

The Time is Now: Join the Kairos Call to Action!

The Wisconsin Conference adopted the United Church of Christ's Kairos Call to Action at the 2020 annual meeting. **The Kairos Call to Action is a ten-year action plan to inspire and guide faithful action in response to global climate change.** In his recent video, Franz Rigert, Conference Minister, invites all congregations and their members to join in the Wisconsin Conference's Kairos Call to Action.

Whether you have already begun a creation care journey or are just contemplating action, **we encourage congregations to take the next step and share their commitment by creating a Kairos Call to Action Covenant** and sharing it with the Conference. We will record and lift up the names of covenanted congregations. By doing so, we can form a community to share knowledge and resources, and celebrate and strengthen our collective work for climate justice.



The Wisconsin Conference Board of Directors, along with the Creation Care Team, hopes to have at least 100 congregations joining in this call by the end of 2021! To assist in these efforts, the Conference Creation Care Team is working to support congregations and their members through resourcing, advocacy, and connections.

The name "kairos" comes from the New Testament Greek word for "the right time," as in Jesus' announcement of the Good News at the beginning of his ministry (Mark 1:15a): "The time has come..." (NEB) or "Time's up" (The Message). Kairos Call to Action also references the prophetic words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., that "the fierce urgency of now" compels us to take action.

Kairos Call to Action was written and released by the national United Church of Christ's Council for Climate Justice in 2019. Wisconsin is the first conference to formally adopt the Kairos Call by resolution. Our Creation Care Team and the Conference Board of Directors intends for this "Call to Action" to inspire and guide our work for the next decade, a crucial one for the health of the planet. We must not allow Kairos to gather dust or disappear!

Please consider taking action on the Kairos Call in your congregation in time for Earth Day in April. If your congregation already has a functioning green team, this action could begin there. If not, it may take only one faith-driven creation caregiver to present Kairos to your administrative board or congregation.

Yes, we all have plenty on our plate, with the ongoing crises of the COVID pandemic and social polarization, but we nonetheless urge you to consider becoming a Kairos Call to Action church in 2021. Whether our world is paying attention or not, climate change is warming our oceans, melting our polar ice, raising sea levels and threatening the extinction of species. As Jesus says, "The [right] time has come."

We are on this journey together; please share your covenant and your progress.

If you need guidance on how to get underway, please contact [Lisa Hart](mailto:lhart@wcucc.org) at lhart@wcucc.org. Also, check out the resources below, and find more at wcucc.org/kairos.

- [Wisconsin Conference Kairos Call to Action background](#)
- [10 Ways Churches Can Mobilize](#), with suggested actions for each step.
- "[How To Start a Green Team at Your Church](#)" from Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, Missioner for Creation Care for both the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts and the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ.
- "[How to Form a Green Team at Church](#)" - Tips from Codi Norred, Program Director of Georgia Interfaith Power and Light
- Green Team Tips - "[Starting a Crew of Ripple Makers \(Also known as starting a Green Team\)](#)" from the United Church of Christ.
- [Webinar: Forming a Green Team](#), from the Wisconsin Conference's Creation Care Team, featuring two Wisconsin congregations with green teams of both short and long tenure.
- The Interfaith Power and Light website has many resources for churches wanting to begin or expand their creation care efforts. Download their [Cool Congregations Start-up Kit](#)