



Dear friends and colleagues,

Early in 2020, just before the coronavirus set in, the UCC Council for Climate Justice issued an urgent plea to help rescue our planet from peril. The **Kairos Call to Action** invites congregations of the United Church of Christ to commit to a series of climate saving actions over the next 10 years. Guided by the **Kairos Call to Action** adopted at the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Conference of the UCC, the Conference seeks to covenant with congregations and their members, empowering all of us to take on the crucial work of climate justice.

We have seen floods submerge the south and fires ravage the west. We have witnessed continued threats to precious species and acknowledged that the “carbon reprieve” due to COVID-19 is short lived. We have confessed the disproportionate affect climate woes have on people of color and all who are marginalized. We wonder about the correlation between future pandemics and a climate in crisis. And we shudder in recognizing the intersectionality between climate stress and the vital needs of all humanity: nutritious food, clean water, safe air, and protection from natural disasters.

In this communication we are launching the Wisconsin Conference Kairos Call to Action!

God has appointed us from the beginning of humanity to be faithful stewards of the earth and all that is within. Sadly, though, precious resources continue to diminish. The balance of our ecosystems is severely threatened. The very future of our children and grandchildren is uncertain. This crisis demands our spiritual and theological attention. It begs us to commit to a renewed “reverence” for all life. But, our most urgent imperative is to act now!



Young environmental activist Greta Thunberg reminds us, “We are now standing at a crossroads in history. We are failing but we have not yet failed. We can still fix this. It’s up to us.” It may already be too late to prevent irreparable damage. Species are becoming extinct. Glaciers are melting. Temperatures are rising. This is our reality. Mere human existence is increasingly strained, especially for the nearly 2 billion people who live in poverty.

The Greek word “Kairos” means – essentially – the time is now! It refers not to the more predictable chronological time (“chronos”) but to a critical moment, an immediate and holy beckoning from our insistent and grief-stricken God.

The Wisconsin Conference **Creation Care Team** seeks to empower and engage congregations and their members to rise to the urgent need for action concerning climate change and environmental justice. **The Team stands ready to support you in this work**, providing resources for study and worship, encouraging advocacy on behalf of climate justice, and helping congregations find and connect with partners who share this common concern and commitment.

Here are some Conference-wide goals for this decade-long Kairos initiative:

- 100 congregations will engage in the Kairos Call to Action by the end of 2021.
- 150 congregations will form a “Kairos Action Team” by the end of 2022.
- Participating congregations will engage 50% of their community of faith in committing to the Kairos action steps in their individual households by the end of 2023.

Thank you for considering this important challenge. Imagine the impact you and your congregation can have for the sake of generations to come!

With hopeful determination,

Franz Rigert
Conference Minister