



Presbytery Meeting- 16 March 2024

Proposal 9

Global Climate Action

That Presbytery encourages each of its members to draw the **Global Week of Action 4 Climate Justice** to the attention of their Church Council (or other relevant decision making body), noting:

- a) the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC) is collaborating with GreenFaith to promote actions around the world to raise awareness between 3-12 May 2024;
- b) information and resources are available from www.arrcc.org.au/weekofaction ;
- c) a range of options are available for household or communal responses including letter writing, group discussions, prayer, meditation, sermons, ecumenical gatherings and/or public displays of banners. Such activities can draw on a long tradition of Uniting Church engagement with energy, sustainability and justice issues and a rich resource library of materials and decisions. Many of these are on the Synod and Assembly websites.

RATIONALE:

The "Faiths 4 Climate Justice Week of Action" is being promoted by ARRCC (the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change) and GreenFaith (an international multi-faith network of organisations defending the natural environment). In response to observable extreme weather events across Australia and around the world impacting millions of people alongside scientific analysis of climate change, now is a critical time to build on personal and communal commitments towards precautionary behaviours and to press for more urgent corporate and governmental actions.

It is important to draw attention to the ethical and spiritual elements that can motivate people to work for lifestyle and industrial changes as well as respecting the importance of compassion for the most vulnerable people affected by damaging effects of climate change.

The Uniting Church in WA has a long history of engagement in energy, sustainability and care for neighbours who are most directly suffering from the emerging threats of climate damage. Ten years ago the "Green Church Handbook" was prepared for the Uniting Church in Western Australia. In 2018 the 15th national Assembly resolution 66 'For the Whole Creation' encouraged UC members, synods, presbyteries, congregations, agencies and schools to advocate for government policies and political action to address climate change.

In 2022 the Synod of WA reaffirmed its previous resolutions calling on Governments to take actions to keep within a 1.5°C global temperature rise, by urgently transitioning away from fossil fuels and towards renewable energy. *UnitingWorld's* 2024 LentEvent theme encourages us to care by 'Creating a climate of change'.

Mission Shaped Ministry resources remind us of two of the 'Marks of Mission' for the Methodist Church (UK) as 'Transform' and 'Treasure', and the Anglican ones: 'To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation', and 'To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth'.

Let us take this opportunity to further develop our own awareness of the unique environmental challenges and responsibilities we have as West Australians, as well as taking actions for public witness to our faith and stewardship of our God-given planet.

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