

PC(USA) Overture 08-06

The Earth is the Lord's Not Ours to Ruin: Priorities for a New Moral Era

The Presbytery of Monmouth overtures the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to:

1. Call upon the whole church to raise a prophetic voice regarding the urgency of healing the climate of the earth, our home and God's gift for the future of all life, human and nonhuman.
2. Call upon the whole church to engage prayerfully with the following priorities as we seek to initiate a new moral era:
 - a. Let our clergy accept the mantle of moral leadership. Now is the time for clergy to speak from their pulpits about the moral obligation of our generation to protect God's creation. Let the world know that we who follow Jesus will not back away from God's call to protect our common home. When the powers that be deny or obscure the truth, we followers of Jesus will proclaim the truth to protect our common home.
 - b. Let all of us incarnate the changes for which we long. Now is the time for congregations and for every person of faith to set a moral example through our own words and actions. As individuals and as communities, let us commit to making decisions of integrity in our energy choices, even as we commit to hold all our religious, political, corporate, and global leaders accountable to do the same.
 - c. Let us proclaim truth in the public square. We are now living in a John 18:37 moment, in which we must hold to the truth we understand from the Bible and from the sacred book of nature, recognizing that when truth is compromised, only power prevails.
 - Let our communities of faith be bold and courageous as we address one of the greatest moral challenges that the world has ever faced.
 - Let us do all we can to change America's understanding of the story that our generation is writing. Let us begin a new story—a story that is not dependent on increased greenhouse gas emissions or on wealth for the few and misery for the many.

This overture was inspired and based on the resolution, "The Earth Is the Lord's—Not Ours to Wreck, Imperatives for a New Moral Era" passed by the United Church of Christ National Synod on July 3, 2017. Now is the time to encourage deeper ecumenical cooperation to lift up our collective moral voice.

Accepting that it is up to us, whether in the streets, at our State Houses, in the halls of power, with our phones, emails, technology, and social media by committing our time, financial resources, and prayers—let us pour ourselves out to bend the moral arc of justice, with joy in our hearts, beauty in our sights, and hope for the children.

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This Overture was unanimously approved by PC(USA)'s 223rd General Assembly (2018). To read both the Overture's Recommendation and Rationale, link to www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000298