

37. World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

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1. The 2011 Conference adopted as a Conference Statement “Hope in God’s Future: Christian Discipleship in the Context of Climate Change”. Section 3 of the Statement says in summary: “What is required of God’s people in the industrialized world is repentance. The first step towards this change of heart and practice is confessing our complicity in the sinful structures that have caused the problem”. Section 4 calls for that repentance to be demonstrated through a “change of heart, mind and will through prayer, preaching, bible study, discussion and reflection, leading to corporate liturgical acts of confession”, as well as through practical initiatives to reduce the carbon footprint of the Church, help members of congregations to reduce their own emissions and engage politically to work for change.
2. Our response to the challenge of climate change continues to be an issue requiring urgent and focused attention. Following the papal encyclical in May 2015 entitled *Laudato si’ (On Care for our Common Home)*, His Holiness Pope Francis issued a letter declaring his decision “to institute in the Catholic Church the ‘World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation’ which, beginning this year, is to be celebrated on 1 September, as has been the custom in the Orthodox Church for some time”.¹ The letter expressed a wish that this day would be shared and celebrated with other churches and the whole people of God.
3. The people called Methodists are encouraged to join with their sisters and brothers in the Catholic and Orthodox Churches in observing the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on 1 September. Prayer and worship resources are produced annually by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland² and are commended for wider use. Churches, Circuits and Districts are also challenged to think again about taking practical steps to express their care for God’s creation, for which they may find the recently-launched Eco Church initiative in England and Wales and Eco Congregation in Scotland useful.
4. In these ways, it is hoped that the Methodist Church will renew its commitment to the care of creation and join with the wider community in celebration, confession and intercession for our common home.

***RESOLUTION

37/1. The Conference received the Report and encouraged the people called Methodists to observe the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on 1 September.

¹ Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis for the Establishment of the “World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation” URL: <w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/letters/2015/documents/papa-francesco_20150806_lettera-giornata-cura-creato.html>

² ctbi.org.uk/category/spirituality-and-reflection/creation-time/