

Proposed 2015 Action of Immediate Witness (AIW) at UU General Assembly

Support a Strong, Compassionate Global Climate Agreement in 2015

Act for a Livable Climate

BECAUSE: Global climate change is fundamentally a moral, ethical, justice, and survival crisis induced by human activity that can and must be modified to maintain a livable world for ourselves and for our descendants.

BECAUSE: We can in fact act to limit the harmful consequences of climate change by building strength for effective risk-management climate action, with sufficient motivation, persistence, optimism, and will.

BECAUSE: Each of our UU Seven Principles impels us to act on climate change. The web of life is threatened (principle 7). Climate catastrophes, in near and long term, disproportionately impact the poor, disadvantaged, elderly, and women. Issues of equity, justice, democracy, speaking truth, and defending right of conscience are associated (principles 1-6). Our descendants are threatened, raising intergenerational equity issues. Actually, climate change will affect all with impacts of increasing severity. If humanity does not act, there will be no place to hide.

BECAUSE: UUs overwhelmingly voted to adopt a comprehensive Statement of Conscience on the Threat of Global Warming and Climate Change in 2006, calling UUs into action to help mitigate climate change.

BECAUSE: There can be no long-term solution to many issues with which UUs are concerned without a viable solution to the climate problem. Many of the social justice concerns of UUs are directly connected with, and are made much worse by climate disruption, which is causing increasingly severe problems.

BECAUSE: Across the world, faith communities are taking up faith-inspired personal, congregational, denominational and civic actions to speak from their religious truths that humanity cease despoiling the earth and take better care of the gift of life.

BECAUSE: We are responsible as people of faith, as UU congregations and as the national association of Unitarian Universalism to act on climate to mitigate, avert, and limit the potential catastrophes of climate change.

WHEREAS: The reduction in greenhouse gases is truly a global issue, and global solutions are needed, including strong, compassionate, fair, ambitious, binding, and enforceable international agreements among nations. It will take worldwide agreement to control and reduce these emissions.

WHEREAS: In December 2015, the nations of the world will come together in Paris at the UNFCCC Climate Conference to negotiate the most important climate agreement in the history of the world, implementing the existing UNFCCC Treaty of 1992 and subsequent agreements at international climate conferences.

THEREFORE: BE IT RESOLVED, That the 2015 UU General Assembly calls for UUs to mobilize and provide ethical and moral leadership for climate action, including sponsoring a UU delegation to Paris, and with a strong and clear voice to press our government, working with other people, to lead and conclude a strong, compassionate, fair, ambitious, binding, and enforceable international climate agreement in December 2015.