

New England Regional Environmental Ministries

MEDIA RELEASE

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Clergy and Hundreds of Christians Gather for Climate

“Call to action is a moral imperative”

National leading Christian clergy from many denominations will meet Saturday in Boston for a “Climate Revival,” proclaiming a moral imperative for Christians to take immediate action on climate change.

Billing itself as “An Ecumenical Festival to Embolden the Renewal of Creation,” clergy will call upon all Christians to care for God’s creation by taking steps to curb climate change.

The assembled clergy believe that climate change is one of the most critical moral justice issues of this millennium. They believe that their actions, and the actions of their respective denominations, will shape public, political, and economic policies that move us from dependency on fossil fuels to clean, safe, renewable energy. The gathered leaders are convinced that successfully tackling climate change depends not only on economic, political, and scientific solutions, but also on encouraging moral and spiritual transformation.

“We depend on a Creator God who leads all persons of faith to a deeper love of God’s creation,” said **Rt. Rev. Bud Cederholm**, Bishop Suffragan (Retired) of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. “God also compels us to advocate strongly and ceaselessly for creation’s protection and renewal.”

Dozens of clergy from around the region and nation will attend and preach, including **The Rev. Geoffrey Black**, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, and **The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori**, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church.

“Once more we must follow Jesus’ most common moral instruction – “Fear not” – and take action,” said the **Rev. Dr. Jim Antal**, President and Minister, Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ. “If we will not take action to protect each other and God’s creation then we are all accomplices in destroying it.”

At 11:30 am clergy will gather for a discussion moderated by noted activist, author and producer Wen Stephenson. A small group of clergy will address Christianity’s role in climate activism.

“Waiting and hoping is not a viable option, nor a faithful one,” said **The Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas**, Co-Chair of Religious Witness for the Earth. “Action is a moral imperative for all people of faith.”

Also addressing the crowd, via recorded message, will be Anglican Archbishop Emeritus **Desmond Tutu** and 350.org leader **Bill McKibben**

The Climate Revival will take place Saturday, April 27th. Worship begins at 10 am at Old South Church (645 Boylston Street). The round-table discussion with leading clergy from different denominations, moderated by Wen Stephenson, takes place at 11:30 am. Worship will continue at 1:15 pm at Trinity Church (206 Clarendon Street), ending at 2:30 pm.

Following the service, a climate justice rally will be held outside in Copley Square.

More information is available at: <http://www.macucc.org/events/detail/1104>

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