

PRESS RELEASE
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U.S. Evangelicals to the World at Climate Negotiations: “We Are Still In”

NOVEMBER 3, 2017—As the world convenes for the next two weeks in Bonn, Germany to negotiate the implementation of the Paris Agreement, evangelicals from the U.S. will be there to deliver this message to the world: “We are still in.” Members from the U.S.-based Climate Caretakers and Young Evangelicals for Climate Action will partner with Canadian-based Citizens for Public Justice and the binational Climate Witness Project to participate in the campaign *Together for Climate Action at COP 23*.

Historically, many evangelicals in the U.S. have been resistant to climate science’s findings that current global climate change is primarily attributable to human activity.

These evangelicals will be joining with Christian brothers and sisters from around the world to provide a public witness to a watching world that even as the U.S. government backs away, Christians will continue to advocate for strong national policies which will defend the health and livelihoods of their most vulnerable global neighbors.

Leaders from the partner organizations issued the following statements:

“The COP 23 in Bonn marks the first climate conference since the United States abandoned the Paris Agreement. This makes it all the more crucial that American citizens, faith groups, NGO’s, and other leaders demonstrate our support for global climate action. Even if the U.S. government is out, we are still in and will do everything we can to support the Paris Agreement.” –Brian Webb, Director of Climate Caretakers.

“Climate change – with its devastating impacts on both people and the planet – is an issue that reaches to the core of who we are as people of faith and how we are to live in God’s world. We will be in Bonn for COP23 to bear witness to the international negotiations, to give voice to the Christian call for climate justice, and to continue to engage public officials on the imperative to go further and faster to align public policy with the Paris Agreement.” –Karri Munn-Venn, Senior Policy Analyst for Citizens for Public Justice.

“Our faith calls us to a vigilant response to the threat of climate change. But our response will not be effective if governments don’t also work together, make shared commitments and coordinate their work. We pray and hope that COP 23 will result in better access to sustainable energy for all communities, lower global emissions, and increase preparedness for stronger storms and changing weather patterns around the world.” –Kris Van Engen, Team Coordinator for the Climate Witness Project.

“This climate conference marks two firsts: it is the first under the presidency of a Pacific Island nation (Fiji) and the first since the U.S. turned its back on the Paris Agreement. History will remember where the church stood in this moment: in vocal solidarity with those made most vulnerable by climate change, or in silent agreement with those who turn their backs on them.” –Kyle Meyaard-Schaap, National Organizer and Spokesperson for Young Evangelicals for Climate Action.

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Climate Caretakers works to mobilize Christians to pray for and act on climate change.

Young Evangelicals for Climate Action is a group of young Christians in the United States who are coming together and taking action to overcome the climate crisis as part of their Christian witness and discipleship.

Citizens for Public Justice (CPJ) is a national organization of members inspired by faith to act for justice in Canadian public policy.

The Climate Witness Project, a ministry of World Renew and the Christian Reformed Church Office of Social Justice, partners with churches to demonstrate care of creation through prayer, advocacy, education, and energy stewardship.