

THE HARTFORD DECLARATION

A Call for Action on Climate Change by Connecticut's Interfaith Community

- There comes a time in every generation when a matter of great urgency requires that we, who belong to Connecticut's diverse faith community, express our concerns with moral clarity and with a unified voice. That pivotal moment has arrived. We can no longer ignore the plain facts of climate change.
- Our planet is increasingly under threat from climate change and global warming, endangering human beings and other life-forms in all regions of the globe. As a result, recent storms, floods, droughts, wildfires and heat waves have begun to have serious impact on our lives. Continuing increases of these extreme events threaten to destroy the underlying basis of human civilization as we know it.
 - Climate change will undermine the very ecological fabric of Earth that sustains life, while eliminating vast number of species on Earth.
 - Climate change will disproportionately impact society's most vulnerable members – the poor and underserved community, the elderly, the chronically ill, communities of color, infants and young children, and those least able to fend for themselves.
 - Many developing regions of the world continue to be impacted by severe storms, drought-like conditions, sea level rise, vector-borne diseases, and loss of food security and safe drinking water. This is already causing mounting tension, conflict and war. As conditions worsen, it will cause millions of inhabitants to become environmental refugees with untold suffering, affecting the security and well-being of the entire globe.
- As members of the faith community, we have a deep obligation to understand the full dimensions of this growing problem, which the scientific community has documented with overwhelming consensus in the past few decades.
- Safeguarding all creation on earth is a sacred trust that is placed upon us – to love, to care for and to nurture. *We accept this trust* as a universal moral imperative, one that we share across all human societies, religious faiths and cultural traditions.
- Given the urgency of the current situation, *we solemnly pledge* to:
 - Foster a reflective and prayerful response to the threat of global climate change.
 - Work together as people of many religions and cultures to live sustainably on planet Earth.
 - Encourage members of our faith to develop and implement energy conservation plans and to use safe, clean, renewable energy.
 - Be an authentic witness for action on climate change and environmental justice through teaching, preaching and by letting our voices be heard in the public sphere.
 - Advocate for local, state, national and international policies and regulations that enable a swift transition from dependence on fossil fuels to safe, clean, renewable energy.

**Adopted at the Climate Stewardship Summit held at Asylum Hill Congregational Church, Hartford, Connecticut
on November 7, 2013**