



Why Act on Climate? Because Black Lives Matter.

This July, the African Methodist Episcopal Church—the oldest Protestant denomination founded by African Americans—became the latest religious body to pass a [resolution](#) on climate change.

Many religious groups have issued statements about the urgency of environmental stewardship in an age of global warming and the need for action on behalf of those who suffer most: the world's poor—the "least of these" in the language of Christian scriptures.



But the AME resolution is striking for how it directly connects the struggles of the global poor with the plight of low income communities and communities of color right here at home, who disproportionately live near coal-fired power plants and bear the worst consequences of our fossil fuel-based energy economy:

"[C]limate change puts the health of children, elderly, and those with chronic illnesses like asthma at greater risk and disproportionately impacts African Americans, especially Black children who are twice as likely as white children to be hospitalized and four times as likely to die from asthma."

Yes, you read that correctly. *Black children are four times as likely to die from asthma as white children.*

The connection between those suffering far away and those suffering nearby is obvious to many, yet it bears repeating. The "least of these" includes not

just people in the developing world, people who are starving, and other favorite targets of first world benevolence. It also includes people everywhere who have been systematically oppressed, marginalized and disenfranchised.

This connection bears repeating until the phrase "Black Lives Matter" becomes as uncontroversial as the notion that people of faith have a duty to love our neighbors, *especially the least of these*.

If we're doing it right, acting on climate and pursuing social justice go hand in hand. If these issues matter to you, please get in touch and join our work!



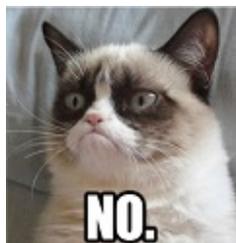
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Does your congregation love wasting money on utility bills? If so, *don't join this program!* In partnership with Consumers Energy, we are connecting houses of worship with [FREE energy analyses and efficiency upgrades](#). Available in Grand Rapids, Muskegon, Flint, Jackson, and Saginaw areas only. Call 248-463-8811 or e-mail projectmanager@miipl.org to sign up.



Bring the whole family to the first ever [Michigan Jewish Food Festival](#), Sunday August 28 at Eastern Market in Detroit. Enjoy food, celebrate local Jewish history, and learn about the food movement that's creating a more sustainable, healthier, and more just community for all.

[Adopt a beach!](#) The Alliance for the Great Lakes is looking for groups to lead beach clean-ups throughout the state on or around September 17th. Volunteers will pick up litter and record what they have collected. **This is a great activity for a congregational Green Team or Youth Group!** Contact Jillian: jedwards@greatlakes.org or 616-850-0745 for more information.



Upcoming events:

[Michigan Jewish Food Festival, August 28, Detroit](#)



Resources

Check out our free resources-- from energy efficiency manuals to study guides on the spiritual foundations of earth care.

[Resources »](#)

Love Our Work?

Your support enables us to help faith communities become more sustainable through action, education, and advocacy.

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We have a moral responsibility to protect the Earth and love our neighbors. Help us make systemic change!

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