

## Resolution on Climate Change

WHEREAS God appointed human beings to be stewards of God’s good creation in Genesis 1:26-27, AND

WHEREAS Paul spoke of all of creation groaning in labor for humanity to realize our role as mature Christians, seeing hope instead of futility for the redemption of the world (Romans 8:19-23), AND

WHEREAS Ezekiel recognizes how the rich, through overconsumption, cause environmental destruction felt most keenly by the poor (Ezekiel 34:17-23), AND

WHEREAS John Wesley anticipated a renewed—not replaced—creation in his sermon The General Deliverance, and said that God “does not overlook or despise any of the works of his own hands,” that “he wills even the meanest of them to be happy, according to their degree;” and Wesley asked, “how comes it to pass, that such a complication of evils oppresses, yea, overwhelms them? How is it that misery of all kinds overspreads the face of the earth?” AND

WHEREAS the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has recognized that humanity has less than twelve years to mitigate the worst effects of human-caused climate change; that even heroic efforts will not stop tremendous environmental and economic hardship for future generations, and these hardships will be borne most by the poorest among us, AND

WHEREAS although our social principles indicate that human-caused climate change is real and a cause of concern (¶160), a massive disinformation campaign of climate change denial has weakened political will across the globe, AND

WHEREAS the General Conference of the United Methodist Church meets once every four years, meaning that the global body of our denomination will only meet twice before the deadline for strong action has passed, and that it has a very limited time in which to act for the good of all humankind and all of earthly creation,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church acknowledges that human-caused climate change exists, that climate change denial is a danger to humanity, and that local, national, and international efforts will be required for us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8) with regard to our stewardship of the planet.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church rejects all attempts to theologize the science of climate change away; that while we recognize differences of opinion and degree exist, that these differences in no way excuse inaction, stonewalling, or violating the teaching of the Social Principles of the *Book of Discipline*, especially since we face an existential crisis unique in the history of humankind.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Alabama Conference calls on all its churches and members to educate themselves and use the power available to them to move energy policy toward renewable and sustainable forms at the local, national, and international level.

*Submitted by: Dave Barnhart, Pastor, Saint Junia UMC*

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**Committee vote: 7 Yes (Concurrence) 0 No (Non-concurrence)**

**The role of the Committee is not to approve or disapprove the content of a particular petition or resolution but to ensure that they have followed the appropriate process (as outlined in our standing rules) and that they are in agreement with the Book of Discipline, including our Social Principles, and our standing rules.**