

## Recommendation to Spend Ten Minutes a Day in Nature

Submitted by: Climate Justice Ministries Task Force

Number of Members: 15

Members present when voting: 5

Members voting for: 5 in person; 6 via email vote

Date adopted: March 16, 2025

Contact: Rev. Laurie Bayen

Fiscal Impact: None

Parliamentary Procedure in Legislative Section B Pursuant to Standing Rule I.C.5.

### Recommendation:

- 1 Be it resolved that every participant in every congregation of the California-Nevada Annual Conference of
- 2 The United Methodist Church shall spend at least ten minutes of every day in mindful connection with
- 3 Creation – outdoors if possible.

### Background:

“Look at the birds in the sky. They don’t sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet our God in heaven feeds them.... Learn a lesson from the way the wildflowers grow...” -- Matthew 6:26a, 28b, *The Inclusive Bible*

“The great lesson that our blessed Lord inculcates here...is that God is in all things, and that we are to see the Creator in the glass of every creature; that we should use and look upon nothing as separate from God...who pervades and actuates the whole created frame, and is, in a true sense, the soul of the universe.” – John Wesley, “Upon Our Lord’s Sermon on the Mount”

“We affirm that all creation belongs to God and is a manifestation of God’s goodness and providential care. Human beings, nonhuman animals, plants, and other sentient and non-sentient beings participate in the community of creation, and their flourishing depends on the care of all God’s creation.” – UM Social Principles (2024), “Community of All Creation,” preface

“Simply being in a context of awe leads to a ‘small self.’ We can quiet that nagging voice of the interfering neurotic simply by locating ourselves in contexts of more awe.” - Dr. Dacher Keltner, Professor of Psychology at UC Berkeley

“I invite you to honor your own experiences of falling in love with the world ... with particular beings: those trees who live on your block, a certain crow who frequents your street, the shoreline on the edge of the village. Our neighbors. The spiritual transformation that both scientists and spiritual people are calling for is not about bringing nature inside for the church to remember that God’s love covers everything. It’s not about having churches play nature sounds on cassette tapes. It’s about going outside and spending time with other beloved ones of Earth and offering out tender, gracious attention to their needs as well as our own. That’s what you do when you fall in love. This connection will give us the courage and the energy and even the ideas we need to challenge our prevailing consumerist mindset for the healing and restoration of our world.... Only love is strong enough to bring about the change we need.” – Victoria Looz, *Church of the Wild: How Nature Invites Us into the Sacred*

- Such a practice will benefit mental wellbeing, especially in difficult times – and it is immediately available to us as a gift from God.
- Love of Creation empowers our work for the wellbeing of the planet.
- This practice will contribute to our Conference mission of “Thriving in Community,” expanding our definition of community to include both our human and “more-than-human” neighbors.
- Suggestions for those who have physical limitations: observe the weather and watch birds from your window; cultivate a relationship with a houseplant; listen to recordings of bird or whale song; focus on your five senses and the natural source behind what you see, hear, taste, touch or smell.
- The Sacred Ground project – an audio guide to scenic parks, vistas and trails around our Annual Conference, with photos, information on ecological and indigenous history, calls to climate action, and guidance in mindfulness practices – is available on the free Otocast smartphone app as an outreach ministry of the Church and this Task Force, and is a helpful tool for education and sparking connection in your own backyard.

## Resolution to Boycott Chevron to Defend God's Creation and Human Rights

Co-Submitted by: Palestine Task Force

Number of Members: 9

Members voting for: 8

Date adopted: April 2, 2025

Members present when voting: 8

Members voting against: 0

Co-Submitted by: Climate Justice Ministries Task Force

Number of Members: 15

Members voting for: 9

Members abstaining: 1

Date adopted: April 7, 2025

Members present when voting: 11

Members voting against: 1

Co-submitted by: Philippine Solidarity

Task Force Number of Members: 10

Members voting for: 7

Date adopted: April 3, 2025

Members present when voting: 7

Members voting against: 0

Co-sponsored by: Conference Advocacy and Justice Committee

Number of Members: 12

Members voting for: 9

Date adopted: April 4, 2025

Contact: Patricia Daugherty [ip.taskforce@cnumc.org](mailto:ip.taskforce@cnumc.org), Sharon Delgado [sharondelgado@earth-justice.org](mailto:sharondelgado@earth-justice.org)

Fiscal Impact: None

Parliamentary Procedure in Legislative Section D Pursuant to Standing Rule I.C.5.

Members present when voting: 9

Members voting against: 0

### Resolution:

- 1 Be it resolved that the California-Nevada Conference shall join the global boycott of Chevron Corporation
- 2 by signing the boycott statement of United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR)<sup>1</sup>, and
- 3 Be it further resolved that the Conference Secretary shall send a notification of this conference decision to
- 4 the CEO of Chevron, accompanied by the full text of this resolution as well as the 2024 UMKR letter to
- 5 Chevron which includes the reasons for and demands of the boycott<sup>2</sup>, and
- 6 Be it further resolved that all individuals and congregations of the conference are strongly encouraged to
- 7 sign the boycott statement which can be found through the UMKR website, [kairosresponse.org](http://kairosresponse.org), and
- 8 Be it further resolved that individuals and congregations are strongly encouraged to use organizing tools
- 9 and educational resources at the UMKR website to inform United Methodists of the underlying issues of
- 10 this boycott and to mobilize boycott activities in their area, and
- 11 Be it further resolved that the California-Nevada Board of Pensions shall determine if it holds any current
- 12 investments in Chevron Corporation, and if so, will divest of those holdings.

### Background:

Scripture cautions us to "Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, rather expose them." (Ephesians 5:11).

Chevron supports Israel's apartheid regime and its genocidal war against the Palestinian people while also bringing environmental destruction to countries around the world. United Methodist advocates for creation justice and for Palestinian rights are united in calling for a boycott of Chevron Corporation.

The UMC justice movement, United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR), sent a letter to the CEO of Chevron in 2024, notifying him that United Methodist justice advocates were planning to join the global boycott, and to expand it in our denomination along with describing the campaign demands that must be

<sup>1</sup> <https://umkr.salsalabs.org/chevron-stopfuelinggenocide/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> [UMKR Letter to Chevron CEO announcing the boycott](#)

met to end the boycott: "to cease operations in the gas fields off the coast of occupied Palestine.... [and] to stop conducting business that gravely violates Palestinian human rights and benefits Israel's genocidal apartheid regime."

Chevron runs natural gas extraction and pipelines off the shore of Palestine/Israel, illegally exploiting Palestinian natural resources with the help of the Israeli government.<sup>3</sup>

Israel depends heavily on fossil gas for electricity, and Chevron is the largest producer of natural gas for Israel. Chevron's pipelines and natural gas supply help to supply all branches of the Israeli government and military bases as well as the illegal settlements in the West Bank.

Yet, electricity is denied to many Palestinian communities throughout the region, a feature of Israeli apartheid. The supply of electricity is used by Israel as a tool of subjugation, collective punishment, annexation, and dispossession, and Chevron is complicit in those crimes.

Chevron is also complicit in Israel's decades-long military occupation which the International Court of Justice ruled illegal in July 2024.<sup>4</sup> This ruling called for an end to all commercial and business activities that facilitate Israel's regime of occupation and oppression.<sup>5</sup>

As a major economic partner of the state, Chevron is also implicated in Israel's genocidal assault on Gaza since 2023.

Chevron's destructive partnership with Apartheid Israel reflects its behavior around the world.

Chevron is one of the world's largest fossil fuel companies, fueling the climate crisis around the world. As of 2024, the company is one of the 25 largest polluters in the world.<sup>6</sup>

It is also one of the most dangerous oil corporations, destroying land, poisoning rivers and streams, ravaging communities, and financing violence, while also filing litigation against anyone who tries to hold the company accountable for its actions.

Chevron's activities have played a role in the destruction of marginalized people's homes, resources, and livelihoods in at least 30 countries, such as the deliberate dumping of 16 billion gallons of toxic wastewater into Ecuador's Amazon Rainforest, which it has refused to clean up and which is regarded as one of the worst oil-related environmental disasters in history.<sup>7</sup>

Chevron has committed acts of climate destruction within the region of the California-Nevada Conference, such as the 600 gallon oil spill into the San Francisco Bay in 2021.<sup>8</sup>

Chevron's oil and gas operations have exploited indigenous communities and have resulted in violence against many for which it faces dozens of charges, including allegations of genocide and torture, in Ecuador, Chad, Cameroon, Indonesia, Cambodia, Nigeria, China and the Philippines, among other countries. It has amassed more than \$50 billion in judgments and settlement debts for its human rights and environmental crimes around the world that it refuses to pay.<sup>9 10</sup>

The United Methodist Social Principles support the use of boycotts as an effective tool to address unjust or harmful practices by businesses.<sup>11</sup>

In March 2025, the General Board of Church and Society joined the global call to boycott Chevron Oil Company<sup>12</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://afsc.org/chevron-fuels-israeli-apartheid-and-war-crimes>

<sup>4</sup> [Summary of the Advisory Opinion of 19 July 2024](#), International Court of Justice, July 2024

<sup>5</sup> [Powering Injustice: Exploring the legal consequences for states and corporations involved in supplying energy to Israel](#), SOMO (Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations), December 2024

<sup>6</sup> Chevron has a major role in fueling the climate crisis, which is directly impacting Californians. Chevron is currently being sued by CA Attorney General Rob Bonta for engaging in a "decades-long campaign of deception regarding the reality of climate change and the connection between combustion of fossil fuels and climate change, resulting in climate change-related harms in California."

<sup>7</sup> [Chevron's Global Destruction: Ecocide, Genocide and Corruption](#), Dr. Nan Greer, May 2021

<sup>8</sup> [A clear danger oil spill in California city revives calls to cut ties with Chevron](#), The Guardian, Feb. 2021

<sup>9</sup> [Chevron's Environmental Crimes: 13 Years of Evasion and Escalation](#), Amazon Watch, February 2024

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.ipmsdl.org/uncategorized/peoples-of-the-world-resist-chevron-chevron-out-of-the-cordillera-philippines-now/>

<sup>11</sup> [Social Principles: The Economic Community | UMC.org](#)

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.umcjustice.org/latest/church-and-society-spring-2025-board-meeting-highlights-5125>

## Resolution for California-Nevada Conference Fossil Fuel Divestment

Submitted by: Climate Justice Ministries Task Force

Number of Members: 15

Members present when voting: 11

Members voting for: 11

Members voting against: 0

Date adopted: April 26, 2025

Contact person: Sharon Delgado, Contact Email: [sharondelgado@earth-justice.org](mailto:sharondelgado@earth-justice.org)

Fiscal Impact: Unknown

Parliamentary Procedure in Legislative Section B Pursuant to Standing Rule I.C.5.

### Resolution:

- 1 Be it resolved that the California-Nevada Annual Conference will endeavor to meet the goal that all
- 2 California-Nevada Conference boards and agencies investment portfolios will be transitioned to “fossil
- 3 free” through screening out companies that own coal, oil, and gas reserves<sup>1</sup> and companies whose core
- 4 business<sup>2</sup> is to produce coal, oil, and gas.<sup>3</sup> Investments in “low carbon” portfolios (containing under 2%
- 5 of such companies) can be seen as an interim goal as we move toward investments that are fossil free.
- 6 Be it further resolved that using the definition of “fossil free” given above, the goal for Conference boards
- 7 and agencies is that by the 2026 Annual Conference Session, they would be fully transitioned to fossil free
- 8 or transitioned to “low carbon” with a plan and timeline for transitioning to fossil free.
- 9 Be it further resolved that the Council on Finance and Administration will report on California-Nevada’s
- 10 progress on fossil fuel divestment at the 2026 Annual Conference Session.

### Background:

In June 2024, the California-Nevada Annual Conference Session Annual passed a Recommendation that called for the Conference Council on Finance and Administration to host a Summit on Fossil Fuel Divestment. This Summit was held at the Conference Center on March 25-26, 2025. The purpose of the Summit was to: 1) to “uphold best practices for investment management,” 2) to “identify sound financial strategies to screen out fossil fuels from our conference investment portfolios,” and 3) to “make a report, including recommendations, to the 2025 Annual Conference.” The Summit was geared toward Cal-Nevada boards and agencies with investment portfolios, but presentations were livestreamed and recorded. Watch here: [Summit Presentations on Fossil Fuel Divestment](#).<sup>4</sup>

The Summit on Fossil Fuel Divestment demystified the issue of fossil fuel divestment and offered practical information and guidance to identify sound financial strategies to screen out fossil fuels from our Conference investment portfolios. In addition, the spiritual and moral reasons for divesting from fossil fuels, the primary cause of climate change, are clear. Jesus said, “Do to others as you would have them do to you” (Luke 6:31). In “The General Rules,” John Wesley said, “First: By doing no harm, by avoiding evil of every kind, especially that which is most generally practiced....” In secular terms, as Rev. Jim Antal reminded us, the simplest moral reason is that “It is wrong to profit from wrecking the planet.”

Key points acknowledged and discussed during the summit:

- The extraction and burning of fossil fuels is actively harming people and planet;
- There are sound moral and biblical principles to support divesting from fossil fuels;
- Funds divested from fossil fuels are already available at Wespath, demonstrating a commitment to the good management of fossil-free, socially responsible investments:

<sup>1</sup> The [MSCI Ex Fossil Fuels Index](#) identifies funds that exclude fossil fuels, and some divestment efforts use this metric: either the company owns reserves or it doesn't.

<sup>2</sup> According to Wespath's explanation on [Investment Exclusions](#), a "core business" is one that accounts for 10% or more of a company's revenue derived from the objectionable products and/or services and discontinuing the activity would materially change the nature of the company's operations.

<sup>3</sup> Wespath's Social Values Choice funds exclude companies that own reserves but also those that engage in “production” of coal, oil, or gas. This resolution proposes to use the same standard for “fossil free” funds as Wespath.

<sup>4</sup> Speakers included: Bishop Sandra Olewine, [William Morris, from the California-Pacific Annual Conference, an organizer with GreenFaith and Young Evangelicals for Climate Action \(YECA\)](#), [The Rev. Jim Antal, author of \*Climate Church, Climate World\*](#), [Jake Barnett from Wespath](#), [Julia Frisbie, Executive Director of the Faith Foundation Northwest](#), and [Daniel Cohn, analyst for Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis](#). The order of the speakers on the recording is as follows: 00:00 Burke Owens (Intro), 2:51 Bishop Sandra K. Olewine, 11:55 William Morris, 1:25:47 Jim Antal, 2:12:26 Jake Barnett, 2:36:31 Julia Frisbee, 3:04:00 Daniel Cohn.

- A growing number of local churches and annual conferences are opting to invest in fossil free funds, and many fossil-free investment portfolios have outperformed their non-fossil-free counterparts, creating increased earnings to support ministry;
- Oil and gas investments have chronically underperformed in the market, and engagement with oil and gas companies has proved to be a failing strategy.

Following the public presentations, representatives of boards and agencies holding investments made by members or churches in the California-Nevada UM Conference met for discussion. They committed themselves to working with their agencies to achieve the goal of “fossil free.” They agreed that each board and agency would report back by May 1, 2025 to the Conference Council on Finance and Administration on their plans for transitioning investments out of fossil fuels. Their statement began with the following acknowledgement:

“We agree that fossil fuels continue to drive climate change and that their production and usage harms the planet, especially poor and minority communities and countries. For these reasons, swiftly moving toward renewable forms of energy and away from fossil fuels is a crucial issue. To be faithful stewards of creation is to honor the planet and the people who live on it.”

## Recommendation on Green Teams

Submitted by: Climate Justice Ministries Task Force

Number of Members: 15

Members present when voting: 12

Members voting for: 12

Members voting against: 0

Date adopted: April 15, 2025

Contact person: Joan Pell, Chair ([climatejustice@cnumc.org](mailto:climatejustice@cnumc.org))

Fiscal Impact: None

Parliamentary Procedure in Legislative Section B Pursuant to Standing Rule I.C.5.

### Recommendation:

- 1 Be it resolved that the California-Nevada Annual Conference affirms creation care and climate justice as a
- 2 missional priority and a part of the Core Team's vision of healing the world.
  
- 3 Be it further resolved that the California-Nevada Annual Conference adopts and commits itself to adopting
- 4 the 2024 General Conference Resolution 5112 on Green Team Formation; and
  
- 5 Be it further resolved that the Bishop, District Superintendents, Executive Directors, the Caretakers of
- 6 God's Creation Coordinator, and members of the Core Team shall all publicly, and regularly, urge and
- 7 support the formation of green teams, or equivalent, in local churches for action in the four areas of
- 8 connection, education, action and advocacy; and
  
- 9 Be it further resolved that the District Superintendents make inquiries at annual charge conferences as to
- 10 the creation care and climate justice actions that the local church has taken in the past year and that
- 11 these actions be communicated to the Climate Justice Ministries Task Force and the Caretakers of God's
- 12 Creation Coordinator in order that they can be celebrated and used as an idea exchange and inspiration
- 13 throughout the connection.

### Background:

God created the earth and charged humankind with its stewardship (Genesis 1–2).

“We recognize the inherent worth of God’s creation, celebrate earth’s abundance and diversity, and, along with the entirety of the cosmos, give praise to its Creator. We recognize we are interconnected members of complex ecosystems, intricate webs of life, all of which have their origins in God’s gracious act of creation.”  
From *The Community of all Creation* in The United Methodist Revised Social Principles.

The 2024 General Conference of The United Methodist Church adopted a revised set of Social Principles including ¶160.1 *The Community of All Creation*. In addition, several new creation care / climate justice pieces of legislation were adopted, and some previous resolutions were also amended and/or readopted:

New or modified paragraphs in the BOD:

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| ¶254     | Green teams  |
| ¶603.4   | Sustainable ACS  |
| ¶628.2   | Conference Caretakers of God’s Creation Coordinator position           |
| ¶2533.8  | Annual carbon footprint or greenhouse gas emissions audit              |
| ¶2550.11 | Report to Charge Conference about carbon neutral progress and timeline |

New resolutions:

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 1214 | Church Land Use  |
| 1215 | Commitment to Net Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions  |
| 1216 | Recognizing United Methodist Support for Global Green New Deal Initiatives and Legislative Efforts |
| 1217 | Use of Plastic   |
| 5112 | Green Team Formation   |

Amended & Readopted resolutions:

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 1101 | World's Population and the Church's response |
| 1120 | Energy Policy Statement                      |
| 1200 | Environmental Racism in the US               |
| 1211 | Protection of Water                          |

Readopted resolutions:

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 1100 | Environmental Health                                      |
| 1110 | Climate Change & the Church's Response                    |
| 1210 | Law of the Sea  |
| 1212 | Principles for Just & Sustainable Extraction & Production |
| 1213 | Caring for Creation: A Call for Stewardship & Justice     |

This recommendation is about the changes to ¶254 and the new resolution 5112.

- **¶254**  
*In order to fulfil the mission of the local church, the charge conference may elect annually a coordinator or ministry group chairperson for any or all of these areas: ... green teams ...*
- **Resolution 5112** includes the statement:  
*That every local church, charge, cluster, or district is urged to create a “green team” or strengthen an existing one for action in four areas each year—Worship, Education, Practice, and Advocacy—providing children, youth, and adults of all ages with inspiration, knowledge, encouragement, and practical means for caring for creation and justice.*

Resolution 5112 uses the terms “*Worship, Education, Practice, and Advocacy.*” The Climate Justice Ministries Task Force uses the terms “*connection, education, action and advocacy,*” and covers worship under connection.

The Climate Justice Ministries Task Force has a new website [climate-cnumc.org](http://climate-cnumc.org) with lots of help for Green Teams at [climate-cnumc.org/greenteams](http://climate-cnumc.org/greenteams). Members of the Task Force are also available to offer help and advice, along with the Conference Caretakers of God's Creation Coordinator.