



## **RESOLUTION CONCERNING CLIMATE CHANGE**

WHEREAS, Scripture says in Psalm 24 “The earth is the Lord’s, and all that is in it,” and says in Genesis 1 and Psalms 8 that God created humankind and gave them dominion over every living thing; and

WHEREAS, the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church state: “All creation is the Lord’s, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God’s creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings;” and

WHEREAS, the Social Principles also speak to the present crisis of climate change: “We acknowledge the global impact of humanity’s disregard for God’s creation. Rampant industrialization and the correspondent increase in the use of fossil fuels have led to a buildup of pollutants in the earth’s atmosphere. These ‘greenhouse gas’ emissions threaten to alter dramatically the earth’s climate for generations to come with severe environmental, economic and social implications. The adverse impacts of global climate change disproportionately affect individuals and nations least responsible for the emissions. We therefore support efforts of all governments to require mandatory reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and call on individuals, congregations, businesses, industries and communities to reduce their emissions;” and

WHEREAS, at the November 2015 Paris Conference on Climate Change, 195 countries reached an agreement that includes the plans for all the countries involved, in which they committed to work on the problem of rising global temperatures by reducing carbon (greenhouse gas) emissions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, members of the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church, commit ourselves to being better stewards of creation, and to educating ourselves, our congregations, our communities and our elected leaders on the issues involved, and then acting in ways that will do the least harm and the most good for the planet and all the inhabitants of it; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we will encourage United Methodists across Alabama to contact our elected officials both in the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate to urge them to support legislation to curb greenhouse gases and make the United States fully compliant with the Paris Accord. The secretary of the Annual Conference will send a copy of this resolution to all members of the House of Representatives and the United States Senate from Alabama.

*Submitted by Justice and Advocacy Team of the North Alabama Conference*

*The Committee votes yes and encourages the Annual Conference to support this resolution.*