

1 **Document: 700.01**
2 **Name: Creation Care Action Resolution**
3 **Author(s): Harriette Cross and Richard Alton**
4 **CCFA Action:**

5 **ACTION:**

- 6 1. We, the people and churches of the Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist
7 Church, confess our failure to properly steward God’s earth;
- 8 2. Prayerfully ask for God’s help in restoring Creation;
- 9 3. Join our Bishops, denominational Boards and Commissions in committing to net-zero greenhouse
10 gas emissions by 2050; and
- 11 4. Encourage every local church to host a “Creation Care Worship Service” on the Sunday before or
12 after Earth Day (April 22) to remind us through word and deed that we are bound to each other
13 cellularly and socially, holding and being held in the web of relations, honoring each species
14 extinction as a death of divinity. In conjunction with the green service, there will be a creation
15 care study.

16 **RATIONALE:**

17 In November 2025, the Council of Bishops reaffirmed the biblical call to care for creation, recalling
18 God’s covenant with Noah in Genesis 9:16. In this covenant, God promises no harm to humanity or
19 creation, and we, as followers of God, are likewise called to do no harm and to care for all that God has
20 made. This covenantal relationship compels us to act as faithful stewards, protecting the health and
21 goodness of the earth and resisting harm caused by greed, neglect, or inattention. Building on prior
22 statements, the Council emphasizes that now is a critical time to renew our commitment to creation care.

23 The urgency of this moment is clear. In 2024, global temperatures rose to an average of 1.55°C,
24 exceeding the 1.5°C threshold identified in the 2015 Paris Agreement. Scientific reporting has linked
25 rising temperatures to increased mortality, pollution, wildfires, and the spread of disease. While developed
26 nations bear the greatest responsibility, the most severe impacts fall on those who contributed least—
27 developing countries, communities of color, economically vulnerable populations, children, and future
28 generations. We can no longer ignore our covenantal responsibility to care for creation and one another.

29 The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church affirm this urgency, acknowledging that
30 unsustainable human activity has placed all creation in peril. They name climate change, ecosystem
31 destruction, fossil fuel dependence, environmental racism, food injustice, and environmental toxins, and
32 call us to adopt sustainable and just practices as an expression of faithful stewardship.

33 The 2024 General Conference further calls the Church to action. We committed to organizing at least one
34 church-wide creation care initiative annually and to engaging in ongoing study for deeper understanding
35 of creation care and justice.

36 This resolution encourages congregations to respond through faithful, practical action in four key areas:

37 **Worshipping:** incorporating weekly prayers for creation; observing Earth Day; hosting prayer vigils;
38 offering outdoor worship; developing creation-focused liturgy; and sharing testimonies connecting faith
39 and care for the earth.

40 **Educating:** offering Bible studies and programs on creation care; hosting discussions or films; engaging
41 children and adults in nature experiences; inviting speakers on local environmental issues; fostering cross-
42 cultural learning about environmental justice; and utilizing denominational resources and training
43 opportunities.

44 **Practicing:** reducing waste and eliminating single-use plastics; conserving water and energy; exploring
45 renewable energy sources; creating gardens, green spaces, and pollinator habitats; recycling and
46 composting; improving building efficiency; and engaging in community-based environmental efforts such
47 as clean-up projects or shared gardens.

48 **Speaking Up:** encouraging congregational awareness of environmental issues; communicating with
49 decision-makers; organizing advocacy efforts; collaborating with other churches and community partners;
50 and integrating sustainability into church planning and decision-making.

51 Through these actions, congregations embody their covenant with God and participate in the healing and
52 restoration of creation. This work is essential to our identity as people of faith, called not only to do no
53 harm, but to actively seek the flourishing of all creation.

1 **Document: 702.04**
2 **Name: Elimination of The United Methodist Ministers Credit Union**
3 **Author(s): Conference Board of Trustees; Annual Conference Shepherding Team**
4 **CCFA Action:**

5 **ACTION:**

6 In the Standing Rules, Section IV Conference Relations, G. The United Methodist Ministers Credit
7 Union, delete the whole paragraph:

8 ~~G. THE UNITED METHODIST MINISTERS CREDIT UNION~~
9 ~~(or a successor organization with a different name)~~

10 ~~The Credit Union is recognized as a service to the members of Northern Illinois Conference and its~~
11 ~~policies and operation are approved as they apply to the members of the Conference.~~

12 **RATIONALE:**

13 The United Methodist Ministers Credit Union doesn't exist, and the successor organization has not
14 maintained a relationship with The United Methodist Church.