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Paul Bledsoe
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cc:

Subject: NYTimes article on religious community crusade for clean energy

Surprised our friend Paul Gorman isn't in here, but this ran in the Times Regional section and is focused only on the NY area. Greenmountain.com is mentioned and a group called Partners for Environmental Quality. Have they been represented at any of our meetings?

7/10 The New York Times

Religious Group Sees Moral Choice in the Monthly Light Bill

By KIRK JOHNSON

HATHAM, N.J., July 3

-- Electricity used to be so simple. A bill came from some faceless monopoly and the consumer wrote a check. Then came deregulation and the dizzying choice about who would provide one's allotment of kilowatts.

The next wave of change may bring the most wrenching consequence of all: guilt. The Rev. Franklin Vilas, the recently retired rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in this northern New Jersey community, argues that in the new world of consumer choice, electricity has become a moral issue. "If you buy the cheapest energy, you're killing your kids," he says.

Mr. Vilas, 65, a soft-spoken cleric known to all as Skip, is the leading intellectual force in a coalition of religious leaders who are trying to forge what they say would be a holy alliance of good works and faith, environmentalism and economics: all the churches in New Jersey, combining their power needs to buy so-called green, nonpolluting, renewable energy as a political and moral statement.

Experts on the electricity industry and theologians say that though the steps have been early and small -- less than 1,000 green-energy customers, mostly households, out of more than 3.5 million energy users statewide -- the implications of the church effort are huge. Last

November, New Jersey was the first state in the metropolitan region, and one of the first in the nation, to let all customers choose their power suppliers. By being drawn into the debate from the beginning, religion has given commercial green energy its first toehold in the nation's densest urban corridor.

"They were a big part of the reason we came into New Jersey," said John Holtz, regional public affairs manager for Greenmountain.com, a company based in Vermont that entered the New Jersey market four months ago, selling electricity generated mostly by wind power, water power and landfill gas. Mr. Holtz declined to provide actual numbers of customers, but said that most signed up after hearing about the company through their congregations or synagogues.

Greenmountain is planning at least three nonpolluting energy plants in the state, two solar and one hydroelectric, he said; these would have been built elsewhere without church involvement.

Members of Mr. Vilas's group, Partners for Environmental Quality, say that electricity is a disembodied idea, rather like faith, that exists only by its expression. Because the delivery and generation process is far away or out of sight, it can seem harmless and clean, when in fact the power industry, especially coal-fired generation, is one of the biggest contributors of greenhouse gases that are blamed for global warming and East Coast smog.

The group's members say that people also have to be taught how the electrical system works so that they can be convinced that buying green makes a difference, and again it comes down to a leap of faith because green energy does not flow directly into the home. Every light and computer and television in New Jersey draws its energy from the same power grid of mixed energy sources that also supplies residents across Pennsylvania and Maryland. Green-energy users have to know in their hearts that their energy purchase has affected, in a small way, the vast, amorphous power grid itself by injecting more renewable energy into it.

"People have to be educated to the fact that this is not the same kind of choice as choosing your long-distance provider; this one carries consequences," said Pamela Frank, the executive director of Partners for Environmental Quality.

Organizing churches around the support of green power and energy consciousness is not a new idea. A group called Episcopal Power and Light has been active in Massachusetts and California for several years, and its leaders have coordinated their efforts with Mr. Vilas.

New Jersey's churches moved faster, pastors and electricity experts say, simply because deregulation here moved faster. New York State, by contrast, is introducing consumer choice gradually on a region-by-region basis through next year, but for most residents, green energy is not yet an option. Connecticut opened its market only this month.

Partners for Environmental Quality, which is led by a multifaith board of trustees, has reached out to Roman Catholics, Protestants and Jews to

talk about the practical and ethical aspects of participating in the power pool.

Other church efforts have moved forward on their own tracks.

The New Jersey region chapter of the United Synagogues of Conservative Judaism has formed its own energy-buying consortium separate from Partners for Environmental Quality and will present two choices to its 60 members this fall: one with a cheaper traditional energy mix, and one with a higher proportion of cleaner-burning fuels like natural gas and renewable sources.

A spokesman for the chapter said that synagogues would be under no pressure to choose one way or the other, but that he believed most would consider more than price. "Before, we had no input into how energy was generated or how dirty it was, and now we do," said Jeff Schwartz, secretary of the chapter. "This is an opportunity that shouldn't be squandered."

But the message for cleaner energy is also raising some ethical dilemmas and implications of its own inside religious communities.

Mr. Vilas, who grew up in the utility industry -- his father, Franklin Vilas Sr., was the chief spokesman for Consolidated Edison in New York for many years -- has argued to pastors, priests and parishioners that the cheapest available energy comes from coal-burning plants in the Midwest that are blamed for contributing to air pollution on the Atlantic seaboard.

Mr. Vilas tells people that by simply staying with the energy company they have, they are tacitly endorsing a power grid that derives nearly 50 percent of its output from coal-fired generation. Getting the point across -- that making no decision on energy constitutes a moral statement -- requires what officials of the group call agitation.

"When I say 'energy deregulation and global warming,' I see people's eyes glaze over," said Ms. Frank, executive director of Partners for Environmental Quality. "But when Skip says, 'Buy cheap energy and kill your kids,' it gets people's attention -- it may be over the top, but it gets people's attention."

Renewable energy also costs about 20 percent more than the rate paid by most customers in New Jersey, and that difference threatens to separate rich churches from poor ones. For an affluent church like St. Paul's, the additional cost of about \$600 to \$1,000 a year was not considered a problem.

In poorer parts of the state, however, churches are struggling simply to make ends meet. With electricity bills expected to increase this summer in many parts of the country, partly because of a recent surge in natural gas prices, many churches, individuals and businesses could be pushed by circumstances to go precisely the other way: toward cheaper and perhaps dirtier energy.

Traditional electricity companies and some energy industry analysts say

that the regional power grid is improving even without green energy, as natural gas becomes a bigger source and older, less efficient coal-fired plans are decommissioned.

But there are also many small and very human implications that have emerged from the church-energy nexus, and they have less predictable results. Robert Frey, a retired mechanical engineer who attends St. Paul's, signed up with Greenmountain after company officials came to the church for Easter service, and he is now the resident green convert in his condominium complex in nearby Morris Township.

Mr. Frey has persuaded the condominium board to allow him to present a plan this fall for converting the common areas of the complex to green energy. "If you're a family that wants to save 10 percent and buy the dirty energy, that's your choice," Mr. Frey said. "But is it beneficial to your children and grandchildren? I think not. How can you get that message across to people without religion?"

Message Sent To:

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Global Warming
and God's People
Michigan Ecumenical Forum



For Immediate Release
Wednesday, April 19, 2000

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Passover, Easter, Earth Day....

Religious Leaders Join Environmentalists, Call for Action to Stop Global Warming

Study Shows Michigan Global Warming Solutions Would Bring 30,500 new jobs, \$3.1 Billion Net Savings to the State By 2010

Lansing, MI— Today at the Michigan state capitol, members of the faith and environmental communities of Michigan call on the Michigan congressional delegation to do the right thing and enact clean energy legislation to fight global warming (10:00 am, Room 405). On the eve of Passover, during Holy Week, and days before Earth Day, the groups cite a new study released today by World Wildlife Fund (WWF) that demonstrates that common-sense energy policies are good for the planet and Michigan's economy.

"This is a time to rise above political rhetoric and do the right thing for our state and our world," said The **Rev. David Baak**, executive director of the Grand Rapids Center for Ecumenism (GRACE) who joined members of the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim faiths in an open letter to Congress that will appear in tomorrow's newspapers (see attached list of signatures). "Global warming is an issue with profound religious, moral, and justice implications – our representatives in Congress have a duty to address our concerns with action," added **Rabbi Marla Feldman** of the Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Detroit. A copy of the published letter, including the complete list of signatories, will be sent with the WWF report to the Michigan delegation.

As the faith community calls for action, WWF steps up to the plate with a plan to meet those demands. The findings are part of a report prepared for WWF by the Tellus Institute in Cambridge, Mass. Using a mix of market-based financial incentives and regulatory changes, *Michigan's Global Warming Solutions* shows that early, aggressive policies to cut global warming pollution would bring 30,500 new jobs and increase net annual savings \$3.1 billion by 2010 in Michigan. (For a copy of the full report, visit www.worldwildlife.org/climate on April 19, 2000.)

Based on real-world data and expanded use of proven technology, the new study dispels the notion that climate protection is dangerous to the economy and supports the Michigan faith and environmental communities' continued assertion that clean energy is smart policy for Michigan. Citing these dramatic results, WWF, the Michigan Environmental Council, and the Michigan Ecumenical Forum call on Representative Knollenberg, who has been especially vocal opposing global warming action, to make a U-turn and support the Kyoto Protocol.

Lana Pollack, president of the Michigan Environmental Council, criticized the Michigan congressional delegation for efforts to block stronger emission standards for automakers and other industries. "They are missing the point," said Pollack. "While they defend the gas guzzlers and dirty old coal-fired power plants, global warming is only getting worse. Meanwhile, Japanese automakers are bringing innovative cars to market at competitive prices. If Michigan doesn't reach for the future with a new attitude and new technology, we're going to be reliving the 1970s auto crisis all over again."

Michigan's citizens, economy and environment could be harmed by climate change. Already exposed to heat waves and urban air pollution that causes increasing human health problems, the State's diverse ecosystems and economic activities associated with its northern forests and freshwater systems are also threatened by warming temperatures. Furthermore, the Great Lakes are home to local plants and animals that could be threatened by climate change.

Using advanced, energy-efficient technologies and cleaner resources, the study shows that primary energy use and carbon emissions would decrease by 19 percent and 30 percent below 1990 levels respectively by 2010. Air pollutant emissions in Michigan would also be reduced significantly, which would create noticeable local health benefits.

The strong results come from policies designed to drive innovation in energy resources and technology. They include incentives for efficient vehicles and equipment; elimination of regulatory impediments; new efficiency standards for buildings, cars and other gear; enhanced R&D; and improvements in land-use and infrastructure. The measures also entail tax reform and reductions in subsidies to polluters.

"Climate protection has the potential to become an economic engine in Michigan, while protecting the state's unique ecosystems that could be at risk in a warmer world," said **Jennifer Morgan**, director of WWF's Climate Change Campaign. "This report shows that the clean energy path is the right path for Michigan and the U.S."

In the advertisements by the groups tomorrow, the statement by the faith community is followed by a call for readers to go to www.worldwildlife.org/earthday to take action for Earth Day. This action sends a message to Congress to support the Earth Day Clean Energy Agenda, which promotes clean power, clean air, clean cars, and clean investments – issues addressed in *Michigan's Global Warming Solutions*.

Kim Winchell, coordinator for the Michigan Interfaith Global Warming Campaign, a project of the Michigan Ecumenical Forum, sees the report as strengthening the resolve of the faith community. One of the richest nations, the U.S. is the leading carbon polluter in the world, but the effects of climate change—drought, storm, and health impacts—hit the poorest the hardest. "We are calling for a response to global warming as a matter of faith and moral obligation. With our technology and opportunities, as this report shows, we really have no excuse not to be taking the lead, here in Michigan, as well as at the national level," said **Winchell**.

Expert Contacts for Interview:
Jennifer Morgan, WWF, 202/778-9514
Steve Bernow, Tellus Institute, 617/ 266 5400
Lana Pollack, MEC, 517/487-9539
Kim Winchell, MEF, 517/695-2402

RELIGIOUS LEADER CALL TO CONGRESS

Signers of the letter to Congress from diverse areas of the Michigan faith community include:

Bishop Gary L. Hansen
North / West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Bishop Robert A. Rimbo
SE Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rt. Rev. Edward L. Lee, Jr.
Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan

Hajj Victor Ghalib Begg
Vice Chair, Council of Islamic Organizations of
Michigan
President, Muslim Unity Center, Bloomfield
Hills

Rabbi Marla Feldman
Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan
Detroit

Rabbi Philip Cohen, Ph.D.
MSU Hillel

Rabbi Arnie Sleutelberg
Congregation Shir Tikvah

The Rev. David P. Baak
Executive Director
Grand Rapids Center for Ecumenism

The Rev. Ben Baldus
Director, Office of Public Policy & Advocacy
Lutheran Social Services of Michigan (LSSM)

Fr. Charles Morris
St. Elizabeth's parish
Wyandotte

Bishop Edward A. Merz,
Detroit International Stake
Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter
Day Saints

The Rev. Donald K. Flint, ret.
Church of the Brethren

Sr. Virginia Jones, SSJ, Ph.D.
Nazareth Center, Kalamazoo

The Rev. Susan Hunnicutt
Leslie Congregation UCC Church

Imam Abdullah El-Amin,
President, Muslim Center, Detroit
Executive Director, Council of Islamic
Organizations of Michigan

The Rev. Renee Billings
Church of the Holy City (Swedenborgian
Church)

Fr. C. Peter Dougherty
Michigan Peace Team

SE Michigan Chapter of the Coalition on the
Environment and Jewish Life (SEM COEJL)

Michigan Ecumenical Consultation on
Christianity and Ecology

To Representatives Knollenberg, Dingell, Levin, Camp, Bonior, Barcia, Hoekstra, Kildee, Stupak, Smith, Rivers, Ehlers, Conyers, Kilpatrick, Upton, and Stabenow; Senators Levin and Abraham; Governor Engler:

As people of faith in this holy season of renewal, we celebrate God's gift of life, and contemplate our responsibility toward God's Creation. ***Global warming is an inescapable religious challenge, dramatically reminding us of God's call to faithful stewardship and justice.*** We believe the religious community must use its voice and actions to enforce scientific consensus with moral consensus.



As human beings, our actions can protect or destroy life. We acknowledge and accept:

- Human activities have increased atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gas pollution, causing the earth's warming to accelerate.
- The magnitude and pace of climate change threatens Michigan's forests, freshwater systems and Great Lakes.
- Global warming is likely to lead to spread of disease, extinction of species, destruction of habitat, loss of crops, rising seas, and extreme weather, putting the most vulnerable at risk.

We call upon you who represent us to pass laws to protect Creation from carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. World Wildlife Fund study on Michigan adds the impetus of practical economic benefit to our moral obligation to be good stewards of our planet.



Common-sense clean energy policies could save Michigan money, create thousands of new jobs and provide vast market opportunities for fuel-efficient cars and trucks in the coming decade. ***We urge you to act now, in defense of Michigan's citizens, Michigan's economy, and all of God's creation.***

Bishop Gary L. Hansen
Bishop Robert A. Rimbo
The Rt. Rev. Edward L. Lee, Jr.
Hajj Victor Ghalib Begg
Rabbi Marla Feldman
Imam Abdullah El-Amin

Rabbi Philip Cohen, Ph.D.
Rabbi Arnie Sleutelberg
Rev. David P. Baak
Rev. Ben Baldus
Fr. Charles Morris
Sister Virginia Jones, SSJ, Ph.D.

and others



Global Warming and God's People



Visit www.worldwildlife.org/climate to send a message to your Michigan Representative in Congress or Governor Engler and read "Michigan's Global Warming Solutions."



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Detroit could improve Earth's air

Auto industry urged to make cleaner cars

April 20, 2000

BY AMY FRANKLIN

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LANSING -- Michigan could be a leader in reducing the effects of global warming if its auto industry put out more fuel-efficient cars, according to a World Wildlife Fund report released Wednesday.

One-third of the nation's cars are built in Michigan, and the state could set the pace in the global market by building clean cars, said Jennifer Morgan, WWF Climate Change Campaign director.

Tailpipe emissions are a problem in Michigan because the state hasn't promoted mass transit or offered incentives for producing more fuel-efficient cars because of the auto industry's economic impact, the report said.

Automakers such as Ford Motor Co. and General Motors Corp. are developing super fuel-efficient cars to be released in the coming years. But Lana Pollack, Michigan Environmental Council president, said the companies have the capacity to manufacture those kinds of vehicles now.

"We want to buy it, not just read about it," Pollack said about a version of Ford's Escape powered by gas and electricity that is to be available in 2003.

The Escape electric hybrid is the first such vehicle for which a U.S. automaker has announced production plans, and the largest hybrid vehicle. It will have a fuel economy close to 40 miles per gallon in city driving.

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SPECIALS

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"We want to get this out there as soon as we can," said Jon Harmon, a Ford spokesman. "It's easy for someone outside the company to say: 'Do something sooner.' But we are taking this seriously."

Super fuel-efficient vehicles are "not a profitable business equation yet," Harmon said.

Ford officials have said the hybrid would cost roughly \$3,000 more than the \$18,000-\$21,000 sticker price of the Escape that goes on sale later this year.

It could be more costly if Michigan fails to reduce the burning of fossil fuel and greenhouse gas emissions -- particularly carbon dioxide, according to the wildlife fund's report.

A climate change could have a severe impact on Michigan because of its proximity to four of the Great Lakes, the report said.

The report was unveiled days before the 30th anniversary of Earth Day.

Displayed with the report was an ad scheduled to appear in Michigan daily newspapers asking the state's congressional delegation to take a more active role in environmental issues.

Michigan's congressional delegation is "putting politics before common sense" when it comes to efforts that would improve the environment, Pollack said.

"We want our leaders to craft policies that move us toward a clean-energy agenda," said Kim Winchell of the Earthkeeping Ministries and Michigan Environmental Council.

The WWF report emphasizes alternative energy resources, including wind and biomass, power generated by burning trees and other organic sources. Fifteen percent of the state's energy could come from renewable energy resources, Morgan said.

"Michigan stands out because of the potential with the transportation sector and the increased renewable energy potential."

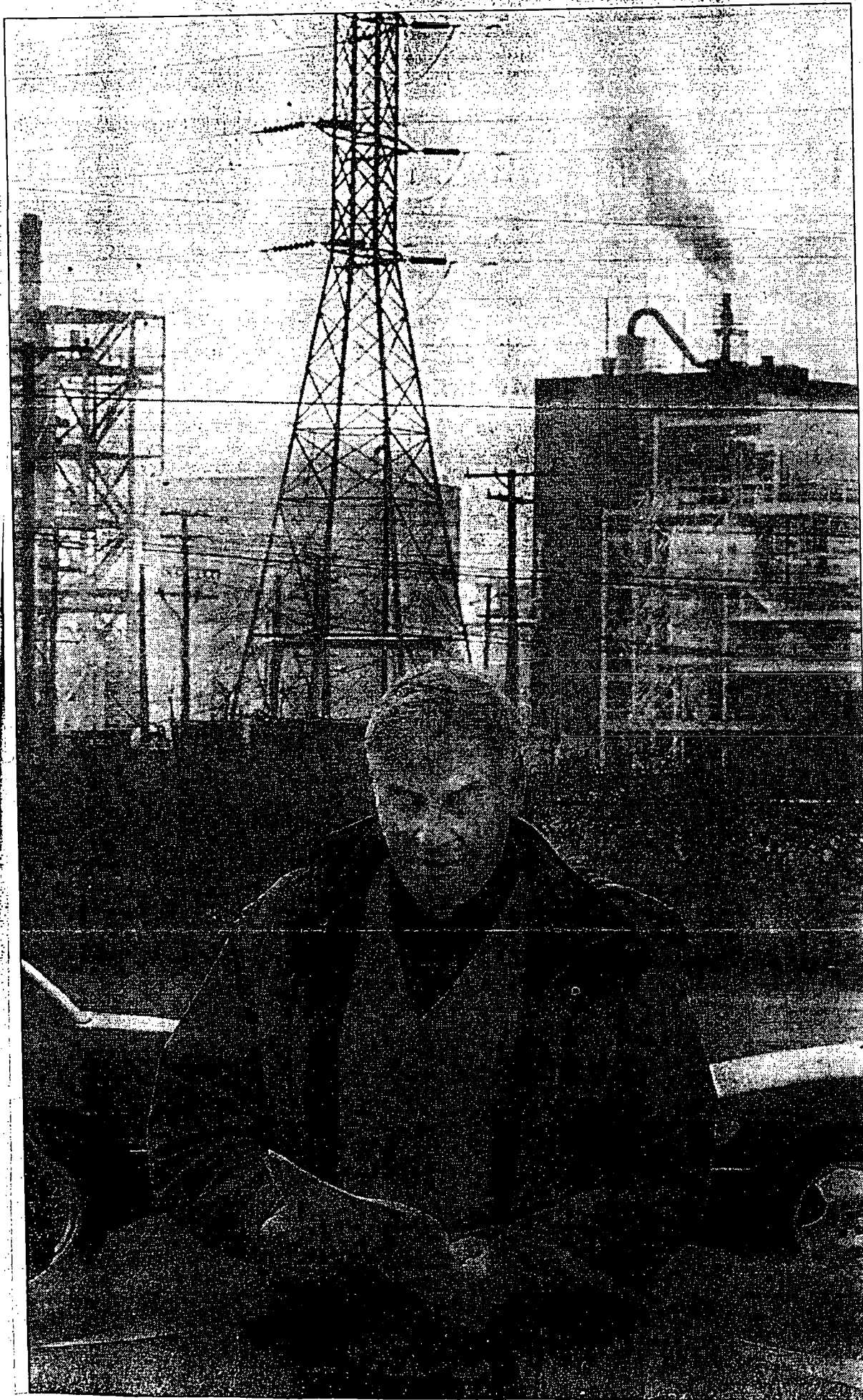
For more information see the World Wildlife Fund's Web site at www.panda.org/climate/.

MORE MICHIGAN STORIES

J.T. Maloney, pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Wyandotte, was one of the people praying who gathered across from the Trenton Channel Power Plant on Wednesday to kick off the countdown toward Earth Day. The group hopes to bring attention to the use of coal plants.

KIRTHMON F. DOZIER/Detroit Free Press

PRAYING FOR THE EARTH.



Groups stand tough against power plant

By Naheed Choudhry

Special Writer

TRENTON — Religious and environmental groups gathered Wednesday to pray and protest the burning of fossil fuels and call attention to the upcoming 30th anniversary of Earth Day on April 22.

Representatives from the Jewish, Muslim and Christian faiths stood in a circle outside the Trenton-Woodhaven Animal Shelter in the shadow of the Detroit Edison power plant off West Jefferson to ask God's blessing on the earth and for all people to work toward a healthier environment for future generations.

Kim Winchell of the Michigan Interfaith Global Warming Campaign began the prayer with a call for government and business leaders to support a cleaner environment.

"We gather together to pray for the children and the elderly who suffer the most from this pollution and for wisdom for our leaders to consider the needs of Michigan citizens to breathe fresh air," Winchell said.

The members formed a circle and held a green streamer, symbolizing the connection of people have to each other and to the earth, Winchell said. A blue Earth Day 2000 banner was held up as the members prayed.

Catherine Greener, co-chairwoman of the Southeastern Michigan Coalition on Environment and Jewish Life, spoke the Hebrew words, "tikkun olam."

Her call was to "know no boundaries, know no faith," but join with people from all backgrounds to help protect the environment, especially in the fight against global warming.

"(The Trenton Power Plant) alone produces as much nitrogen oxide as almost 400,000 cars," said Lana Pollack, president of the Michigan Environmental Council, an organization with more than 170,000 members.

According to the federal Environmental Protection Agency, nitrogen oxides are formed during high-temperature fuel combustion, primarily in fossil fuel-fired electric utility and industrial boilers and in internal combustion engines. They contribute to the pro-

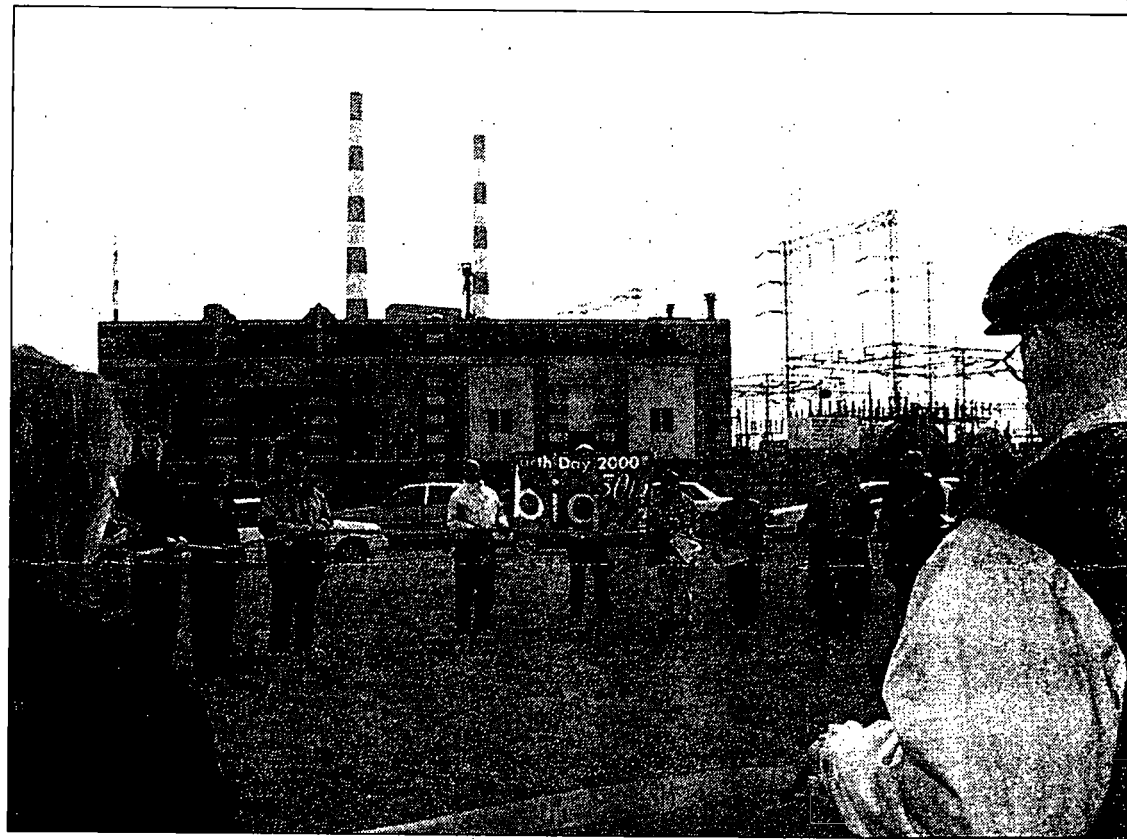


Photo by John Simon

Calling attention to the upcoming 30th Earth Day on April 22 in a joint prayer gathering Wednesday near the Trenton Edison Power Plant in Trenton are these members of various faiths and environmental groups. They also gathered to protest the use of fossil fuels, such as the coal burned at the plant, that they say pollute the air.

duction of low-level ozone, a component of acid rain, and can induce respiratory effects in humans.

"We want them to change from burning coal to (natural) gas, wind or solar energy."

Skiles Boyd, director of environmental management and resources for Detroit Edison, said Detroit Edison has done a tremendous amount of work so that coal can be burned in a way that is not harmful to the public.

"We have done a lot to decrease our emissions; we have reduced sulfur dioxide by 58 percent, nitrogen oxide by 43 percent, particulates (soot and other residues) by 90 percent," Skiles said.

The company has become more aware of public concern, and he said it is working to protect the environment because that is what

the people in the community want.

Wednesday's gathering is just the beginning of many events. Environmental and faith groups around the world are expected to host at different times during the next 30 days. They plan to create more awareness of and action against the burning of fossil fuels, organizers said.

The Earth Day Network, a non-profit organization that coordinates worldwide Earth Day activities, said more than half a billion people worldwide will hit the streets to raise their voices and to take action against harmful environmental practices, particularly global warming.

For more information regarding Earth Day events and/or the Earth Day Network, log on to www.earth-day.net.

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THE MICHIGAN ECUMENICAL FORUM'S
*Michigan Interfaith Global Warming Campaign is
pleased to announce:*

FREE ENERGY EFFICIENCY SEMINAR FOR MEMBERS OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY
--

DATE : May 6, 2000 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (includes lunch)

**LOCATION : First United Methodist Church of Ferndale
22331 Woodward, Ferndale**

WHAT : Presentations on the religious implications of global warming and what the faith community can do, with resource materials and speakers to offer assistance in improving the energy efficiency of your church or synagogue. This will save your congregation money *and* be good for the planet!

WHY : Scientists tell us that our climate is warming due to increasing levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide. The burning of fossil fuels contributes to this. When energy is used more efficiently, such 'greenhouse gas' emissions are decreased. Global warming will most likely impact all of Creation in profound ways, through severe and erratic weather, loss of species, spread of disease, and rising ocean levels that could displace millions of people worldwide. God's people are called to care for the Earth and need to be faithful in this matter.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND : We would like to have a team of at least two people attend to represent their congregation – someone who is responsible for the building's maintenance, and someone who will help 'champion' this idea in the congregation.

FOR A RESERVATION : Please call as soon as possible to pre-register, so that we can have an accurate count for lunch and for resource materials we would like to provide. A small donation towards lunch will be gratefully accepted at the seminar. A letter of confirmation and directions to the seminar location will be sent to those who make a reservation by calling :

Patty Gillis, Detroit Regional Campaign Coordinator at 313-640-0130
or email pjgillis@juno.com

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FESTIVAL OF GOD'S CREATION *Sunday 2000*

WORSHIP RESOURCES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
Creator of heaven and earth!

Psalm 124: 8

Praise be to Jesus Christ!

Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

In Christ all things in heaven and on earth were created.

All things have been created through him and for him.

In Christ the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

**Through Christ God was pleased to reconcile all things,
things on earth and things in heaven,
making peace through the blood of the cross.**

from Colossians 1: 15-20

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.

from the Book of Common Worship (PCUSA)

The prayer will continue in silence

LITANY FOR CREATION

Leader: Creator God, breathing your own life into our being
You gave us the gift of life.
You placed us on this earth with its minerals and waters,
Flowers and fruits, living creatures of grace and beauty.
You gave us the care of the earth.
Today you call us: "Where are you; what have you done?"

Silent prayer for creation.

Leader: We hide in utter shame, for we are naked.
We violate the earth and plunder it.
We refuse to share the earth's resources.
We seek to own what is not ours, but yours.

Festival of God's Creation Sunday Resource

An eight-page resource has been prepared to help you celebrate Festival of God's Creation Sunday. It contains bulletin inserts, worship materials and background information. It can be ordered from The Ministry of God's Creation at 202-488-5644. The price is \$.75 each for 1 to 19 copies; \$.20 each for twenty or more.

The resource is also available without cost on the Internet at: <http://www.umc-gpcs.org>

Energy Stewardship Congregations

A growing number of congregations are attempting to be good stewards of God's creation by reducing their use of energy. One way to use less energy is to make your facilities more energy efficient by taking measures such as: using compact fluorescent bulbs instead of incandescent bulbs, doing an energy audit, installing programmable thermostats and light sensors etc.

For more information, call the Energy Stewardship Congregation program (formerly known as the Energy Star Congregation program) at 800-288-1346. This is a project of the Eco-justice Working Group of the National Council of the Churches of Christ.

Ministry of God's Creation
United Methodist Board of Church & Society
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Festival of God's Creation-2000

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Festival of God's Creation Sunday 2000

"Good Stewards of God's Gift of Energy"
is the theme for Festival of God's Creation Sunday for 2000.

A Message to United Methodists on
Celebrating God's Creation

This United Methodist General Conference in 1996 called for the Celebration of a "Festival of God's Creation." Although we give thanks every day for God's good creation and our re-creation through Jesus Christ, the "Festival of God's Creation" gives United Methodists another way to remember God's creation.

This year many people in the US will celebrate the 30th anniversary of Earth Day. Unfortunately, that anniversary April 22nd, comes between Good Friday and Easter. So we are urging United Methodists to celebrate the Festival of God's Creation on April 30th, the week after Easter.

This year's celebration focuses on the gift of energy—wind, water, fossil fuels, and solar. All of God's gifts are given to be used responsibly. We have not used the gift of energy well. Our wasteful use of oil, gas, and coal pollutes the earth and contributes to climate change.

Still, God promises that the earth will be healed and calls us to participate in God's healing of creation. When we use energy wisely and efficiently, when we use forms of energy that are less polluting and less likely to cause climate change, we witness to God's healing work in creation.

May God bless you in your work.

Jaydee Hanson, Assistant General Secretary, Ministry of God's Creation (202) 488-5644

Paz Araza Regan, Director for Environmental Justice, Ministry of God's Creation.

Inside this brochure is a bulletin insert and information on how to order more worship resources for the Festival of God's Creation.

Becoming Faithful Energy Stewards

For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God... in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. (Romans 8:19-21)

CALLED TO "TEND AND KEEP"

The Bible tells us that on each day of creation God saw that all was "good" and on the last day that it was "very good". Indeed, according to Genesis 9:10, God has established a covenant "with every living creature" and with the earth itself (Genesis 9:13).

The biblical word "covenant" implies mutual trust and responsibility, and describes the special relationship between God and all creation. Humankind has been given an important role in this covenant relationship. God calls us to "tend and keep" this garden call Earth (Genesis 9:13).

"THE LAND MOURNS"

But we all know that we have not always been faithful partners in this covenant. In our sinfulness, we have hurt each other and the rest of creation. The biblical prophet Hosea warned that as a consequence of human disobedience and selfishness "the land mourns and... even the fish of the sea are perishing" (Hosea 41:3).

Today we are recognizing in new and alarming ways the truth of the prophet's warning. Most climate scientists now agree that our increasing over consumption of fossil fuel has led to climate change.

Consider these facts:

- Each year we are pumping nearly seven billion tons of heat-trapping carbon into atmosphere.
- The eleven hottest years on record have all occurred since 1980.

2500 of the world's leading atmospheric scientists agree that global warming has already begun. They warn that if we do not curb automotive and power plant emissions of global warming pollution, we will change the climate, triggering more extreme weather, floods and droughts that would damage croplands and forests, deadly heat waves, a rise in the sea level that would flood coastal areas, and severely affect human, animal and plant health and survival.

A FAITHFUL RESPONSE

Christians believe that God heals what human beings have broken and calls people of faith to participate in the restoration of creation. When we use less energy in our homes and churches and use it more efficiently, and when we move away from our reliance on fossil fuels and use instead more renewable energy sources, we point to and participate in God's healing of creation. Though it may be too late to prevent climate change, we can design policies and take actions to slow it down.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

→ Become an "Energy Stewardship Congregation":

Examine your congregation's and your own individual energy consumption. Your church can make a commitment to use less energy and to make your building more energy efficient.

* For more information on the "Energy Stewardship Congregation" program call 1-800-288-1346.

→ At home and at church:

- use compact fluorescent light bulbs;
- tune-up your heating and air conditioning systems;
- invest in office equipment that is labeled Energy Star;
- install programmable thermostats and sensors on lighting;
- buy the most efficient model furnaces and air conditioners and correctly "size" them to your needs.

→ Walk, bike, and use public transportation whenever possible.

→ Encourage your local, state, and national elected officials to endorse a "Clean Energy Agenda"

which would include:

- clean power
- clean cars
- clean air
- clean investments

* For more information about the "Clean Energy" Agenda, go to "Web of Creation" at www.webofcreation.org/NCC/CleanEnergyAgenda.html.

A Climate Change Information and Strategy Packet is available without cost by calling 1-888-9climate. It includes *It's God's World: Christians, Care for Creation and Global Warming* - a five session Bible study for congregations.

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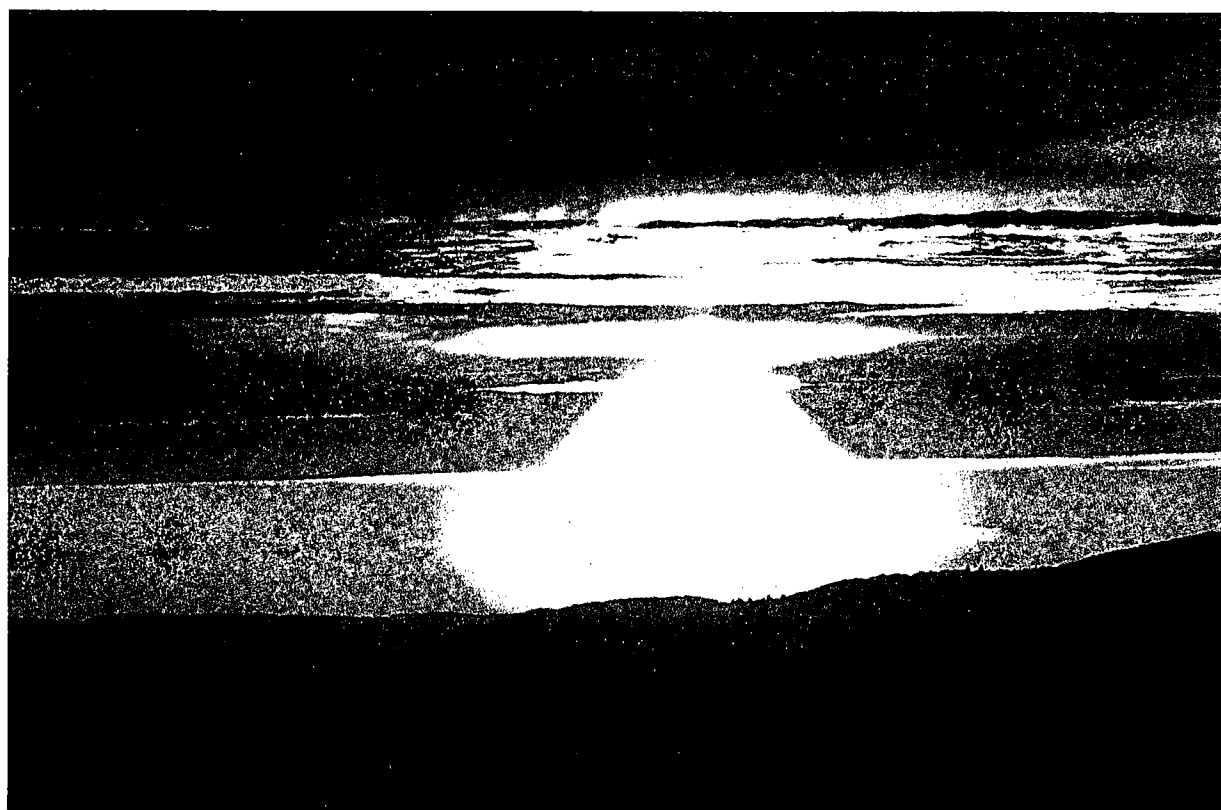
Spring 2000



Number 9

Creation Care

A Christian environmental quarterly



Celebrating Creation Sunday

Global warming, a **CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER** † *Confronting risks: WHAT YOU CAN DO*

Christian heroes, A CLOUD OF WITNESSES † *Godly answers FROM SCRIPTURE*

Clean energy **STARTING WITH SUNSHINE** † *Missionary groups encourage EARTHKEEPING*

EVANGELICAL ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK

Why Should Christians Be in Favor of Clean Energy?

Empowered by God's grace and guided by the Holy Spirit, the Christian life is about fulfilling the Great Commandments (Mk. 12: 28-31). Colossians proclaims that Christ died to reconcile all of Creation to God, showing how much God loves all of Creation: "God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross" (Col. 1: 19-20, NIV). Indeed, Christ is not only the Reconciler of all things, He is the Creator and Sustainer of all things as well (Col. 1: 15-18; John 1: 1-3; Heb. 1:1-4).

Unfortunately, the facts suggest that air pollution and the threat of global warming are working against the reconciliation of all creation wrought by Christ's blood. The burning of coal and oil to produce electricity and power our vehicles causes these problems.

Here are some facts on **air pollution**.

- More than one in three Americans live in areas with unhealthy air, and in many areas it is getting worse, especially in poorer neighborhoods. Nitrogen oxides (forms smog) have increased 11% between 1970 and 1997. Sulfur dioxide emissions (results in fine particulate pollution or soot) increased in 1996-98 to more than 9% over 1995 levels.
- Estimates are that soot results in 15,000 premature deaths every year.
- Smog and soot hit asthma sufferers the hardest. As air pollution has increased, so have asthma cases – by more than 60% since 1980. Between 1985 and 1995 there was a 45.3% increase in asthma deaths. The total estimated cost of asthma in 1993 was \$12.6 billion.
- Asthma death rates for black Americans are three times that of whites.
- One out of every three asthma victims is a child. Seven percent of children suffer from asthma, which is the number one cause of school absences. In 1994, this resulted in \$673 million in caretaker's time lost from work.
- Mercury contamination has forced 40 states to warn their residents to restrict their fish consumption. Especially vulnerable are women of childbearing age, pregnant and lactating women, children and populations that consume large amounts of fish such as Native Americans and the poor.
- Air pollution causes other damage to creation, including forest damage from acid rain, ozone eutrophication (overfertilization from nitrogen) of lakes and ponds, loss of fish and other aquatic species from acidification, and reproductive failures in fish and in birds that eat fish caused by mercury.

Here are some projected impacts of **global warming**.

- Most developing countries are in tropical regions, where studies indicate that global warming will reduce agricultural output. An additional 40-300 million poor people could be at risk of hunger by 2060 simply because of global climate change.
- Developing countries are much less able to withstand the devastation caused by extreme weather events, and climate change is likely to increase such events. Global warming could double the number of people impacted by flooding.
- Human health risks will be greater in developing countries due to the potential for increased geographical distribution of infectious diseases such as malaria, dengue fever, yellow fever, and encephalitis. For example, malaria could increase by 50-80 million cases per year in areas with no immunity.
- Entire ecosystems may be lost. Other impacted ecosystems will not recover for several centuries. Threats to many species are at the level of survival.

Scientific evidence suggests that air pollution and global warming are two of the forces arrayed against God's love for all of Creation. Contrary to what Christian justice, love and reconciliation require, air pollution hurts the most vulnerable – children, the poor, and the elderly – the most. Global warming will also impact the less powerful groups of Creation—the poor, the children, the rest of Creation—disproportionately. Precisely because they are less powerful, the God of the Bible—who loves all of Creation and desires sufficiency and contentment for all—has a special concern for their just treatment. Therefore, Christians must continually bear in mind and lift up the principle that *every step away from air pollution and global warming is a step toward justice and the God of justice*. Scripture clearly teaches that not only individuals but also nations will be judged on how they treat the less powerful, or the “least of these”—those whom Christ identifies with himself (Matt. 25: 31-46). Therefore, national righteousness requires the United States to switch from coal and oil to cleaner sources of energy (see the *What is Clean Energy?* fact sheet).

Air pollution and global warming present all Christians with new opportunities to love God by loving what God loves, to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, as we strive to be his ministers of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5: 14-21). In this situation loving God means reducing our consumption of fossil fuels by using energy more efficiently and by switching to cleaner sources of energy, and helping our nation do the same.

Contact EEN to find out how you can help. een@esa-online.org.
Visit our web site for more information, www.creationcare.org.

EVANGELICAL ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK

What Is Clean Energy? What Is It's Potential?

All of the energy of the Universe comes from Christ. At every moment Christ is "sustaining all things by his powerful word" (Heb. 1:3, NIV). As Christians our lives are about using the energy Christ gives us to do God's will. Whether that energy comes from the food we eat or from the electricity that powers our homes and offices or the fuel that powers our vehicles, it should not result in harm to what Christ loves. The facts suggest that air pollution and the threat of global warming are working against the reconciliation of all creation wrought by Christ's blood (Col 1:20; see the *Why Should Christians Be In Favor of Clean Energy?* fact sheet). The burning of coal and oil to produce electricity and power our vehicles causes these problems. Our dependence on these dirty sources of energy is considerable, as is the pollution that results.

- Coal and oil supply more than 60 percent of U.S. energy, making them America's primary energy sources.
- Coal generates 54% of U.S. electricity, and the nation consumes more than 20 pounds per person every day.
- Coal-burning power plants are the single largest source of air pollution; between 1992-98 there was a dramatic 15.8% increase in their electricity production.
- The transportation sector contributes the most air pollution of any sector in the United States.
- Miles driven by passenger cars have increased about 70% in the past thirty years. However, SUV, minivan and truck miles have increased almost 350% in the same period, and they are two to five times dirtier.
- We spend more than \$100,000 a minute on foreign oil.
- The U.S. gives away billions of dollars every year in subsidies to the coal and oil industries.

Given the tremendous harm air pollution causes and the serious threat global warming poses, part of loving God today means reducing our consumption of fossil fuels by using energy more efficiently and by switching to cleaner sources of energy – and helping our nation do the same.

What are cleaner sources of creation-friendly energy? In general there are three: wind, solar, and biomass. Each is a "home grown" source, and solar and wind produce no pollution while generating electricity.

Solar Energy

Solar energy refers to energy from the sun that is captured for use by: photovoltaic (PV) cells, a semiconductor-based technology which converts light directly into an electric current; solar thermal collectors that employ long curved mirrors to concentrate sunlight; and passive solar design of buildings.

- The potential of solar energy is tremendous. Enough sunlight reaches the earth's surface each year to produce approximately 1,000 times the same amount of energy produced by burning all fossil fuels mined and extracted during the same time period.
- PV panels/modules are very versatile and can be mounted in a variety of sizes and applications; e.g., on the roof or awning of a building, on roadside emergency phones or as very large arrays consisting of multiple panels/modules. Currently they are being integrated into building materials (such as PV shingles, which replace conventional roofing shingles), and the market for these materials is growing at 30% a year.
- A business can save 40 - 80% on electric or fuel bills by replacing its conventional water heater with a solar water heating system. For example, the St. Rose Hospital in San Antonio, Texas utilizes a solar thermal water heating system to meet 80% of its hot water needs.
- Water heating accounts for approximately one-fourth of the total energy used in a typical single-family home. It's the single biggest energy user of all home appliances. The energy used for water heaters is the equivalent of 11.4 barrels of oil per household, more than the amount of oil burned by a medium-sized automobile driven 12,000 miles. Of all of the major types of water heating systems, solar energy systems offer the biggest potential savings to homeowners – 85 percent savings verses electric.

- Residential and commercial buildings account for one-third of US energy use. Solar design, better insulation, and more efficient appliances could reduce this demand by 60 to 80 percent.
- Two billion people, 70 percent of the population in the developing world, still rely on kerosene, fuel wood, and batteries for light and power. At least 35% of the world population is without grid electricity and there are some two million villages without electricity within 20 degrees latitude of the sunny equator.
- During the last five years, more than 2000 conventional refrigerators using solar-generated electricity (for purposes such as vaccine refrigeration) have been installed in rural areas around the world. Results indicate that these units are operating efficiently 95% of the time.

Wind Energy

For the last five years (1995-99) wind energy generated from wind turbines was the fastest growing energy source in the world. Between 1998 and 1999, more than a billion dollars worth of wind power equipment was installed in the US, and more than \$2.5 billion worldwide.

- America's wind energy potential is enormous. Wind from the Dakotas could provide 255,000 MW of capacity and 2.2 trillion kWh of electricity (equal to approximately two-thirds of current total U.S. electricity consumption). Texas has the potential to power one third of the nation.
- Wind farms can provide additional, steady income to rural communities. For a 250-acre farm, with income from wind at about \$40 an acre, the annual income from a wind lease would be \$10,000, with 10-15 acres at most removed from production from the overall land, mainly for access. Farmers can grow crops or raise cattle next to the towers.
- In Forest City, Iowa, a turbine erected as a school project is expected to earn \$1.6 million over its lifetime.
- The cost of wind energy is projected to decline from 4.7 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) today to below 3 cents/kWh by 2013 and 2.5 cents/kWh by 2020. The average cost of electricity today is 6.7 cents/kWh.
- Wind energy could create 1.7 million jobs worldwide by the year 2020 and produce more electricity than the entire continent of Europe consumes today. Global warming pollution would be reduced by more than 10 billion metric tons.

Biomass Energy

What is Biomass? Biomass is any organic matter (plant or animal material) used for energy, such as: fast-growing trees and grasses (e.g., poplar trees and prairie grasses) grown specifically to provide energy; crop and forestry residues; animal wastes; and some municipal solid waste. The various new methods for converting biomass into a more useful energy source for electricity are more efficient and less polluting than simply burning it. They all involve chemically converting the raw biomass into a variety of gases, liquids, or solids. Biomass-derived methanol, ethanol, and hydrogen can be used in fuel cells to power vehicles or buildings.

- Without coming close to competing with food crops for land, biomass could easily generate 40% of U.S. electricity, and reduce by 60% the use of coal and nuclear power.
- In contrast to coal and oil, biomass has almost no sulfur dioxide, resulting in significant acid rain reduction; almost no heavy metals (e.g., mercury, a dangerous neurotoxin); less than half the smog forming emissions of coal; and 90% fewer net carbon emissions than fossil fuels.
- Deep-rooted biomass crops help prevent soil erosion and improve soil fertility; serve as filters to protect waterways against chemical runoff from non-point pollution sources; and provide better habitat for a wider variety of wildlife in comparison to other agricultural crops.
- Biomass enhances local economic development, especially in agricultural areas. Over the next 15 years 120,000 new jobs could be generated nationally from dedicated energy crops alone. Each megawatt of energy from biomass creates 2-10 net jobs. In Ohio, for example, electricity produced from new biomass would create approximately 83% more jobs than new coal power production.



Resolution Adopted by the CCAR

NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY

Resolution adopted at the 111th Convention of the
Central Conference of American Rabbis
March, 2000

Background

Since the 1970s, the organized Jewish community has consistently supported federal policies and programs to reduce U.S. consumption of fossil fuels. The United States' historic and increasing reliance on fossil fuels compromises our national security by creating dependence upon oil-producing nations; causes and exacerbates illness for millions of our citizens; and degrades our environment - through acid rain, global warming, and the destruction of natural areas.

For 25 years, the organized American Jewish community has unanimously advocated action to reduce our nation's reliance on fossil fuels through energy conservation and the development of environmentally sound, non-nuclear energy technologies. We have advocated investment to accelerate the development of new technologies when they were largely underdeveloped. We urged action to reduce fossil fuel use before climate change was confirmed. We supported the development of public transit before many Americans spent hours each day in traffic.

Despite decades of advocacy by public interest groups, pressure from industrial interests and consequent Congressional inaction has prevented progress. In 2000, the average fuel economy of all new passenger vehicles is at its lowest point since 1980, while fuel consumption is at its highest. American vehicle manufacturers are significantly behind Japanese competitors in bringing new auto technologies to market. U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, already the highest per capita in the world, are rising steadily. Trends are equally poor across a broad spectrum of American energy use. We have made almost no progress in 20 years.

We stand at the beginning of a new century. The vast majority of scientists and policy experts agree that if dramatic action is not taken soon, it is very likely that human well-being and global geopolitical stability in the 21st century will be gravely affected by global climate change. In addition, many economists believe that aggressive development of environmentally friendly technologies and products will create U.S. jobs, enhance U.S. competitiveness in the global economy, and demonstrate U.S. leadership toward a sustainable energy future for the entire planet.

We have a solemn obligation to do whatever we can within reason both to prevent harm to current and future generations and to preserve the integrity of the creation with which we have been entrusted. Not to do so when we have the technological capacity - as we do in the case of non-fossil fuel energy and transportation technologies - is an unforgivable abdication of our responsibility.

Therefore, the Central Conference of Rabbis calls upon all Reform households, schools, synagogues.

and camps to:

- develop environmental policies for our religious institutions;
- consider installing solar Ner Tamids, Eternal Lights, for our religious sanctuaries;
- dedicate a Shabbat or holiday to discuss energy consumption from a Jewish perspective;
- join interfaith communities nationally this year, the 30th anniversary of Earth Day which occurs during Passover, to show our Jewish support for seeking alternative energy sources and reducing consumption.

Furthermore, the CCAR calls upon Congress and the Administration to set aside

the concerns of special interests and do the following:

- encourage the development of alternative energy sources, i.e., solar, hydro, fuel-cell, wind
- close the loophole that allows sport utility vehicles, mini-vans, and pick-up trucks (over 50% of passenger vehicles sold) to meet significantly lower fuel economy standards than cars;
- raise Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards for all passenger vehicles to a minimum of 45 miles per gallon by 2010 and 65 miles per gallon by 2020;
- support investment in environmentally friendly energy technologies;
- phase out all subsidies for coal, oil, and nuclear industries by 2005;
- provide tax credits for investments to make homes and buildings more energy efficient;
- create progressively strict emissions standards, including carbon dioxide emissions, for all power plants regardless of fuel source or age.

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Meeting with Religious Community on Climate Change
Wednesday, April 12
3:30 – 5:00 PM @ World Resources Institute

Background and Talking Points

Background

- You will be meeting with Paul Gorman, Executive Director of the National Religious Partnership for the Environment (NRPE), and a group of leaders from the religious community. The group will include representatives from the U.S. Catholic Conference, National Council of Churches of Christ (NCCC), the Evangelical Environmental Network, and the Coalition on Environment and Jewish Life. The group will be meeting for the entire day on 4/12 to discuss climate and will have already met with Jonathan Lash, Eileen Claussen, Jane Perkins (AFL-CIO), Alden Meyer, WWF, NET, ICLEI, etc.
- The religious community has been actively involved in raising public awareness on the issue climate change since the mid-1980s, elevating the debate from one based on science to one rooted in spiritual and moral values. Their fundamental message is that it is every citizen's moral and religious responsibility to be stewards of God's creation and to protect the health and habitat of the global environment against the threats of global warming.
- Issues for the religious community:
 - International economic justice: The religious community believes that the U.S. and developed nations are primarily responsible for the increase in greenhouse gases, while the impacts of global warming will fall disproportionately on those most vulnerable (poor, sick, elderly, developing nations). "The U.S. has a special responsibility to address the problem of climate change without delay". They are passionate about this issue. They represent multi-national institutions and feel this issue is one that sets them apart from the rest of the environmental community. A letter about this was sent to POTUS in 1998 from the leaders of 24 denominations.
 - Domestic action vs. flexible mechanisms: Following on the above point, the religious community believes that the U.S. is moving too slow on domestic action, while spending more effort on the flexible mechanisms in order to meet our target abroad. The NCCC, along with the World Council of Churches, is conducting a review of "the ethical issues in emissions trading" and plan to submit a report of their findings at COP 6. A letter about this was sent to POTUS by the Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell, Secretary General of the NCCC, in October 1999.
 - Dislocated workers: The religious community support climate policies that will ensure "a just transition to a full employment economy which provides family-supporting jobs now and in the future". The religious leaders' statements as part of the statewide Interfaith Campaigns Against Global Warming make this point.

- The religious community does not want these discussions with the White House on climate to be used in a partisan way.
- While the mainline Christian groups have been engaged in the climate debate for some time, the Catholics involvement is more recent and has been slower to develop. The Catholic Bishops are working on a statement on global warming that will be released in the fall (estimated). You need to be sensitive to the fact that there is somewhat of a strained relationship between the Catholics and the mainline Christian/Evangelical groups on this issue. The 2 key policy people from the Catholic Conference will be attending the meeting. Note that John Sweeney sits on the U.S. Catholic Conference's Domestic Policy Council.
- Sixteen states have launched or are in the process of launching "Interfaith Global Warming Campaigns" to educate their congregations on being responsible stewards of their Creator's planet (including support of the Kyoto Protocol). These campaigns involve hundreds of religious leaders and congregations. Several leaders of the state campaigns will participate in the meeting via conference call.
- The timing of Earth Day 2000 is bad for religious community because it falls between Passover, Good Friday, and Easter. (They are recommending that congregations observe Earth Day on another Sunday, such as April 30th, the Sunday after Earth Day.)

Talking Points

- We are impressed with the religious community's long history of advocacy on behalf of the environment and climate change. We know that for some in the faith community your involvement goes back to the mid-1980s (*when the World Council of Churches convened a meeting on the greenhouse effect*). Also that for others of you, this is a more recent engagement (*say this for the benefit of the Catholics*).
- We appreciate your leadership in elevating the debate on global climate change from one based on science and economics and policy to one rooted in spiritual and moral values.
- We also appreciate the dedication with which you are working to educate your congregations on both the threats posed by climate change and what individuals can do to help solve this great environmental challenge.
- We also would like to congratulate Paul Gorman on receiving the Heinz Foundation's 1999 Award for the Environment. (*Optional: POTUS has sent a letter and Al Gore has called to congratulate him*).
- We recognize that the issue of international economic justice is front and center for you. It is one of the reasons why your voice is so important and is an area in which you can play an important role: to help facilitate discussion between developed and developing countries as we move forward in establishing a global regime that is both fair and effective in protecting

Environmental - economic - moral

the environment.

- We understand that you are most concerned with these long term issues surrounding the debate on global climate change. We share this view, but unfortunately have to worry about the short term also.
- We would like to share with you what the Administration is doing:

Internationally

-- We worked hard to negotiate the Kyoto Protocol to include realistic emissions targets and flexible methods to meet them.

-- We understand that you are concerned with the level of effort that has been given to development of the flexible mechanisms. We understand your concern, but feel, however, that the flexible mechanisms will allow us to achieve our emission target as cost effectively as possible, at the same time creating a less painful, more just transition for the industries and the workers that will be most impacted.

-- We are also working to secure meaningful participation from developing countries, understanding that emissions from developing countries are rapidly increasing but also that it is (less realistic) to mandate commitments to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions for developing countries within the same compliance period as the developed countries (per Byrd-Hagel resolution, S. Res. 98).

-- For example, we achieved success on the President's recent trip to India during which an agreement was signed through which the U.S. will support the development of clean energy projects in India.

-- The President's FY 2001 climate change budget proposes \$201 million (a more than 100% increase over FY 2000 enacted levels) to accelerate the development and deployment of clean energy technologies around the world.

--The U.S. provided technical support to Argentina – the first developing country to announce and establish a target under the Protocol.

-- Since 1993, the U.S. Country Studies Program has been providing technical and financial support to 56 developing countries on 5 continents to assist them in conducting climate change impact and mitigation analyses.

Domestic

-- We agree with your concerns that it is critical for the U.S. take the lead in responding to the threats of climate change at home.

-- We have proposed in the President's FY 2001 budget proposal a package of targeted tax incentives and investments aimed at increasing the development and deployment of clean homes, clean cars, and clean power.

-- We are working hard to try to secure funding for these programs from the Congress. We could use your help in this effort.

-- Last week the Ford Motor Company announced that it would begin selling a small sport utility vehicle in 2003 using both gasoline and electric propulsion for better gas mileage. General Motors and Daimler Chrysler are working on similar sport utility vehicles. We know that the technology exists – that is not the roadblock. Getting the Congress to support these programs is.

- We would like to hear what we can do to help you in your work on this important issue.

Note

- At a meeting in Roger's office with representatives from the religious community last September, we suggested that we would try to get a thank you letter(s) sent from POTUS to the religious leaders that have signed statements as part of the state Interfaith Campaigns Against Global Warming. A letter has been drafted, but not sent. We might want to commit again to try to do this; they might bring it up

Religious Leaders

(CAFE)

- Chris - "changing lifestyle"

(Flexibility Mechanisms) Tim

- U.S. Catholic Conference - arm of Catholic Bishops

- Nat'l Council of Churches

- Tool Kit

- CFL's

- Maine - car labeling

- Maine Inter-faith Power + Light

(Just transition)

The Religious Community and Climate Change

Background

The religious community has been actively involved in raising public awareness on the issue climate change since the mid-1980s, elevating the debate from one based on science to one rooted in spiritual and moral values. The *fundamental message of the religious community is that it is every citizen's moral and religious responsibility to be stewards of God's creation and to protect the health and habitat of the global environment against the threats of global warming*. The authority for this can be found in the scripture itself:

"The Earth is the Lord's" – Psalm 24:1

"Choose life so that you and your descendents may live" -- Deuteronomy 30:19-20

"Yours is the day. Yours is also the night You made summer and winter". – Psalm 74:16-17

Current Activities

- **State Campaigns Against Global Warming:** Sixteen states have launched or are in the process of launching "Interfaith Global Warming Campaigns" to educate their congregations on being responsible stewards of their Creator's planet (including support of the Kyoto Protocol).
 - The states are Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin.
 - The campaigns include training, sermons, public statements signed by religious leaders, and public outreach.
 - An average of 15 denominations within each state and hundreds of congregations nationwide are involved.
 - The campaigns are aimed at reaching out to workers and families that have not traditionally been active in environmental causes: farmers in Iowa and Wisconsin, auto workers in Michigan, coal miners in West Virginia, wood products workers in Oregon.
 - To date, over 150 religious leaders in five states have signed statements on global warming – voicing strong concern over the issue and urging specific actions to address the threats of global warming.
 - The specific actions include: distributing educational materials and offering sermons to help congregations understand the challenge of climate change; taking action to conserve energy and reduce excessive use of fossil fuels (such as using efficient lighting and appliances); encouraging the electric utility sector and other industries to cut greenhouse gases and increase use of renewables and clean energy sources; encouraging the automobile industry to accelerate the development and production of cleaner, more efficient means of transportation; calling on the President to increase automobile fuel efficiency standards;

organizing communities to meet with U.S. and state Representatives and Senators to show support for reducing global emissions of greenhouse gases and declare support for ratification of the kinds of measures in the Kyoto Protocol.

- **Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility**

The Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), a group of Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish investors that holds more than \$100 billion in pension funds, has targeted major U.S. corporations to invest in energy efficiency and to acknowledge that human activity is causing global warming. Targeted companies have included Exxon Mobil, Ford, Texaco, Chevron, CSX, Duke Energy, Eastman Chemical, Goodyear, Cinergy, General Motors. ICCR has been instrumental in pushing Ford, Texaco, and General Motors to withdraw from the Global Climate Coalition.

- **National Religious Partnership for the Environment**

Much of the religious community's work on this issue has been coordinated through the National Religious Partnership for the Environment (NRPE), whose executive director, Paul Gorman, recently was awarded the Heinz Foundation's 1999 Award for the Environment. The NRPE is an alliance of the major faith groups in the U.S., including the U.S. Catholic Conference, the National Council of Churches of Christ, the Evangelical Environmental Network, and the Coalition on Environment and Jewish Life. It was founded in 1993 with the mission to "care for God's creation across all areas of organized religion" and "to protect the natural world and human well-being within it".

- **Energy Star Congregations**

Over 250 congregations nationwide are participating in EPA's Energy Star for Congregations program. They are performing energy audits and switching to more energy efficient lighting and heating/cooling to reduce electricity consumption and save money.

- **Earth Day 2000**

The United Methodist Church has sent an "Earth Day 2000" brochure to 120,000 congregations. The brochure encourages Earth Day sermons on the threats of global warming, the clean use of energy, and other activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as installing energy efficient lighting and public transportation.

- **Media Coverage**

The religious community's global warming activities of have received substantial coverage in international, national, and state media during the past year, including: MSNBC, *NPR's Living on Earth* program, the *Financial Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Detroit News*, *Atlanta Constitution*, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, *Des Moines Register*, *Milwaukee*

Journal-Sentinel, and many local newspapers.

Statements by Religious Leaders

".... to commit a crime against the natural world is a sin. For humans to cause species to become extinct and to destroy the biological diversity of God's creation For humans to degrade the integrity of Earth by causing changes in its climate, by stripping the Earth of its natural forests, or destroying its wetlands For humans to contaminate the Earth's waters, its land, its air, and its life, with poisonous substances These are sins "

"..... we call on the world's leaders to take action to halt the destructive changes to the global climate that are being caused by human activity. And we call on all of you here today, to join us in this cause. This can be our important contribution to the great debate about climate change. We must be spokespersons for an ecological ethic that reminds the world that it is not ours to use for our own convenience. It is God's gift of love to us and we must return his love by protecting it and all that there is in it."

-- His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of the Greek Orthodox Church, November 8, 1997

"The gradual depletion of the ozone layer and the related "greenhouse effect" has now reached crisis proportions as a consequence of industrial growth, massive urban concentrations and vastly increased energy needs, industrial waste, the burning of fossil fuels, unrestricted deforestation, the use of certain types of herbicides, coolants, and propellants; all of these are known to harm the atmosphere and environment."

-- Message of his Holiness Pope John Paul II, in "The Ecological Crisis: A Common Responsibility", January 1, 1990

"We have been heartened by the efforts of the nations of the world to address the threat of accelerating climate change. We believe that global warming is an inescapable religious challenge, dramatically reminding us of God's call to faithful stewardship. We believe climate change violates God's creation Climate change afflicts God's children The religious community must use its voice and actions to undergird this scientific consensus with a moral consensus."

-- signed statement by over 40 religious leaders in the State of Michigan

"We, as member churches of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., write to urge you to sign the Kyoto Protocol to the Climate Convention and submit it to the United States Senate for ratification. Your leadership in this way will be both internationally affirmed and nationally applauded. We pledge you our active support We believe that the earth is the Lord's and that we as God's stewards must care for its well being. It is in that faith and spirit that we urge your action."

-- from a signed letter to President Clinton from the heads of 24 denominations, August 10, 1998

“Global warming is real. The science is sound. The effects are likely to be severe. This is a religious issue.”

-- Father Christopher Bender, Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, Morgantown, West Virginia

“We intend to move the challenge of climate change from the laboratories of science and halls of diplomacy to the pulpits and pews of the American heartland.”

-- Rev. John Huenink, a leader of the Presbyterian Church of Oregon

“We undertake this effort not as a member of an environmental movement, but as a people of faith seeking to make this world a safer place for all people.”

-- Bishop McKinley Young, President, Georgia Christian Council

National Religious Leaders' Meeting with George Frampton and Roger Ballentine
April 12, 2000 3:30 – 5:00 PM

Agenda

- 3:30 – 3:40 PM** **Welcome and Introductions**
-- Paul Gorman, Executive Director, NRPE
- 3:40 – 4:00 PM** **Comments from the Administration**
-- Roger Ballentine, Deputy Assistant to the President for Environmental Initiatives
-- George Frampton, Acting Chair, Council on Environmental Quality
- What the Administration is doing on climate change:
 - the international negotiations
 - domestic steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- 4:15 – 5:00PM** **Questions and Answers/Discussion**

National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA

August 10, 1998



Office of the
General Secretary

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Mr. President:

We, as member churches of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., write to urge you to sign the Kyoto Protocol to the Climate Convention and submit it to the United States Senate for ratification. Your leadership in this way will be both internationally affirmed and nationally applauded. We pledge you our active support.

The National Council of Churches has historically been concerned about the environment. It has voiced that concern in public policy statements enacted by the General Assembly where all member churches are represented. Simply put, we believe that the earth is the Lord's and that we as God's stewards must care for its well being. It is in that faith and spirit that we urge your action.

We have been encouraged by your Administration's public commitment to address climate change responsibly. We are convinced that leadership from the United States is crucial for global efforts on climate change to be successful. The Kyoto Protocol represents the initial commitment by the nations to take the first steps in reducing emission of the gases that are causing global warming. It is an important move toward protecting God's children and God's creation.

We continue to be astonished by the widespread failure to understand that climate change affects not only justice for future generations, but justice in the present. If the emissions causing climate change are calculated back to 1800, the United States is responsible for more than 30% of the total. Yet the least developed nations which have made a much less significant contribution to the problem are already feeling the effects of climate change and will be the most severely impacted in the future. For this reason alone, the United States has a special responsibility to address the problem of climate change without delay.

We have committed ourselves to working for the passage of the Protocol in the Senate. Perhaps we can work together broadly on greater environmental

education through America's religious communities. May God bless our common efforts to protect and care for creation.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell, General Secretary
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

Bishop H. George Anderson, Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

The Rev. Cecil Bishop, Senior Bishop
Africa Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

The Most Rev. Metropolitan Christopher
Presiding Bishop, Metropolitan of Midwestern America
Serbian Orthodox Church in the USA and Canada

The Rev. Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, General Secretary
Reformed Church in America

The Right Rev. Frank T. Griswold, III, Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church

Bishop William Boyd Grove, Ecumenical Officer, Council of Bishops
United Methodist Church

The Rev. Dr. Richard L. Hamm, General Minister and President
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Thomas H. Jeavons, General Secretary
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

The Rev. Dr. Clifton Kirkpatrick, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Bishop Nathaniel Linsey, Senior Bishop
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

The Rev. Paul Martin, Chair, Council of Ministers
Church of the New Jerusalem, Swedenborgian

**The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey R. Newhall, Executive Director
International Council of Community Churches**

**The Rev. Judy Mills Reimer, Executive Director
Church of the Brethren**

**Archbishop Philip Saliba, Primate/Metropolitan
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese**

**The Rev. Dr. Paul H. Sherry, President
United Church of Christ**

**The Rev. Dr. Bennett W. Smith, Sr., President
Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.**

**Dr. Willie T. Sneed, Sr., President
National Missionary Baptist Convention of America**

**The Rev. Dr. Gordon L. Sommers, President
Moravian Church in America**

**His Eminence Archbishop Spyridon
Primate and Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarch
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America**

**The Most Blessed Metropolitan Theodosius, Primate
Orthodox Church in America**

**Bishop Zacharias Mar Theophilus
Mar Thoma Church**

**The Rev. Dr. Daniel E. Weiss, General Secretary
American Baptist Churches, USA**

**Bishop McKinley Young, Ecumenical Officer
African Methodist Episcopal Church**

National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA



Office of the
General Secretary

October 12, 1999

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The threat of climate change is a growing concern for churches around the world who view it as an issue with profound ethical dimensions. A significant part of the accelerated warming of the atmosphere is attributed by most climate change scientists to the polluting emissions that have been accumulated in the air due to the emissions of the US and other nations that industrialized early. The most dire consequences of climate change will not, however, be felt by the US or other rich countries. The poorer nations of the developing world and future generations will suffer the most.

Since 1988, the National Council of Churches and many of our 34 member denominations have been concerned with the slow pace of action on climate change. We have monitored the international negotiations since the early meetings in Chantilly, Virginia. In 1997, we conducted a petition campaign and presented Vice President Al Gore with some 20,000 petitions from 26 denominations in Kyoto. The petition was part of our campaign to build public support for the international agreement on actions to address climate change. The petition signers asked for a 20 percent reduction in CO2 emissions and pledged to take actions to reduce their own emissions of CO2 by a like amount.

We are concerned that since the Kyoto Protocol was signed, more effort has been given toward the development of "flexibility mechanisms" through which industrialized "Annex 1" countries could meet part of their reduction target outside the boundaries of their own nations. We are working with the World Council of Churches to conduct a review of the ethical issues in emissions trading. We are concerned that the global atmospheric commons will be given away under the guise of emissions trading. We expect to report the findings of this report prior to the Sixth Conference of Parties (COP) to the Climate Convention in 2000.

At the upcoming 5th session of the COP in Bonn later this month, we encourage you to adopt a position which:

- accepts that reduction targets will be met mainly through policies and measures taken within the boundaries of nations, required to reduce emissions; and which
- recognizes that emissions trading entails major ethical issues which need to be resolved on a global basis before trading programs are implemented.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan".

Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell
General Secretary

THE MICHIGAN RELIGIOUS LEADERS STATEMENT
TO
THE MICHIGAN INTERFAITH GLOBAL WARMING CONFERENCE
JUNE 14-15, 1999

We, members of the Michigan faith community, greet you, our sisters and brothers, gathered together on behalf of God's creation. We who are dedicated to the health and habitat of our own good state are also citizens of the planet. We have been heartened by the efforts of the nations of the world to address the threat of accelerating climate change. We believe that global warming is an inescapable religious challenge, dramatically reminding us of God's call to faithful stewardship. We believe:

- ✱ **Climate change violates God's creation.** Accelerated global warming is leading to species extinction, destruction of habitat, inundation of low-lying land by rising seas, and increasing weather extremes.

Scripture teaches: "The Earth is the Lord's" (Psalm 24:1)

- ✱ **Climate change afflicts God's children.** Global warming diminishes our supplies of food and water. It is leading to the spread of infectious disease. It destroys agricultural livelihood. Those living on islands and low-lying coasts will lose homes and safety. Already, we see how people are dying from extreme weather conditions believed to be enhanced by climate change: record-breaking storms, heat waves, floods, droughts.

Scripture teaches: "...You shall love your neighbor as yourself..." (Lev. 19:18)

- ✱ **Climate change violates moral and religious principles of justice.** The rich of the world, the industrialized nations, are primarily responsible for the increase of greenhouse gases which contribute to global warming. Yet burdens fall disproportionately upon the most vulnerable of the planet's people: the poor, sick, elderly, and those who will face still greater threats in future generations.

Scripture Teaches: "Justice, and only justice, you shall follow..." (Deut. 16:20)

We believe these conditions have been sufficiently documented to require action as an ethical responsibility. There is scientific consensus to indicate that society's pollution of the atmosphere with global warming gases threatens the quality of life for our descendants. The religious community must use its voice and actions to undergird this scientific consensus with a moral consensus.

In December 1997, over 160 nations adopted the Kyoto Protocol to the Framework Convention on Climate Change. This agreement seeks to curtail existing and devastating potential effects of global warming. The next step calls for the President to submit and for the U.S. Senate subsequently to ratify a treaty committing our nation to equitable international commitments such as those envisaged in Kyoto.

As people of faith whom God calls to be stewards of creation, we are eager to join you in establishing the Michigan Interfaith Global Warming Campaign. We look forward to hearing reports of your deliberations and concrete steps we all may take individually and collectively. Each of us will have different ways to act on our resolve. But we will be eager to join you in efforts to :

- ✦ *Pray and consult scripture for the wisdom and strength to address global climate change as a violation of the integrity of God's creation.*
- ✦ *Distribute educational materials, offer sermons, and convene study groups to help our congregations understand and embrace this challenge.*
- ✦ *Take action ourselves to conserve energy and reduce excessive use of fossil fuels in our houses of worship.*
- ✦ *Share religious perspectives on global climate change with representatives of key sectors in our state - labor, business, agriculture, and environmental organizations, seeking ways to work together for the common good.*
- ✦ *Encourage the electric utility industry and other key energy-intensive industries to cut greenhouse gases and to increase the use of renewable and clean energy sources.*
- ✦ *Call upon all oil companies to follow the lead of those companies which have already pledged to reduce their greenhouse gases and to invest in alternative energy sources.*

- ✦ *Encourage the development of transportation plans which promote sustainability, and protect and maintain community.*
 - ✦ *Encourage the automobile industry to continue, and to accelerate its development and production of cleaner and more efficient means of transportation.*
- ~
- ✦ *Call on the President to increase the automobile fuel economy standards.*
 - ✦ *Guarantee that climate policies assure a just transition to a full employment economy which provides family-supporting jobs now and in the future.*
 - ✦ *Organize our communities to meet with U.S. Representatives, Senators, and Michigan legislators to share our support of domestic and international initiatives to reduce global warming.*
 - ✦ *Declare our support for the ratification of the kinds of equitable measures envisioned by the 160 nations in the Kyoto Protocol.*

We speak not as members of an 'environmental movement', but as people of faith seeking to be true to God's intentions for Creation. We resolve to "choose life so that you and your descendants may live." (Deuteronomy 30:19-20)

(signatories follow; organizations listed for identification purposes)

**Metropolitan Philip
Primate
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America**

**Bishop Donald A. Ott
Michigan Area
United Methodist Church**

**Bishop Robert A. Rimbo
Southeast Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

Bishop Gary L. Hansen
North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Bishop Reginald Holle (ret.)
North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rev. David Baak
Executive Director
Grand Rapids Center for Ecumenism (GRACE)

The Rev. Kent Ulery
Conference Minister
Michigan Conference United Church of Christ

The Rev. John Ross Thompson
Conference Director
West Michigan Conference, United Methodist Church

The Rev. Lowelle Simms
Synod Executive
Synod of the Covenant
Presbyterian Church (USA)

The Rt. Rev. Edwin M. Leidel, Jr.
Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan

Rabbi Marla Feldman
Jewish Community Council, Detroit

Cindy Hughey
Executive Director
Michigan Jewish Conference

The Rt. Rev. Edward L. Lee, Jr.
Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan

The Rev. David J. Reese
Associate Conference Minister
Michigan Conference United Church of Christ

The Rev. Jerry van Rossum
Stake President
Detroit International Stake
Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Rabbi Joshua L. Bennett
Temple Israel

Edith F. Patton
Interim Executive Presbyter
Maumee Valley Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (USA)

Bishop Dale R. Skogman
Northern Great Lakes Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Bishop-Elect Thomas A. Skrenes
Northern Great Lakes Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Bishop Kenneth E. Untener
Roman Catholic Diocese of Saginaw

Daniel Piepszowski
Director, Department of Christian Services
Archdiocese of Detroit

Bishop Enoch B. Rochester
Midwest Episcopal District
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

His Grace Bishop Nicholas of Detroit
Greek Orthodox Diocese of Detroit

Bishop James A. Murray
Roman Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo

Rev. J. Douglas Paterson
District Superintendent, Marquette District
United Methodist Church

Rev. James L. Kinsey
District Minister/Executive
Michigan District Church of the Brethren

Rev. Morris Finch
Regional Minister
Michigan Region Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Bishop Ed Merz
Detroit International Stake
Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

The Rt. Rev. R. Stewart Wood, Jr
Episcopal Diocese of Michigan

Rabbi David Castiglione
Temple Beth El

Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit

Malinda Waltz
President
Church Women United of Michigan

Bishop Demetri M. Houry
Auxiliary
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

Rev. Steve Doughty
Executive Presbyter
Lake Michigan Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (USA)

The Rev. Joy A. Barnett
District Superintendent
Ann Arbor District, United Methodist Church

Dr. Melvin T. Jones
President
Michigan Baptist State Association

The Rev John Ellinger
District Superintendent
Lansing District, United Methodist Church

Rev. John H. Hice
District Superintendent
Grand Rapids District, United Methodist Church

Bishop Robert Thomas, Jr.
Michigan Annual Conference
African Methodist Episcopal Church

The Rev. Steven L. Johns-Boehme
Executive Director
Michigan Ecumenical Forum

The Rev. Larry R. Christianson
President
Western District, Moravian Church

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