

Care of Creation Bulletin Board February 13, 2020

Let me begin this Bulletin with a personal plea.... Please read , reflect, and act in response to this letter from the World Council of Churches....

A Letter from World Council of Churches Stresses Urgency of Acting NOW!

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-general-secretary-pastoral-letter-on-climate-emergency>

I know we all have lots of material crossing our desks, begging attention. But I must lift up the December 19 letter from the World Council of Churches, signed by the General Secretary, Rev Olaf Fykse Tveit. The urgency to address climate change is now!

The letter, reflecting on COP 25, the Conference of Parties in Madrid, stresses these points.....

In the UN climate talks at the Conference of Parties (COP 25) in Madrid during the first two weeks of December, we learned that 200 nations have failed to respond sufficiently to the growing urgency of the climate crisis.... with no increased ambitions to address to scale the adaptation, mitigation, and finance that are needed.

What we do over the next ten years to slow down global warming will determine the very future of our shared and only home—our oikos, the planet earth— for thousands of years to come.

It may not be too late...

The letter went on to say that representatives from Indigenous communities and young people made impassioned pleas, called for alternative lifestyles, and called for the protection of land, forests, and waters.

Their prophetic calls were ignored. Rather, many leaders vilified them, and some of their leaders were publicly taunted and humiliated.....

The time for debate and disputation of established scientific facts is long over.

We will all be held to account for our inaction and our disastrous stewardship of this precious and unique planet. The climate emergency is the result of our ecological sins. It is time for metanoia for all. We must now search our hearts and our most fundamental faith principles for a new ecological transformation, and for divine guidance for our next steps to build resilience in the face of this unprecedented millennial challenge.

Ten years. Let me ask you to consider ten months!

Talk with your local leadership and make a commitment to address the care of creation now. There are very good resources in this bulletin. Additional resources may be found on the MNO synod website , <http://mnosynod.org/eco-reformation-project/>. Click on the Eco-Theology References pdf link for books, videos, and suggested links to people and organizations with ideas for everything from worship to

Christian education to local action. This website needs organization and editing. But this will be revised in weeks to come. A quick review of the “New This Week” listings will add more recent announcements.

A blog intended to stimulate theological reflection may be found at <https://ecoreformation.wordpress.com/>. This too will be updated more regularly. This is not the be-all and end-all of theological reflection on care of creation, but it’s a beginning, something to stimulate your own reflection and action.

We have some significant observances coming up. These could be occasions for your local faith community to begin regular celebrations of God’s creation and our faithful stewardship. Many of them have resources listed below:

Faith Climate Action Week... April 17-26

Water Day... March 22 <https://www.worldwaterday.org/>

Faith Climate Action Week... April 17-26 <https://www.faithclimateactionweek.org/>

Earth Day ... April 22... <http://www.creationjustice.org/earth-day-sunday.html>

The theme this year is “The Fierce Urgency of Now”

The Season of Creation... <https://seasonofcreation.com/worship-resources/liturgies/series-a-the-spirit-series-2011/>

There are many demands upon your time; many matters that require your attention. But Greta Thunberg passionately reminds us that our house, our common home, our *oikos* is on fire. Ten years from now, will our children, our neighbors, our trees and birds and waters tell us that our attentions were misdirected; our efforts are too late?

The urgency is now. The responsibility belongs to all of us. The possibilities will come through us, by the grace and power of Christ in us.

Thank you in advance,

Pastor Dave Saude, retired

Additional resources worth a look....

Climate change and mental health

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/earthbeat/grace-margins/climate-change-worsens-so-does-our-grief-and-distress>

The Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale

<http://fore.yale.edu/>

Interfaith Power and Light

<https://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/>

Lutherans Restoring Creation

<https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/>

and their retired site at

<https://sites.google.com/site/lrcoldsite/>

Creation Justice Ministries recommends the following action steps as part of the observance of Earth Day 2020

Action steps in the 2020 *Fierce Urgency of Now* guide:

1. Prioritize creation care as a ministry.
2. Adopt green technologies; recycle, reduce, reuse; eat lower on the food chain, etc.
3. Learn about and engage in a local environmental advocacy issue like healthy air, soil, water or environmental racism.
4. Strengthen relationships with other local faith communities and eco-justice groups; be in touch with other leaders around the country and the world.
5. Become an advocate in your neighborhood, community, or beyond; write or visit your Congressional representative and local officials; sign up with an environmental watch group to keep informed of the issues and votes coming up in Congress or locally.
6. Study what the Bible and other theological sources say about creation care.
7. Spend quiet time with God in nature; take time to experience and celebrate the beauty of this world.
8. Pray for people who are currently affected by environmental degradation in all its many forms.
9. Reach out for support within and beyond your congregation from people who will join new efforts on creation care.
10. Speak to your congregation openly and often about the relationship between faith, science, and the care for creation utilizing sermons, talks, educational programs, and public meetings.
11. Activate a Creation Care team comprised of laypeople, facilities management staff, clergy, and respected community leaders; task them with responsibility for designing and implementing climate action priorities, addressing roadblocks, and ensuring accountability.
12. Increase the energy efficiency of your church building and homes, plant trees or gardens, test your tap water for lead and other toxins – then do the same for the marginalized in your community.
13. Prepare your houses of worship to serve as places of refuge during times of natural and human-made disasters.

52 Ways to Care for Creation

<http://www.creationjustice.org/blog/52-ways-to-care-for-creation>

Tried and True Ideas for Observing Earth Day Sundays

<http://www.creationjustice.org/earth-day-sunday.html>

Lenten Guide from Global Catholic Climate Movement Based on *Laudato Si*

See link

https://drive.google.com/file/d/15YBNBoguXqRJEkdCmT0pYPGjtY09OVER/view?link_id=0&can_id=5fb4d2ab12a30c492161e8bb5557ea3&source=email-new-lent-resource-4&email_referrer=email_718403_subject_959093&email_subject=free-lent-resource

This resource is a two -page with an ecological sin – and ecological virtue and an action suggestion for each of the weeks in Lent.

Upcoming webinar from Interfaith Power and Light and others –

Ground Zero in the Struggle for Environmental Justice...

Feb 27, 2020, 1pm eastern time

Information and registration here... https://ucc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_E_bP-n7MSyaK2vV4CFSy3A

Have a Youth with a Passion for Faith-based Environmental Action?

There is a \$500 fellowship for you who will preach, speak and publish. Check this out...

<https://www.faithfulclimateaction.org/>

This for a ten-month process, with youth aged 18-24. They are particularly interested in youth wanting to be involved with US 2020 elections. Funded by the US Climate Action Network. Whether successful or not your youth may be interested in connecting with others. Check out the member organizations here... <https://www.usclimatenetwork.org/member-organizations>