



Plant a Yard Sign for the Paris Accord

In response to the United States pulling out of the Paris Climate Accord, General Synod passed an emergency resolution entitled “The Earth Is the Lord’s—Not Ours to Wreck.” (<http://bit.ly/2uwkura>) With 16 conferences as sponsors and 97% of delegates voting in its favor, the resolution reflects a denomination in which two recent surveys found that climate is the number one issue of concern for members. As a tangible act of witness related to the resolution, churches are invited to plant yard signs that declare, “We [heart] Planet Earth. We Support the Paris Accord.” The graphic for the sign can be downloaded (<http://uccfiles.com/pdf/ParisAccordYardSign.pdf>) along with a sample [press release](#). (Next page.)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Congregation Joins Faith Movement to Care for Planet Earth

[Name of Church, Community] is publicly declaring love for Planet Earth and support for the Paris Climate Accord, the historic agreement of 196 nations to reduce greenhouse gases and address the harms caused by damage to our climate.

The United Church of Christ's General Synod — the church's governing body, which speaks to the denomination's 5,000 congregations and nearly 900,000 members — voted overwhelmingly **on July 3rd** to endorse an emergency climate resolution in support of the accord, calling on clergy to preach about the moral imperative to care for the environment.

Putting faith in action, **[Church Name]** and other congregations are taking a public stand, making their witness visible to the broader community, by planting a yard sign on the lawn.

The Rev. **[Pastor name]** of **[Church Name]** explains, "For many people of faith, care for the planet and support for the Paris Accord go together. We feel a moral mandate to act. When the Trump administration declared that it would pull the United States out of the Paris Accord, we had to do something in response. [Other climate actions/examples could go here]"

The yard sign at **[Church Name]** is not just a solitary gesture, but rather part of a larger effort across the country.

The Rev. Brooks Berndt, national environmental justice minister for the UCC, said, "Churches in small towns and large cities are realizing that this is an issue on which their conscience will not allow for silence. For the sake of the children who are inheriting this world and for the sake of all creation, people of faith realize that this is a matter of utmost moral urgency."

Read a copy of the United Church of Christ General Synod resolution on the Paris Accord which is entitled "The Earth Is the Lord's—Not Ours to Wreck: Imperatives for a New Moral Era," here:

https://d3n8a8pro7vmtx.cloudfront.net/unitedchurchofchrist/pages/9126/attachments/original/1499204117/UCC_Synod_2017_Climate_Resolution_-_FINAL_as_passed.pdf?1499204117