

Dear Friends,

I believe that, in this church, we are climate science literate enough to know that there is a global climate crisis that is happening and getting worse. Many of you have studied, volunteered, marched, and are working to change your life and lifestyle in order to save life for future generations. Yes, in many ways it is a lost cause, because global climate change is happening now with droughts, severe floods, storms, and fires. We just can't rewind Mother Earth 40 years and have a do-over. We are going to have to live with the consequences of humanity's actions for a long, long time. Yes, there are those who are more to blame than others: corporations who care more about profit than anything (much less anyone) else, politicians who use divisiveness for short term gains rather than caring for the people and the land, and a theology of prosperity (HE who dies with the most yachts wins!) until God destroys the world.

However, there is a growing consensus and consciousness around the world that we are in trouble. The flooding in Pakistan has caused their government to proclaim they are all in to fix this world-wide problem. There is the first big investment (and I don't believe the last) from our federal government that is projected to reduce our carbon emissions by 40%. New technology and innovative ways of reducing our carbon footprint are popping up dozens at a time. Our local city and county have declared global climate emergencies and are working on ways to go 'green'.

We are the church! We are Christ's hands and feet and voice! We have the agency to change the world, transform people's hearts and minds (even corporations and politicians and wealthy people as well). We have to show and proclaim a God of justice, who cares for the poor, the far-off places, and all life on Earth. We have to show and proclaim a God of compassion, who weeps when a species goes extinct, when a fire or flood destroys a home and community, and when those without power suffer the most. Let us be salt, light, and leaven for the furtherance of God's love in this world.

Peace
Pastor Enno