



GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF INDIA

Presbyterian Assembly House
Central Ward, Shillong - 793001, Meghalaya, India

1st November, 2017

To,

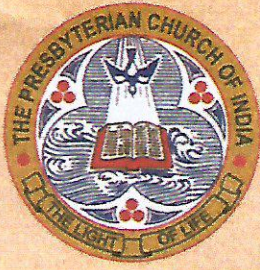
One and All,

The Peace and Justice Committee of the Presbyterian Church of India is pleased to issue the following Declaration for Action on Mitigating Climate change for your kind perusal and necessary action.

Thanking you all in anticipation.

Administrative Secretary,
i/c Peace & Justice Committee

Chairman,
Peace & Justice Committee



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TAKING FORWARD CLIMATE ACTION FOR ONE AND ALL

"FOR THE CREATION WAS SUBJECTED TO FUTILITY, NOT WILLINGLY, BUT BECAUSE OF HIM WHO SUBJECTED IT, IN HOPE THAT THE CREATION ITSELF WILL BE SET FREE FROM ITS BONDAGE TO DECAY AND OBTAIN THE FREEDOM OF THE GLORY OF THE CHILDREN OF GOD. FOR WE KNOW THAT THE WHOLE CREATION HAS BEEN GROANING TOGETHER IN THE PAINS OF CHILDBIRTH UNTIL NOW".
ROMANS 8:20-22

"EARTH IS OUR LIVING MOTHER, SACRED AND BEYOND PRICE. HER HEALTH AND VITALITY ARE ESSENTIAL TO OUR WELL-BEING AND THEREFORE A PRIORITY BOTTOMLINE MEASURE OF ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE. IN RETURN FOR EARTH'S GIFTS, WE HAVE A SACRED OBLIGATION TO FUTURE GENERATIONS TO PROTECT AND RESTORE TO FULL HEALTH THE WONDROUS GENERATIVE SYSTEMS BY WHICH SHE REPLENISHES HER AIR, WATER, FERTILE SOILS, FISH, FORESTS, AND GRASSLANDS, AND MAINTAINS THE STABLE CLIMATE ON WHICH OUR HEALTH AND WELL-BEING DEPEND."
(DAVID KORTEN, RIO+20: A DEFINING CHOICE)

"AND THE LORD GOD TOOK THE MAN AND PUT HIM IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN TO WORK IT AND CARE OF IT." (GEN. 02:15, NIV)

What we witness and experience is invariable change and extremes of climate through human induced actions resulting in calamities, water, air and soil pollution, health pandemic, environmental destruction and many ills having social and economic impact with disorder and extinction of species and bio-diversity.

Today, global warming has increased and freak weather is the order of the day.

Yet, there has been studies and research done, meeting of nations over the years on how to mitigate climate change with the call for urgent action by one and all, irrespective of governments, religions, ethnicity, gender and age for responsible response through collective and individual action for one and every one to survive on planet earth and to be responsible stewards of God's creation which includes living and non-living organisms and the whole universe.



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The Church, as a body of priestly and enlightened community must be responsible to care for and look after God's creation, including human society as just stewards and God's co-regents on earth and cease from being directly and indirectly engaged in destructive actions through misuse and abuse of mother earth and all its treasures to satisfy and meet our selfish human ambitions and greed.

As a saved community, both collectively and individually, we would need to introspect on what creates climate change, global warming as we see the symptoms all around.

Therefore, we would urge upon-

1. Governments to act with seriousness on recommendations of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change of COP21 and subsequent decisions arrived at Convention Of Parties meetings of the UN Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC). At the same time, countries are to take forward the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in that they must be achievable by 2030, of which, two are on health and environment issues. This includes the National Action Plan on Climate Change and respective State's Climate Action Plans for implementation at all levels by all stakeholders as well, holding periodical review on their progress, evaluation and improvement, if necessary.
2. Fellow citizens who are our neighbours, who live on the same street or lane, same village or locality, same State, nation and all over the world to take the issue of global warming and climate very seriously by taking initiatives at all levels - local, national and global, civil society, corporates, governments, traditional institutions, faith based organisations, financial, health and educational institutions, both of the corporate/private and public sectors, young and old, rural and urban, men and women, of all ethnicity, castes and class, developed, developing and least developing countries, churches, temples, mosques and other places of worship of different faiths.

This calls for urgent action to stop polluting rivers and water bodies, contributing to salinity and acidity of the soil, and air pollution by our indiscriminate and indifferent attitude and behaviour through disposal of effluents and wastes - e-waste, non-degradable waste vehicular pollution, indiscriminate felling of trees, forest burning, non-environment friendly mining and industrial activities, i.e. including mega dam construction, noise pollution, poaching of wildlife, creating wastelands and many other activities detrimental to ecological balance, preservation of biological diversity, water and soil conservation, air purification, thereby enhancing freak weather conditions, global warming and human induced climate change and as such, putting continuance of life on planet earth for the present and future generations in imminent danger and insecurity.



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We can begin in small ways beginning by learning, practising and encouraging segregation wastes at home and neighbourhood, stopping throwing wastes on the roadside, riverside, forests, washing vehicles in flowing streams and rivers, reduce or budget electricity consumption, oil consumption through vehicle sharing for transportation, planting tree saplings that are congenial to local climate conditions, taking up organic farming, encourage rain water harvest, and opt for alternative renewable, clean and cheap energy, viz. solar wind and geothermal.

It requires our concerted and conscientious efforts with determination for course correction in our attitude and approach to natural but non-renewable resources, to the environment bestowed on all of creation by God, the Almighty, Creator of all things - living and non-living here on earth and of the whole universe.

To mitigate climate change, it is mandatory that we, humans, be just stewards of all of God's creation and to begin here and now.

For one to survive, all must survive for we are inter-dependent on one another.

May God help and strengthen us to love and cherish the beauty of this Earth and to preserve its purity by all means and at all cost.

"O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the Earth is full of your creatures. Here is the sea, great and wide, which teems with creatures innumerable, living things both small and great. There go the ships, and Leviathan, which you formed to play in it. These all look to you, to give them their food in due season"

- Psalm 104:24-27

Rev. Rolianthanga Lalsim
Administrative Secretary
Peace & Justice Committee

Rev. Dr. P.B.M Basaiawmoit
Chairman
Peace & Justice Committee