

Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- 1 *Whereas*, God created Earth and charged humankind with its stewardship (Genesis 1–2);
- 2 *Whereas*, we seek to protect God’s Creation and improve our environment;
- 3 *Whereas*, “without God, we cannot remedy the problem” and “without us, God will not solve it” (St. Augustine);
- 4 *Whereas*, the Council of Bishops in their 2009 Pastoral Letter recognized that “our neglect, selfishness, and pride
- 5 have fostered environmental degradation” and that “we cannot help the world until we change our way of being in it”
- 6 [God’s Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action];
- 7 *Whereas*, 12 Boards and Agencies of the UMC have pledged to achieve net-zero emissions of greenhouse gasses by
- 8 2050 across ministries, facilities, operations, and investments and to leverage the gifts of our connection putting
- 9 equity and justice at the center as we build a net-zero emission economy by 2050¹; and
- 10 *Whereas*, the Council of Bishops encourages and supports action on climate change at the Annual Conference level,
- 11 including support for passing the Net Zero Resolution and moving toward net-zero emissions².
- 12 *Therefore*, be it resolved, that we the people of the West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church, confess our
- 13 failure to properly steward God’s earth;
- 14 Ask for God’s help in restoring Creation; and
- 15 Join our denominational Boards and Commissions in committing to a just and equitable reduction of greenhouse gas
- 16 emissions to net-zero by 2050. To that end we call on the bishop to establish a working group to study this action and
- 17 develop an implementation plan. At a minimum, the working group will include representatives from the Creation Care
- 18 Task Force, the Conference Committee on Finance and Administration, Just-Mission, and United Women in Faith. The
- 19 working group will report their plan to the 2024 session of the West Ohio Annual Conference.
- 20 Individual churches are encouraged to take similar action over the next year.

Proposed by:

Green Team, *Christ Church, Kettering*

Endorsed by:

Creation Care Task Force, West Ohio Conference UMC

United Women in Faith, West Ohio Conference UMC

¹ See the full pledge at this link, as well as the list of endorsing agencies which include: Discipleship Ministries, General Board of Church and Society, General Board of Global Ministries, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, General Commission on Archives and History, General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, General Council on Finance and Administration, United Methodist Communications, United Methodist Men, United Women in Faith (previously United Methodist Women) and Wespeth Benefits and Investments - https://www.resourceumc.org/-/media/umc-media/2021/04/20/18/22/net_zero_commitment.ashx?la=en&hash=25B71251FE772F593CEC447F235C8D2A9F4B90D0

² See the Climate Crisis Response from the Council of Bishops, November 2-5 2021 at this link: <https://www.umnews.org/-/media/UMC%20Media/2021/11/10/15/34/council-of-bishops-climate-crisis-response-nov-2021>