

1 **RESOLUTION #6**  
2 **Care for Creation: Local Church Response**

3  
4 **Adopted as amended**

5  
6 Whereas, the Scriptures tell us that “the earth is the Lord’s and everything in it (Ps 24:1);

7  
8 Whereas, God calls us to be responsible stewards over the entire creation caring for the needs of  
9 all people and animals (Gen 1-2);

10  
11 Whereas, The United Methodist Church has had a historic commitment to stewardship of God’s  
12 creation (The Social Principles Para 160, page 96, 2004 Book of Discipline);

13  
14 Whereas, the 2004 Book of Resolutions records our present understanding of our historic  
15 commitment to the stewardship of God’s creation, confirming that “all United Methodist  
16 Churches, Annual Conferences, general boards and agencies are to be models of energy  
17 conservation (U.S. Energy Policy and United Methodist Responsibility, page 83);

18  
19 Whereas, we as United Methodists are called to love our neighbor as ourselves and to protect and  
20 care for the environment so that all may have abundant life;

21  
22 Whereas, since 1986, when the Bishops of The United Methodist Church issued their letter in  
23 Defense of Creation, our bishops have been calling us to take this issue seriously;

24  
25 Whereas, using reusable grocery bags and recycling are ways to save trees and energy and to  
26 keep us from filling up landfills (2004 Book of Resolutions, page 108);

27  
28 Whereas, the cost of oil is over \$100 a barrel and fuel efficient cars, and other forms of  
29 transportation, use much less fuel and create much less pollution;

30  
31 Whereas, adjusting a thermostat one degree saves up to 15% on energy bills;

32  
33 Whereas, compact florescent light bulbs last 10 times longer than regular light bulbs and LED  
34 lighting lasts even longer, **producing less** carbon dioxide and overall cost;

35  
36 Whereas, increasing pollution and drought are affecting the health and sanitary water supply in  
37 the U.S. and worldwide;

38  
39 Whereas, Christian organizations such as the Evangelical Environmental Network and The  
40 United Methodist General Board of Church and Society view climate change as one of the  
41 greatest threats to God’s creation;

42  
43 Whereas, a 2007 report issued by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate found that humans are  
44 “very likely” responsible for climate change;

45

1 Whereas, the thirteen warmest years on record have occurred in the last 15 years causing higher  
2 sea levels and widespread melting of ice and snow;

3  
4 Therefore, be it resolved, that we of the West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church  
5 explore and take action as individuals, local churches, and district and conference offices to seek  
6 ways to better care for the earth as part of our Christian discipleship.

7  
8 Be it further resolved, that United Methodists include prayers for creation and all God's creatures  
9 in their congregational worship and individual devotional lives.

10  
11 Be it further resolved, that local congregations and district offices form a task force or group to  
12 study the issue of climate change and suggest action steps.

13  
14 Submitted by the Creation Care Task Force and endorsed by the Board of Christian Social  
15 Witness on March 10, 2008.

