

2015 Action of Immediate Witness
Support a Strong, Compassionate Global Climate Agreement in 2015
Act for a Livable Climate
Preliminary Text

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

BECAUSE: Looming ecological catastrophes impacting food, water, and disease threaten the vulnerable and our descendants with mass suffering;

BECAUSE: *The crisis of climate change is the gravest threat facing our world today,* recently wrote Peter Morales (UUA President) and Bill Schulz (UUSC President and CEO);

BECAUSE: We can act to limit the harmful consequences of climate change by effective risk-management (adaption and mitigation, including emission reductions, development of renewable energy, etc.), with sufficient motivation, persistence, optimism, and will;

BECAUSE: Our Principles impel us to act on climate change. The web of life is threatened; climate catastrophes (in near and long term) disproportionately impact the poor, disadvantaged, elderly, women, and children; issues of equity, justice, democracy, speaking truth, and defending the right of conscience are associated; and our descendants are threatened, raising intergenerational equity issues;

BECAUSE: Unitarian Universalists overwhelmingly voted to adopt a Statement of Conscience on the Threat of Global Warming and Climate Change in 2006, calling Unitarian Universalists into action to mitigate climate change;

BECAUSE: There can be no long-term solution to many social justice issues with which Unitarian Universalists are concerned without a viable solution to the climate problem; and

BECAUSE: We are responsible as people of faith to mitigate, avert, and limit the potential catastrophes of climate change, standing with other faith traditions caring for our common home;

WHEREAS: Unitarian Universalists have made a commitment to climate justice and stand in solidarity with first nation peoples, who are disproportionately affected by climate disruption;

WHEREAS: An international climate agreement is critical for reducing risk of the myriad severe climate impacts and also increasing positive opportunities for all people;

WHEREAS: In December 2015, many nations of the world will gather in Paris for their last opportunity to negotiate the most important climate agreement in history;

THEREFORE: BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2015 UU General Assembly calls for Unitarian Universalists to unify and provide ethical and moral leadership for climate action and to do so within our congregations and within our multi-faith communities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Unitarian Universalists will support local actions such as the Lummi Nations opposition to the Gateway Pacific Coal Terminal on sacred lands;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Unitarian Universalists will participate in and support mobilizations nationally such as the Moral March for Climate Justice in September 2015 during the Papal visit to Washington DC, pressing our government to act urgently and responsibly;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this General Assembly endorses a Unitarian Universalist delegation to the UN Climate Agreement Talks in December 2015 in support of a strong, compassionate, fair, ambitious, binding, and enforceable international climate agreement. Without a global climate agreement, the climate crisis will not be sufficiently addressed and many social justice issues will continue to magnify.

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