

Action Regarding Climate Justice

Whereas climate change is already affecting and will continue to affect every community across the globe, causing devastating damage to ecological systems that sustain the life, health, and economic well-being of people around the world [1] [2]; and

Whereas Minneapolis city government and the mayor declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 [3]; and

Whereas responding to a climate emergency requires political and collective action that will transform local and global economies away from fossil fuels within the decade [4]; and

Whereas climate change is inextricably linked to all other forms of injustice, especially as the greatest burden resulting from an inadequate response to the climate crisis will be borne by young people, future generations, and the poorest and most vulnerable communities around the globe; and

Whereas the Minneapolis Area Synod “work[s] together so that all experience gracious invitation into life-giving Christian community and live in just and healthy neighborhoods”; and

Whereas the global ecumenical Christian community, including the World Council of Churches, have promoted the annual observation of a “Season of Creation” between World Day of Prayer for Creation (September 1) and the commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi (October 4); therefore be it

Resolved that congregations in the Minneapolis Area Synod (MAS) are urged to both take time to discern how each is uniquely called and equipped to respond to the climate emergency before the Season of Creation begins on September 1; and take bold action on climate justice in political and collective ways as a form of living out a call to love and serve our neighbors and all creation before election day on November 3 and/or during the 2021 Minnesota legislative session [5]; and be it further

Resolved that each MAS congregation is urged to incorporate themes of climate justice in preaching and worship at least once between World Day of Prayer for Creation (September 1, 2020) and St. Francis of Assisi’s commemoration day (October 4, 2020) [6]; and be it further

Resolved that the MAS EcoFaith Network serves as a resource for congregations and pastors through existing systems (e.g., newsletter and adult forum participation), as well as provide encouragement and support for the first two resolveds through members’ own collectively agreed upon process before the Synod Assembly of 2021.

Authors: Nathan Lind, Pastor Martha Schwehn Bardwell, Allyson Green, Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, Minneapolis

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Contact person: Nathan Lind, (612) 708-3301 or nathanlind@gmail.com

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Background information:

[1] <https://phys.org/news/2019-09-earth-quickly-climate.html>

[2] <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air/effects-climate-change-minnesota>

[3] <http://news.minneapolismn.gov/2019/12/13/minneapolis-declares-climate-emergency/>

[4] [Climate Emergency Defined: What is a Climate Emergency and Does the Evidence Justify One?](#)

[5] Responding to this call may include: having faithful conversations about prioritizing climate justice in our vocation as citizens who elect leaders in our democracy; joining with Lutheran, interfaith and non-faith organizations that are leading the way in climate justice; advocating for a swift transition to a 100% clean energy economy by 2050.

[6] Suggested resources: <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/what-we-do/climate-change/time-for-creation>,
<https://seasonofcreation.com/calendar/>