

## **RS-225-GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE**

(Submitted by the Church and Society Committee)

(Adopted Sunday Afternoon, June 10, 2007)

“All creation is the Lord’s, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it.”(Book of Discipline 160)

All creation has been groaning under the devastating effects of global warming. The latest scientific data confirm that the earth’s climate is rapidly changing. Global temperatures increased by about 1 degree Fahrenheit over the course of the last century, and will likely rise even more rapidly in coming decades. The cause is a thickening layer of carbon dioxide pollution, mostly from power plants and automobiles, that traps heat in the atmosphere. The effect is deadly and comprehensive. Scientists believe that hundreds of millions of lives will be affected by global warming within the next 50 years unless we reduce carbon emissions radically and rapidly. The United Nation’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reported that “warming of the climate system is unequivocal.” One study maintains that the year 2016 will be a tipping point for global climate change after which no human efforts will be able to make any significant impact on slowing climate change.

The ways we consume and live are putting our next generation at great risk. We must confess that we have not been faithful stewards of God’s creation and we must determine to change our ways in order to change the course of global climate change. It is no time for more study or speculation. It is a time for Christians to act and act quickly and boldly.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The New England Conference will educate our congregations about the impact of global warming and promote ways to be responsible stewards in order to minimize its effects;
2. All church facilities and camp structures shall take an energy audit and strive to cut their use of fossil fuel and, therefore, carbon emissions by 25% within the next five years;
3. All church facilities and camp structures shall convert their light bulbs into compact fluorescent light bulbs;
4. All church facilities and camp structures shall practice recycling;
5. We shall encourage car-pooling at all church and conference related meetings and gatherings;
6. We shall use our votes to challenge our elected officials to move quickly and boldly on the issue of reducing carbon emissions;
7. The congregations in the New England Conference shall observe the celebration of God’s creation on the Sunday around Earth Day each year to further our education and participation in reducing global warming;
8. The New England Conference shall create a Climate Change Task Force under the direction of the Church and Society Committee and the Board of Trustees of the New England Conference that will implement, resource, and monitor the adoption of this resolution in the life of the New England Conference.
9. Wherever practical, design and construction of new church facilities and camp structures shall integrate ecologically responsible design principles.