

Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church Response to the Global Climate Emergency

WHEREAS, natural disasters such as flooding, droughts, wildfires, hurricanes, and species die-off, are occurring more frequently as unabated carbon emissions from fossil fuels continue to trap an ever increasing amount of heat within the biosphere,

WHEREAS, the scientific consensus, as documented by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), concludes that limiting global warming to 1.5°C will avoid much predicted catastrophic societal harm,

WHEREAS, our earth has warmed approximately 1°C since preindustrial levels due to human activity, and the nations of the world have neglected to respond to this existential threat in a timely fashion thus causing a Climate Emergency,

WHEREAS our Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church values of Stewardship and Shared Responsibility which state that "our role as stewards extends to include our care for all of creation and the lives that we touch" and call us to be accountable for "careful and responsible management of what has been entrusted to our care" direct us to take responsible action to preserve our Earth for future generations

WHEREAS, our Unitarian Universalist principles which promote "justice, equity, and compassion in human relations" and "respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part" clearly call our church community to respond to this climate crisis,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church and its members shall make every effort possible to respond to this Climate Emergency by:

Taking actions to reduce fossil fuel consumption by continuing energy conservation efforts, examining installation of solar electric panels and including fossil fuel consumption as a factor in future financial decisions;

Setting an example for our community by visibly implementing sustainable practices and encouraging others to follow our example;

Supporting local, state and national government efforts to defuse the climate crisis and its effects, such as the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act and the Green New Deal;

Networking with UU state action networks, local UU congregations and national UU groups like the the Ministry for Earth (UUMFE), and Climate and Environmental Justice (UUCEJ), which includes Green Sanctuary Certification;

Forming alliances with local groups addressing the climate crisis, such as the Interfaith Environmental Network of Houston (IENoH), Extinction Rebellion, The Sierra Club, and Citizens Climate Lobby;

Continuing to educate ourselves and others on the accelerating threats to the ecosystems and natural resources that feed and sustain our global civilization, and promote a compassionate national conversation to head off worst-case scenarios;

Preparing our youth to confront the future through religious education and other programs grounded in science that inspire hope, courage and practical collective action;

Developing a new morality, rebuilding our political and economic structures to prioritize the well-being of future generations, grounded in sustainability, while supporting today's over stressed communities with productive employment, affordable housing and health care, public transportation and education, and other universal benefits;

Directing the Climate Crisis Task Force to identify and organize opportunities for BAUUC and its members to implement our efforts to ameliorate the climate crisis as a committee of the Board.