

**Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) Religion and Foreign Policy:
The Fourth National Climate Assessment**
<https://www.globalchange.gov/nca4>

Resource List for Conference Call - 12/12/2018

Climate Chaos Indicator Studies

1. The U.S. Global Change Research Program issued its National Climate Assessment in November. Three-hundred author scientists from thirteen agencies produced a 1000+ page report without censorship. Climate changes across the United States will result in many consequences of impacts, (damaged community infrastructure and ecosystems, the spread of disease, reduced agricultural crop yield outputs and thus less economic growth) and risks (extreme weather events, coral die-off, arctic region effects, coastal and river flooding, heat-related morbidity and mortality, and tourism impacts).

The report urges "immediate and substantial global greenhouse-gas emissions reductions" to help keep the rising temperature from exceeding a safe level of 1.5 degrees Celsius.

As weather extremes become more common, the effects of such warming will "threaten the health and well-being of the American people" and "disrupt many areas of life, exacerbating existing challenges and revealing new risks" said one report author in a TIME magazine of December 10 article, "Trump deaf to dire U.S. climate warning."

An Associated Press story of November 24 notes that warming-charged extremes "have already become more frequent, intense, widespread or of long duration" and that the last few years have smashed U.S. records for damaging weather, costing nearly \$400 billion since 2015.

It is thought that 90% of the current warming is caused by humans (for example, the burning of coal, oil and natural gas, all fossil fuels), and that only 10% is due to natural cycles.

One report co-author, evangelical Christian Katharine Hayhoe said "As a climate scientist, it is almost surreal...We are seeing the things we said would be happening, happen now in real life."

2. The most recent 2018 findings and recommendations from the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC.ch) are in the Global Warming of 1.5°C: An IPCC Special Report. A 30-page "Summary for Policymakers" covers the 500-page document.

One commentary on that IPCC report, by United Methodist layman Bill McKibben (founder of 350.org), may be seen as his "A Very Grim Forecast" in *The New York Review of Books* November 22, 2018 issue.

3. On November 27, the **World Meteorological Organization** warned of a high possible chance that a natural ocean-warming **El Nino** phenomenon, worsened by climate change, may strike in 2019.

4. The December **United Nations' annual climate change summit in Poland**, known as **COP24** is a follow-up to the Paris agreement of keeping the global warming well below 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit. Nineteen major economies re-affirmed their commitment to that, the only holdout being the United States. Signatories are expected to live up to their promised efforts to cut their greenhouse emissions and report them.

5. Responding to climate chaos are U.S. youth, claiming that our government is violating their constitutional rights (life, liberty, property) by supporting activities that hasten climate change. Their lawsuit, *Juliana v. the United States of America* winds its way through the court system. Filed in 2015 by 21 American youth, it reflects their concerns about where they live, for example, on a FL barrier island surrounded by rising water, a L.A. small town devastated by a 1000 year flood, a Navajo Nation home no longer inhabitable due to the springs the family depends upon for agriculture having dried up. USA public resources are also viewed as being threatened. These young people hope to legally promote a zero-carbon economy.

Perhaps children will yet lead us.

Creation Corner Column for December 2018

Michael Ochs

Papal Encyclical

Laudato Si “On Care for Our Common Home” May 24, 2015

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

Statements on climate change from the world religions

<http://fore.yale.edu/climate-change/statements-from-world-religions/>

New Story

Journey of the Universe – Film, Book, Conversations

<https://www.journeyoftheuniverse.org>

Journey of the Universe – Massive Open Online Classes – free for audit

<https://www.coursera.org/specializations/journey-of-the-universe>

United Nations Environment Programme

Faith for Earth Initiative at UNEP

<https://www.unenvironment.org/about-un-environment/faith-earth-initiative>

Interfaith Rainforest Initiative at UNEP

<https://interfaithrainforest.squarespace.com>

Earth and Faith: A Book of Reflection for Action - UNEP

<https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/earth-and-faith-book-reflection-action>

Interreligious Programs and Websites

Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale

<http://fore.yale.edu>

Parliament of the World's Religions

<https://parliamentofreligions.org>

Indigenous Environmental Network

<http://www.ienearth.org>

Interfaith Power and Light

<https://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org>

Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility

<https://www.iccr.org>

GreenFaith

<https://greenfaith.org>

Blessed Tomorrow

<https://blessedtomorrow.org>

Earth Ministry in Seattle

<https://earthministry.org>

Faith in Place in Chicago

<https://www.faithinplace.org>

Interreligious Eco-justice Network in Connecticut

<https://irejn.org>

Franciscan Action Network

<https://franciscanaction.org>

Evangelical Environmental Network

<https://www.creationcare.org>

Alliance of Religion and Conservation in UK

<http://www.arcworld.org>

Climate Change Action

Catholic Climate Covenant

<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org>

Global Catholic Climate Movement

<https://catholicclimatemovement.global>

350.org

<https://350.org>

Education

Yale Divinity School MAR in Religion and Ecology

<https://divinity.yale.edu/academics/degree-and-certificate-requirements/concentrated-master-arts-religion-mar/religion-and-ecology>

Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and Yale Divinity School Joint MA in Religion and Ecology

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

Center for Earth Ethics at Union Theological Seminary

<https://centerforearthethics.org>

Green Seminary Initiative

<https://www.greenseminaries.org>

Yale Center for Climate Change Communication

<http://climatecommunication.yale.edu>

Articles on Climate Change

Articles on climate change on the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology website

<http://fore.yale.edu/climate-change/articles-on-religion-and-climate-change/>

“A Kind of Dark Realism: Why the Climate Change Problem is Starting to Look too Big to Solve” by Steve Mufson Dec 4, 2018

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/a-kind-of-dark-realism-why-the-climate-change-problem-is-starting-to-look-too-big-to-solve/2018/12/03/378e49e4-e75d-11e8-a939-9469f1166f9d_story.html?utm_term=.4e345ebd0211

“Global Warming Outpaces Efforts to Slow It: United Nations” Nov 27, 2018
<https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/global-warming-outpaces-efforts-to-slow-it-united-nations-1954292>

“How Extreme Weather is Shrinking the Planet” by Bill McKibben
The New Yorker, Nov 26, 2018
<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2018/11/26/how-extreme-weather-is-shrinking-the-planet>

“Why the Migrant Caravan Story is a Climate Change Story” by Todd Miller
 YES Magazine Nov, 27, 2018
<https://www.yesmagazine.org/peace-justice/why-the-migrant-caravan-story-is-a-climate-change-story-20181127/>

Books on Climate Change and Religion and Ecology

Antal, Jim, *Climate Church, Change World: How People of Faith Must Work for Change*. New York: Rowan & Littlefield, 2016.

Douglas, Paul & Mitch Hecox, *Caring for Creation: The Evangelical’s Guide to Climate Change and a Healthy Environment*. Bethany House Publishers, 2016.

Ecology and Justice Series from Orbis Books
<https://www.orbisbooks.com/category-202/>

Grim, John & Mary Evelyn Tucker, *Ecology and Religion*. Washington DC: Island Press, 2014.

Jenkins, Willis, Mary Evelyn Tucker, John Grim, eds. *Routledge Handbook of Religion and Ecology*. New York: Routledge, 2016.

Berry, Thomas, *The Sacred Universe*. Mary Evelyn Tucker, ed. New York: Columbia University Press, 2009.

Berry, Thomas, *The Great Work*. New York: Bell Tower, 1999.

Films

“Paris to Pittsburg” - Premiere on National Geographic - Dec 12, 2018
<https://www.paristopittsburgh.com/>

“Gasland” directed by Josh Fox

<http://one.gaslandthemovie.com/home>

Law Suit of Young People

Our Children's Trust

<https://www.ourchildrenstrust.org>

We Are Still In - Commitments by US Mayors, Educators, Religious Leaders

<https://www.wearestillin.com>

Geoengineering

"Playing God? Multifaith Responses to the Prospect of Climate Engineering"

By Gary Gardner and Forest Clingerman

<https://greenfaith.org/geoengineering#>