary-report) took that research further in demonstrating that when facilities were clustered together in an area the likelihood of racial and economic disparities increased. In 2020, a report entitled "[Breath to the People: Sacred Air and Toxic Pollution](https://www.ucc.org/breath-to-the-people)" added another dimension of research by focusing on the children who live near polluting facilities and are particularly vulnerable to toxic emissions.

UCC RESOLUTIONS ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:

Since its origins, the United Church of Christ has been engaged in environmental justice advocacy and activism. Below are links to some of resolutions passed by the national UCC General Synod.

2021: [‘Who Will Speak for the Trees?’ A Resolution on the Rights of Nature.](https://www.ucc.org/who-will-speak-for-the-trees)

[Article on resolution: ‘Who Will Speak for the Trees?’ A Resolution on the Rights of Nature.](https://www.ucc.org/who-will-speak-for-the-trees)

2019: [Endorsing the Green New Deal](https://www.ucc.org/endorsing-the-green-new-deal).

Resolution titled, “Let Justice Roll Down – Declaring Support for The Green New Deal and Affirming the Intersectionality of Climate Justice with All Justice Issues.” See p. 28ff of the pdf

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2017: Response to Trump's pull-out from the Paris Climate Agreement

Resolution titled, "The Earth Is the Lord's, Not Ours to Wreck – Imperatives for a New Moral Era" can be found here: <http://synod.uccpages.org/res21.html> . The Synod Resolution opposed Trump's pull-out from the Paris Climate Agreement. [Click here for Boston Globe coverage.](#)

2015: [Transition From Fossil Fuels To Renewable Energy](#) See p. 67 of the pdf.

2013: Divesting from Fossil Fuel Companies

Resolution can be found here: [Resolution Urging Divestment – Along with Other Strategies -- From Fossil Fuel Companies to Address Climate Change](#). Article on 2013 UCC Synod Resolution on Divestment: <https://www.sneucc.org/newsdetail/92879>

Update on Divestment Movement: how many institutions and how much has been divested:
<https://gofossilfree.org/divestment/commitments/>

2013: [Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining in Appalachia](#)

2009: On the Urgency for Action on Climate Change

2009: Earthwise Congregation: On Mediating Climate Change

2007: [A Resolution on Climate Change](#)