

Redhill Baptist Church

Climate & Environmental Emergency Declaration

We, the members and friends of Redhill Baptist Church, publicly recognise a Climate and Environmental Emergency.

This is on the basis that:

- People are made in God's image. God is unselfish love, merciful, full of tender compassion and passionate about justice. And God asks us to care for all of His creation, with mercy, compassion, justice and love.
- The world is facing a severe crisis of environmental degradation and climate change that affects our ability to sustain life in its present form¹.
- The main cause of the crisis is human activity².
- The crisis is inextricably linked to global injustices and inequality.
- The crisis indicates a failure of human beings to follow God's mandate to care for the world and to seek justice among its peoples and to love our neighbour.

As Christians we have reason to speak and act in this area:

- We have a mandate to speak truth without fear. This includes the truth of the precious interdependence of God's creation, of which we are only a part. It also includes warning of the need for radical action to mitigate future disaster, in the Biblical tradition of Noah, Jeremiah & Jesus.
- We are called to show love to our neighbours around the world already suffering the effects of climate change, and to act now to reduce catastrophic harm in the future.
- We are called to act with hope, refusing the temptation to despair, moralism or self-preservation. Our witness of love is a witness to the power and freedom of the gospel.

There is broad agreement that the next 10 years offer an unrepeatable window of opportunity for action.

Therefore, we commit ourselves to:

- Examining our lives individually and corporately in relation to this crisis and seeking to live faithfully to God.
- Following an evolving action plan to minimise our negative corporate impact on the environment and climate, and to help restoration where possible.
- Encouraging each other to make relevant lifestyle changes.
- Encouraging action on this emergency in our neighbourhoods, workplaces and other spheres of activity.
- Using whatever influence we may have to bring about positive actions by local and national government and by corporations.

¹ This is already causing a rise in sea levels, increase in ocean acidity, and an increase in extreme weather events and droughts. Climate change is a contributor to rising hunger globally and is already making storms, floods, fires and droughts more severe and more frequent. These changes, predicted to become significantly more severe, are set to catastrophically affect the lives, health, food and water supplies and economic security of many millions of people, and the fundamental ecosystems on which humans and other life depend

² The world's poorest 50% are responsible for just ten per cent of carbon emissions, but these same people are already facing the worst effects of climate change, and have less ability to adapt to the drastic consequences, pushing them deeper into poverty