

## **Westminster Earth Care Policy**

**Adopted by Session September 9, 2021**

Westminster Presbyterian Church Session, Albany, NY, resolves that: Every decision made regarding supplies, infrastructure, ways of doing everyday business will be analyzed to determine its impact on climate/the environment. Cost will not be the sole consideration. We resolve to challenge our congregation and friends of the congregation to continuously be aware that our individual and collective actions can and will make a difference. We resolve to unite with other faith groups to increase awareness and act to address climate change.

### **Theological statement:**

The Presbyterian Church USA is guided by its Constitution (Book of Confessions and Book of Order) and by official positions adopted by its biennial General Assembly.

God's loving care for creation and the need to acknowledge the human causes of today's climate crisis is reflected in the **Book of Confessions**:

The Confession of 1967 states: "God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of man's (sic) life: social and cultural, economic and political, scientific and technological, individual and corporate. *It includes man's (sic) natural environment as exploited and despoiled by sin.* It is the will of God that his purpose for human life shall be fulfilled under the rule of Christ and all evil banished from his creation."

The Brief Statement of Faith (1991) confesses that our poor environmental stewardship has the potential to do severe global harm: "In sovereign love God created the world good... to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, *exploit neighbors and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.*"

**The Book of Order**, Directory for Worship, includes the following in *W-5.0305: Care of Creation*: "God sends the Church to share in the stewardship of creation, preserving the goodness and glory of the earth God has made. God cares for us through the gifts of creation, providing all that we need in abundance. As caretakers of God's creation, we are called to tend the land, water, and air with awe and wonder at God's gifts; use the earth's resources wisely, without plundering, polluting, or destroying; use technology in ways that preserve and enhance life; measure our production and consumption in order to provide for the needs of all; foster responsible practices of procreation and reproduction; and seek beauty, order, health, harmony, and peace for all God's creatures."