Dear Member of Congress:

As faith leaders, we are morally obligated to advocate on behalf of the communities that we represent and serve. We write in the name of the most vulnerable among us, including those in poverty, children, and communities of color.

The unprecedented events of 2020 – from the health and economic crises caused by the pandemic to the recent climate-related disasters across the western and southern United States – have unequally impacted vulnerable communities, and we urge Congress to respond swiftly and effectively.

The pandemic exposed an urgent need to protect human health, and this need was solidified by the subsequent release of reports from both the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis and the Senate Democrats’ Special Committee on the Climate Crisis. The anticipated costs of continued climate “business as usual” are deeply troubling. Congress has a moral duty to construct pragmatic climate proposals that protect our health, the economy, and God’s Earth for generations to come.

Many of the scenarios the Senate and House Committee reports warned of are already underway in the states where we live and work. Millions of acres across the West have been lost to tragic wildfires that endanger human life and livelihood. Strong hurricanes with life-threatening storm surge threaten our communities in along the Gulf and Atlantic Coast, with many populations continuing to grapple with increased high-tide flooding.

Marginalized and impoverished communities are disproportionately impacted by severe weather, economic adversity, and increased health risks from COVID-19. Many of these communities are among our congregants, and will continue to suffer unless provided with resources to adapt. Policies that prioritize health and climate change mitigation and adaptation must be pursued with urgency.

We are praying for an effective Congressional response to the challenges presented by both the pandemic and climate change. Through our faith we are guided by shared moral values that give precedence to safeguarding marginalized communities, protecting our children, and caring for God’s creation. We urge Congress to prioritize these goals for the good of all, including future generations.

Sincerely,

Bill Gregory, retired UCC clergy, Yarmouth, Maine
Rev. Richard Killmer, Presbyterian Church (USA), Yarmouth, Maine
Anne D. Burt, Midcoast Friends Meeting/Religious Society of Friends, Edgecomb, Maine
Jackie Moreau, Maine Sister of Mercy Justice Committee, Portland, Maine
Gary Friedmann, Congregation Beth El, Bangor, Maine
S. Kathleen M Smith, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, So Portland, Maine

Randi Talsma, Cornerstone United Methodist Church, Miami, Florida
Rev Dr Russell Meyer, Florida Council of Churches, Tampa, Florida
Rev. Dr. Neddy Astudillo, GreenFaith, Tampa, Florida
Yohann Kurzweil, Greenhouse Church, Plantation, Florida
Regina Mangrum, Greater Grant Memorial AME, Jacksonville, Florida
Marvin Clyde, Sanders II, St. Paul AME Church, Jacksonville, Florida
Sha'Reff Rashad, New Mount Moriah, Jacksonville, Florida
George C. Pratt, AME Church of the Master, Jacksonville, Florida
Harry Dawkins, New Bethel AME, Jacksonville, Florida
Louis C. Kirkland, Mother Midway AME, Jacksonville, Florida
Matti, Riley-Hayes, 2708 N Davis St, Jacksonville, Florida
George Hartsford, New Fountain Chapel AME Church, Jacksonville, Florida
Victor D. Cole, Historic Mt. Zion AME, Jacksonville, Florida
Cynthia Stockton Hartsfield, Lewis Memorial AMEC, Jacksonville, Florida
David W. Green, Sr. St. Stephen AME Church, Jacksonville, Florida
Mark L. Griffin, Wayman Temple AME Church, Jacksonville, Florida
Jeffrey K. Rumlín, Dayspring Church, Jacksonville, Florida
Marvin McQueen, First Missionary Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Florida
H.B. Charles, Jr., Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Florida
Frederick Douglas Newbill, Newbill, First Timothy Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Florida
Rudolph McKissick Jr, The Bethel Church, Jacksonville, Florida
Vaughn McLaughlin, The Potter’s House Christian Fellowship, Jacksonville, Florida
Edward Robinson, Southside Church Of God In Christ, Jacksonville, Florida
Gary Hall, West Jacksonville Church of God In Christ, Jacksonville, Florida
Burdette. E. Williams Sr. Greater New Jerusalem Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Florida
Thomas Scott, 34th Street Church of God, Tampa, Florida
Zelford Irions, Abiding Faith Church, Tampa, Florida
Randy Randolph, Abundant Life Enrichment Center, Tampa, Florida
Glenn Dames, Allen Temple Ame Church, Tampa, Florida
Roy Hayes, Anointed Word Church, Tampa, Florida
Lennox Zamore, Exciting Central Tampa Baptist Church, Tampa, Florida
Evan Burrows, First Baptist Church of College Hill, Tampa, Florida
Bernice Powell, Jackson, First United Church of Tampa, Tampa, Florida
Georg, Sadler, Fortieth St. Baptist Church, Tampa, Florida
B. R. Fulton, Jr. Greater Mount Moriah, Tampa, Florida
Benjamin M. Curry, Greater New Salem, Tampa, Florida
Delores James, Cain, Heritage Christian Community Baptist Church Inc., Tampa, Florida
Travis Smith, Hillsdale Baptist Church, Tampa, Florida
Valerie Goddard, Keeney United Methodist Church, Tampa, Florida
Lee Harris, Mt. Olive Primitive Baptist Church, Tampa, Florida
Alonzo Gamble, Mt. Vernon Primitive Baptist Church, Tampa, Florida
Reginal Webb, New Bethel Progressive Missionary Baptist Church, Tampa, Florida
Julia McMillan, New Dawn Restoration Center, , Tampa, Florida
Henry Lyons, New Salem Missionary Baptist Church, Tampa, Florida
Patricia A. Hauser, Potter's House Deliverance, Tampa, Florida
Bartholomew, Banks, Saint John Progressive Missionary Baptist Church, Tampa, Florida
John Giles, True Faith Inspirational Baptist, Tampa, Florida
Douglas Walker, Tyler Temple United Methodist Church, Tampa, Florida
G. Antoni, Smart, Victory Baptist Church, , Tampa, Florida
Johnny Cook, Word Alive Church, Tampa, Florida
Larry, Roundtree II, New Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Tampa, Florida
Aubrey Shines, G2G Ministries, Tampa, Florida
Lennox Zamore, Central Tampa Baptist Church, Tampa, Florida
Tommy Kyllonen, Crossover Church, Tampa, Florida
Ricky Polk, Greater Mt. Carmel AME, Tampa, Florida
Randy White, Without Walls International Church, Tampa, Florida
M. B. Jefferson, Deeper Life Christian Church, Tampa, Florida
Deborah Powe, Revealing Truth Ministries, Tampa, Florida
Kirk Bogen, St. Luke AME Church, Tampa, Florida
Stephen, Clifton, St. James House of Prayer Episcopal Church, Tampa, Florida
Curtis B. Crider, Mt. Calvary Seventh Day Adventist, Tampa, Florida
Willie C. Barnes, Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, Eatonville, Florida
Tommy, Wootson, Malone Memorial Church of God in Christ, Orlando, Florida
Tyrone, Jones, Mount Olive, Orlando, Florida
Robert, Spooney, Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Institutional Church, Orlando, Florida
Roy, Morrison, Mt Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church, Orlando, Florida
Mark E. Crutcher, Mt. Olive AME Church - Orlando, Orlando, Florida
Larry G. Mills, Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church, Orlando, Florida
Charles R. Jackson, Mt. Tabor AME Church, Altamonte Springs, Florida
Ronald E. Williams Sr. New Bethel, Orlando, Florida
LeRoy Rose III, New Covenant Baptist Church, Orlando, Florida
Berkley Walker, Orlando Inspirational Church Of God In Christ, Winter Springs, Florida
Tim, Johnson, Orlando World Outreach Center, Orlando, Florida
Arthur, Graham Jr. Saint Mary's Missionary Baptist Church, Orlando, Florida
Derrick A. Williams, Shiloh Baptist Church of Orlando, Orlando, Florida
Walker, Walker, Solid Rock - Orlando, Orlando, Florida
Rolous A. Frazier, St. John Baptist Missionary Church, Orlando, Florida
LaFiesta Cox, Brown, St. Lawrence, Bushnell, Florida
Terence R. Gray, St. Mark AME Church, Orlando, Florida
Melvin Mitchell, III, Tabernacle of Praise & Worship Center, Melbourne, Florida

Rev. Katie Sexton, Arizona FaithNetwork, Phoenix, Arizona
Doug Bland, Arizona Interfaith Power & Light, Tempe, Arizona
Dr. Benjamin Thomas, Tanner Chapel AME, Phoenix, Arizona
Re. Terry Mackey, Pilgrim Rest Baptist, Phoenix, Arizona
Dr. Warren Stewart, Sr, First Institutional Baptist, Phoenix, Arizona
Rev. Sherman Fort, The Word Church, Mesa, Arizona
Rev. Terry Marks, Greater Bethel AME, Phoenix, Arizona
Rev. Troy C. Allen, Sr., South Mountain Baptist Church, Phoenix, Arizona
Rev. Reginald D. Watson, Phillips Memorial Baptist Church, Phoenix, Arizona
Dr. Cathy Clardy-Patterson, Fountain of Life House of Worship, Phoenix, Arizona
Rev. Ricky Wilson, Faith Christian Center, Phoenix, Arizona
Rev. Reginald Steele, Kingdom in the Valley Community Church, Phoenix, Arizona
Dr. Cathy Clardy - Patterson, Fountain of Life House of Worship, Phoenix, Arizona
Rev. Ricky Wilson, Faith Christian Center, Phoenix, Arizona
Rev. Reginald Steele, Kingdom in the Valley Community Church, Phoenix, Arizona
Rev. Jessica Abell, Spirituality Collective/American Baptist Churches, USA, Denver, Colorado
Mark Meeks, Capitol Heights Presbyterian Church, Bailey, Colorado
Hansen Wendlandt, Nederland Community Presbyterian Church, Nederland, Colorado
Bishop Jerry Demmer, The Absolute Word Church, Denver, Colorado
Bishop Wayne McDonald, Odom Memorial COGIC, Denver, Colorado
Rev. Kevin Daniels, New Jerusalem Baptist, Fountain, Colorado
Rev. Randolph West, St. Stephens Missionary Baptist, Aurora, Colorado
Rev. Frank Davis, Zion Baptist, Denver, Colorado
Rev. Jasper Peters, Trinity UMC, Denver, Colorado
Rev. Thomas Mayes, Living Waters Christian Center, Aurora, Colorado
Bishop Acen Phillips, New Birth Baptist, Aurora, Colorado
Rev. John Tellis, Solomon Temple Baptist, Denver, Colorado
Retta Jovetta Watson, Jordan Chapel AME, Denver, Colorado
Rev. Sandra Powell, Soul Care Christian Center Church, Commerce City, Colorado
Pastor Eric Beecham, House of Joy Miracle Deliverance, Denver, Colorado
Rev. Marlon Saunders, Heritage Christian Center Church, Aurora, Colorado
Rev. Jules Smith, Rising Star Missionary Baptist, Denver, Colorado
Rev. Timothy Tyler, Shorter AME, Denver, Colorado
Rev. William Faison, Old Landmark Baptist, Denver, Colorado
Rev. Shannon Warner, True Light Baptist, Denver, Colorado
Rev. Mark Hill, Cleaves Memorial CME, Denver, Colorado
Rev. Kay Farley, Faith Community Baptist, Denver, Colorado
Rev. Paul Burleson, Friendship Christ Jesus Baptist, Denver, Colorado
Bishop Kevin Foreman, Harvest Christian Church, Denver, Colorado
Rev. Ann-Rice Jones, Rose of Sharon Tabernacle, Denver, Colorado
Rev. Alton Shields, Mt. Sinai Baptist, Denver, Colorado
Delores Reid, Harrisonburg District, United Methodist Women, Broadway, Virginia  
Karen Bragg, United Methodist Women, Lynch Station, Virginia  
Melissa White, United Methodist Women, Seaford, Virginia  
Dr. Karen McElfish, Virginia Conference United Methodist Women, Arlington, Virginia  
Mary Jane Rawley, Virginia Conference United Methodist Women, Bridgewater Virginia  
Cheryl W Moore, Mount Olivet UMC and United Methodist Women, Arlington, Virginia  
Nancy WALSH, Virginia Conference United Methodist Women, Winchester, Virginia  
Maxine Ashby, Epworth United Methodist Church, Belle Haven, Virginia  
Cheryl Umbel, WESLEY United Methodist Church, Vienna, Virginia  
Mary Dodson, United Methodist Women/Clarendon United Methodist Church, Arlington, Virginia  
Brenda NeSmith, United Methodist Church, Richmond, Virginia  
Susan Prokop, Clarendon United Methodist, Arlington Virginia  
Sarah Gabler, Clarendon United Methodist Church, Arlington, Virginia  
Neola Waller, Baylake United Methodist Women, Virginia Beach, Virginia  
Dorothy Thompson, United Methodist Women, Chesapeake, Virginia  
Jeanette Yoh, Chestnut Memorial United Methodist Church, Newport News, Virginia  
Suzanne J. Dorick, United Methodist, Springfield, Virginia  
Marlene Dakita, Lincolnia United Methodist Church and United Methodist Women, Alexandria, Virginia  
Carol Pratt, St. John's United Methodist Church/Methodist, Springfield, Virginia  
Karlene Masters, Fairlington United Methodist Church, Arlington, Virginia  
Sharon M Summers, Keezletown United Methodist Church, Keezletown, Virginia  
Doreen DeVore, United Methodist Women- Virginia Conference, Harrisonburg Virginia  
Jane Bren, River Road UMC, Richmond, Virginia  
Granger Flythe, Emanuel AME Church, Portsmouth, Virginia  
Phylis Whichard, St Paul AME, Portsmouth, Virginia  
Vernon L. Ricks, St John's AME, Norfolk, Virginia  
Eugenia Bowser, The New Saint James AME Church, Norfolk, Virginia  
Ronald J. Knight, Union Chapel AME Church, Norfolk, Virginia  
Herbert Watkins, The AME Zion Church, Norfolk, Virginia  
Sharon Riley, Faith Deliverance Church Of God In Christ, Norfolk, Virginia  
Melvin Brooks, Fairfield Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia  
Micah Jackson, Seventh Street Memorial Baptist, Richmond, Virginia  
Michael Moore, Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia  
Michael Sanders, Mount Olive Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia  
Kenneth Sheppard, St Stephen's Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia  
Anthony Michael, Chandler, Cedar Street Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia  
Roscoe D. Cooper Jr, Metropolitan African American Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia  
Ralph Hodge, Second Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia  
Herbert L. Ponder, Mount Tabor Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia  
Louis G. Jones, Gravel Hill Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia  
Pastor Simpkins, Impact Church of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia  
Kathy Smith, Cathedral Of Prayer, Richmond, Virginia  
Orrin Pullings, United Nations Church, Richmond, Virginia  
Leon Benjamin, New Life Harvest Church, Richmond, Virginia
Diana Elston, Word In Seasons Ministry Family & Life Center, Norfolk, Virginia
Mike Farris, Urban Discovery Ministries, Norfolk, Virginia
Marvin Smith, Faith In Action, Norfolk, Virginia
Waylon Sears, Victory Worship Center, Norfolk, Virginia
Ed Haywood, Tabernacle Church Of Norfolk, Norfolk, Virginia
George Chavis, Greater Grace Ministries, Norfolk, Virginia
Jerome James, Healing Word Fellowship Church, Norfolk, Virginia
Al Jones, Revelation International, Norfolk, Virginia
Joyce Scott, Tabernacle Worship Center, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Ricky Crews, Green Run Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Luther S. Allen, First Lynnhaven Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Daniel Mackey, Plaza Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia
James Booker, New Light Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Brent Patrick, Gateway Freewill Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Steven Swisher, Essential Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Tyrone L. Johnson, New Oak Grove Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Timothy D. MacDonald, Bible Believers Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia
John Nixon, Bayside Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia
John Blanchard, Rock Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Michael Simone, Spring Branch Community Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Kerry A. Smith, Discipleship Tabernacle, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Darryl D. Grimes, Harvest The World Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Clarence McPherson, Turning Point Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Jim Blanchard, Rivers Of Living Water Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Terry Shuttlesworth, Dominion Christian Center, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Curran Hunter, New Beginnings Christian Outreach Ministries, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Jeffrey L. Redd, New Life House Of Prayer Cof Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Evelyn Puckett, Open Door Chapel, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Josh Childress, Kempsville Christian Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Johnny Magee, Christian House of Prayer, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Ricky Hocker, Freedom Fellowship, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Naman Potts, Bread of Heaven, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Thomas Powell, Cal Virginia Chapel Southside, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Dawna Gray, Free Spirit Worship Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Peter Daley, New Hope Christian Fellowship, Virginia Beach, Virginia
James Hodges, Eternal Life Ministries, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Jody Williams, Beach Fellowship, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Leon Dunning, Salt Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Carl Johnson, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Alexandria, Virginia
James Victor, Mount Olive Baptist Church, Arlington, Virginia

Emma Childs, Christmount Assembly, Disciples of Christ, Black Mountain, North Carolina
Avery Davis Lamb, Duke Divinity School, Creation Justice Ministries, Emmaus Way Congregation, Durham, North Carolina
Sister Rose Marie Tresp, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Belmont, North Carolina
Susannah Tuttle, North Carolina Council of Churches/North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light,
Cary, North Carolina
Dr. Peter M., Wherry, Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina
Dr. George Cook, Jr., Greater Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina
Dr. Claude Alexander, Jr, University Park Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina
Dr. Leonzo D. Lynch, Ebenezer Baptist Church of Charlotte, Charlotte, North Carolina
Rev. Norman E. Kerry Jr, Chappell Memorial Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina
Dr. Fred Gibson, Greater Providence Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina
Ken Simmons, Harbor Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina
Dr. Dennis Williams, Faith Memorial Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina
Thomas R. Farrow, Jr., Reeder Memorial Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina
Dr. Clifford Jones, Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina
Donnie R. Garris, Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina
Rev J.E. Edwards, Sr., First Mount Zion Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina
Dr. Robert Scott, St. Paul Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina
Dr. Jerry Cannon, C N Jenkins Memorial Presbyterian Church, Charlotte
Lorenzo R. Small, Sr., First United Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, North Carolina
Dr. Gregory Busby, McClintock Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, North Carolina
Albert W. Moses, Matthews Murkland Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, North Carolina
Rev. Dr. Abdue, Knox, Greater Bethel AME Church, Charlotte, North Carolina
Rev. Jordan B. Boyd, Rockwell A.M.E. Zion Church, Charlotte, North Carolina
Rev. Henrico D. White, Weeping Willow A.M.E. Zion Church, Charlotte, North Carolina
Rev. Dr. Raymon E. Hunt, Moore’s Sanctuary AME Zion Church, Charlotte, North Carolina
Rev. Dr. Sheldon R. Shipman, Greenville Memorial AME Zion Church, Charlotte, North Carolina
Ralph Williamson, Clinton Chapel AME Zion Church, Charlotte, North Carolina
Pastor David A. Williams, Greater Gethsemane AME Zion Church, Charlotte, North Carolina
Dr. Monte Witherspoon-Brown, Steele Creek A.M.E. Zion Church, Charlotte, North Carolina
Dr. Wayne Walker, Little Rock AME Zion, Charlotte, North Carolina
Pastor Mark Rowden, PhD, Savannah Missionary Baptist Church, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Dr. Carl E. Brinkley, Jr., Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Frederick Hill, Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Hamid Kamar, Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Dr. Taijuan O. Fuller, Beauty Spot Missionary Baptist Church, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Dr Reginald A. Wells, Falling Run Missionary Baptist Church, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Fredrick D. Culbreth, First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Rev. John Fuller, Lewis Chapel Baptist Church, Fayetteville, North Carolina, North Carolina
Rev. Dr. Vincent M., Meares, Mt. Hebrew AME Zion Church, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Pastor Steve Wilson, St. John AME Zion Church, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Brian R. Thompson, Sr., Simon Temple AME Zion Church, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Rev. Darin M. Coleman, New Bethel AME Zion Church, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Rev. Dr. Orin Gill, Sr, St Luke AME Church, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Rev. Dwight Omar, Neely, Gardners Chapel AME Zion Church, Fayetteville, North Carolina
John Morrison, Mt. Zion AME Zion Church, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Rev Andre D. Ivy, Shiloh United Church of Christ, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Supt. Larry A. Bellamy, Pentecostal Temple COGIC, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Pastor Ben Simmons Jr., Faith Consulate, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Pastor Gary Allen, Sr., Word Of God Christian Center, Fayetteville, North Carolina
E.B. and Rosa Herman, Harvest Family Church, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Dr. T.L. Davenport, Family Fellowship Worship Center, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Karen L. Evans, New Life Ministries, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Riley Halliday, Manna Church, Fayetteville, North Carolina
William T. Ford, Sr., Kingdom Impact Global Ministries, Fayetteville, North Carolina
R T McKinney, Jr., Redeeming Love Family Church, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Ernest W. Jones, True Vine Ministries, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Dr. Antonio B. Jones, Jones Ministries International, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Joshua Goodman, Cliffdale Christian Center, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Gerald W. Champion, Helen Street Church of Christ, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Clarence D. Everett, Sr., Apostolic Lighthouse Pentecostal Holiness Church, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Dr. Sherwin R. Callwood Sr., Fayetteville - Abney Chapel SDA Church, Fayetteville, North Carolina