

“It is important that the church pay attention to the excesses of our society and the ways in which we do damage to creation and to our own future. The crisis we face calls for prompt action, and this divestment is a gesture in the right direction.”

*Walter Brueggemann
Professor Emeritus of Old Testament
Columbia Theological Seminary*

“Global climate change is an urgent moral issue. God is calling the Church to align its investments with its theology now – not after several more years of deliberation.”

*Brant S. Copeland
Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, Florida
A “carbon neutral” congregation that made its buildings energy efficient and installed 25.5 KW of solar panels and that has fully divested from fossil fuels*

“The scientific community is unequivocally saying that we must rapidly phase down fossil fuel emissions. This is a situation that cries out for an organization with moral authority and financial clout to stand up for what is right. Fossil fuel divestment is one of the ways to stand up and religious institutions should be leading on that front!”

*Dr. James Hansen
Director of the Program on Climate Science, Awareness and Solutions, Columbia University's Earth Institute
Adjunct Professor, Columbia University's Earth Institute*

A coalition of presbyteries are bringing a divestment overture to the 222nd General Assembly to divest the PCUSA from fossil fuels.

Join us.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Stay up to date and like us on Facebook:

facebook.com/fossilfreepcusa

- Learn more about climate change and divestment:

fossilfreepcusa.org

- Read the official overture and share it with your friends here:

<http://www.fossilfreepcusa.org/resources/overture-2016/>



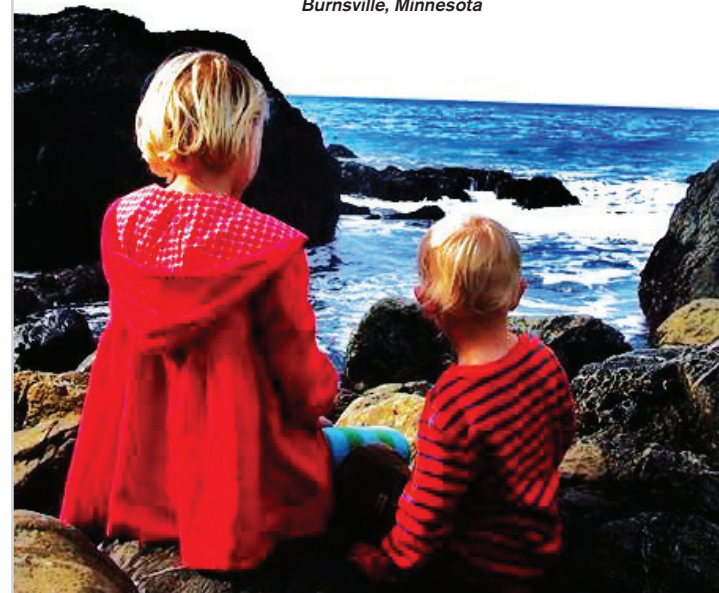
RESOURCES

- 1 neaq.org/conservation_and_research/climate_change/climate_change_and_the_oceans.php
- 2 epa.gov/climatechange/impacts-adaptation/international.html#sensitive
- 3 thinkprogress.org/climate/2012/10/14/1009121/science-of-global-warming-impacts-guide/
- 4 350.org/en/about/science
- 5 <http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/global-warnings-terrifying-new-math-20120719>
- 6 <http://www.skepticalscience.com/carbonbubble.html>

JOIN THE PROPHETIC CALL TO
DIVEST NOW
FROM FOSSIL FUELS
FOR GOD'S
GOOD CREATION

“If we as people of faith are not willing to stand up for Creation and all living things, who will? We must answer the call.”

*- Marcia Lewis
Ruling Elder
Presbyterian Church of the Apostles
Burnsville, Minnesota*



with faith. with hope. with urgency.



Climate Change is Happening Now

Increasing storms, significant polar glacial melt, rising sea levels and dying coral reefs are not future predictions. They are happening right now and increasing in magnitude each year.¹ The effects of climate change have already had a disproportionate impact on those living in poverty and in the least developed countries, as they face disruptions to their ecosystems, water and food supplies.²

“Business As Usual” Cannot Continue

If fossil fuel companies continue to fulfill their business model, global temperatures will rise further, and we face a significant risk that the earth will become irreversibly inhospitable to life as we know it.³ Climate change is a threat to entire ecosystems, our children’s and grandchildren’s futures, as well as the generations to come.

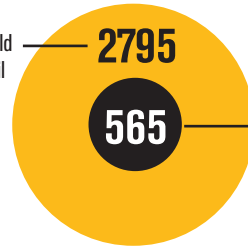
What does the Scripture Say?

In Genesis 2, God charged Adam with tending and keeping the Garden of Eden. This responsibility was a charge to people of all time, to be wise stewards of God’s good creation. Yet the continued burning of fossil fuels destroys this very creation. Jesus’ call to care for the “least of these” in Matthew 25, was a call to defend those with no voice or power. Not only does climate change violate the rights of those least able to cope with its effects, but it also violates the rights of unborn generations who also have no voice and must live with the consequences of choices we make now.

The Science Is In

In May 2013, CO₂ levels in the atmosphere reached 400 parts per million (ppm), a concentration never before seen in human history. Many scientists insist that levels above 350 ppm are unsafe.⁴ While no one can predict the future with total accuracy, we cannot wait for 100% certainty to know we have a responsibility to act now. With climate change, there will be no do-over.

Gigatons of CO₂ that would be released if all the fossil fuels currently on the market are burned.⁵



167 countries agree we should act to keep global warming below 2° C. To do this, we can only release another 565 gigatons of CO₂.

We have about **13 years to completely stop producing more CO₂.**

Why Divestment?

- 1 Morally, divestment represents taking a stand and refusing to invest in and profit from an industry that is destroying creation.
- 2 Divestment also allows the PCUSA to become a prophetic agent of change in our society, just as our divestment actions in South Africa proved prophetic in helping end apartheid. The PCUSA has historically taken a leadership stand on the moral issues of our times with slavery, women’s rights and civil rights.
- 3 Shareholder engagement and substantive divestment are mutually reinforcing. Only \$2000 in shares is needed to file shareholder resolutions. We can keep our “seat at the table” for actions like worker’s rights, where we can have an impact. And by divesting we can keep our treasure where our hearts are (Matt 6:21) while sending a strong moral message to fossil fuel companies that it’s wrong to wreck creation
- 4 Recent market analysis warns that oil companies are likely to become much riskier investments in the future. With the world’s capital markets listing more than five times the amount of fossil fuels than can be safely burned, their past and current valuation is unsustainable, particularly as climate and clean energy policies are implemented.⁶

Our Faith Compels us to Bold Denominational Action

In recognition that our faith without corresponding works is dead (James 2) we recommend that General Assembly calls on the Board of Pensions and PCUSA Foundation to immediately stop new investments in fossil fuel companies and work to eliminate all current holdings over the next three years, working with the Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) Committee.

“I hope as a church we can tell our children someday that we did everything possible that we could... this overture is one of them.”

*Rev. Jane Larsen-Wigger
Pastor of Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church, Louisville*

“Some say we must do more than throw stones at easy targets like fossil fuel companies. I agree. But we certainly must not do less. We’ve got to start somewhere, and there’s no time left to continue debating the proper starting line.”

*Dr. Dan Terpstra
Ruling Elder and retired Computer Scientist
Oak Ridge, TN*

“If investors want to avoid the potential risk of fossil fuel companies’ assets becoming devalued, they can and should divest.”

*Leslie Samuelrich
President, Green Century Capital Management*

“Our Earth’s climate is changing, it is changing rapidly, and the science clearly points to the cause as being human activities, especially the burning of fossil fuels. These changes in climate are occurring at a rate 10 times faster than has occurred naturally since the last ice age. As a result, the changes occurring in our climate system and the resulting changes in severe weather is one of the most important issues facing humanity. It is not only affecting us, but will have much larger ramifications for our children and grandchildren unless we start to do something about it now.”

*Donald J. Wuebbles
The Harry E. Preble Professor of Atmospheric Sciences
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