

A Statement by Religious Leaders in Iowa on Global Climate Change

April 2012

Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges facing our world today, and as religious leaders representing diverse faith traditions we are called to reaffirm our commitment to be responsible stewards of Earth's resources and to act in love toward our neighbors both locally and globally.

Scientists, including those representing 28 Iowa colleges and universities who recently released a statement, have warned us that changes in global climate patterns are bringing more extreme weather events to Iowa, the United States, and our world. These events include droughts, extreme temperatures, floods, storm surges, and wildfires. These changes threaten our environment, our health and safety, our economy, our agriculture, and our security. They also raise fundamental questions of justice and fairness, as those who are least able to adapt to climate change and who contribute least to the problem are likely to suffer the worst consequences.

As people of faith, we are called to take responsible precautionary action to limit global climate change to the fullest extent possible and to prepare now for the climate impacts that are unavoidable. There are many actions that can be taken by individuals, families, congregations, businesses, local communities, and the state to reduce the threat of global climate change, such as reducing energy use in our homes and vehicles and using renewable energy sources. We urge Iowans to take such actions.

The global nature of the problem, however, means that effective action requires leadership at the local, state, and national levels to form policies and strategies that address responsible energy use to ensure that we protect Earth and its most vulnerable populations from the significant threats posed by global climate change. We call upon people of faith to provide leadership on this issue and act in the interest of the common good.

Signed,

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Roman Catholic Diocese of Davenport

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Bishop Michael Last

Bishop, Western Iowa Synod
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Bishop Richard Pates

Bishop of Des Moines
Roman Catholic Diocese of Des Moines

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Iowa Conference Minister
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Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa

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Regional Minister and President for the
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Resident Bishop
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Des Moines

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*The listing of faith community names is
for identification purposes only.

