

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Kitchener Ontario Stake

April 15th, 2021

Dear Faith Climate Justice Waterloo Region,

We are writing to express both thanks and our support for the initiatives and efforts of Faith Climate Justice Waterloo Region.

Since the policies of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints do not permit us to make use of church facilities for displays or events that have a political or social activist nature, we are unable to hang the requested banner, so we have chosen instead to provide this letter to express our solidarity with your desire to impress upon civic leaders the urgent importance of dealing effectively and justly with climate change and the challenges it presents both globally and locally for the prospect of ensuring a sustainable future for all people. You are invited to include this letter of support when making delegations or other submissions and requests to civic leaders and government councils.

ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

As members of the Church of Jesus Christ, we believe that we and all people will be held accountable for how we treat one another, the communities in which we live, and the land that surrounds us, even the earth itself. We agree that this stewardship has never been more urgent. As stated by one of our Church leaders in a speech entitled, "The Moral Imperative of Environmental Stewardship,"

Our generation, more than any other, has the ability to irretrievably change the land. Financial rewards provide tremendous pressure to unleash our technology to reinvent our surroundings. There will be growth; change will come. But failure to care for the land on which we live means turning our backs on the heritage laid down carefully and at such great cost by our forefathers—and will leave us immeasurably poorer.

Our current Church president, Dr. Russell M. Nelson, has also succinctly said,

As beneficiaries of the divine Creation, what shall we do? We should care for the earth, be wise stewards over it, and preserve it for future generations.

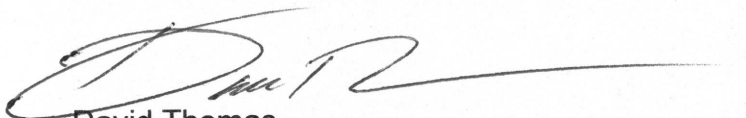
As noted in the vision statement on the Faith Climate Justice Waterloo Region website, “addressing climate change will take many types of action.” The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints supports such measures as increasing energy efficiency, using cleaner, affordable renewable energy, and helping to ensure a healthy, sustainable environment for all. In many of its older buildings, it has installed more energy efficient lighting and low-flow toilets; some newer structures have been designed to rely solely on solar energy; landscape design at Church buildings is designed to minimize water use; at the impressive Temple Square complex in Salt Lake City, Utah, a recycled water system is employed. Similar principles and practices are applied to newer construction worldwide. The Church promotes sustainable food production techniques and both personal and community gardening (a community garden has been in place for several years at the Church’s Kitchener Stake Centre at the corner of Bleams and Strasburg Roads). Members of the Church are encouraged to adopt lifestyles and habits that conserve resources, minimize waste, improve sustainability, and strengthen healthy self-reliance. We believe these practices are wise and beneficial for all people, and encourage and support all efforts to establish and increase such practices in our society.

CARING FOR THE VULNERABLE

As followers of Jesus Christ, we also believe deeply in the divine instruction to love and care for one another. The Book of Mormon, Another Testament of Jesus Christ, which we consider a companion book of scripture with The Holy Bible, teaches that Church members are to “bear one another’s burdens, ... mourn with those that mourn ..., and comfort those that stand in need of comfort”. The general handbook of instructions for Church leaders states, “Caring for those who have temporal needs is part of the work of salvation.” Therefore, we share the concerns of all people of goodwill for those who are without shelter, food-security, and safety in our region, and we support the emphasis placed by Faith Climate Justice Waterloo Region on keeping such concerns front-of-mind while our society strives to increase sustainability through conservation, carbon reduction, and other efforts, and to revive the economy following the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are thankful for the efforts of the organizers and other supporters of Faith Climate Justice Waterloo Region, and appreciate their invitation to express in this way our solidarity and support for their important and valuable objectives.

With sincere thanks and appreciation.



David Thomas
Kitchener Stake President
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints