

The Sandy Cove Covenant and Invitation
June 28-30, 2004

We are a gathering of evangelical Christians who provide institutional, pastoral, and intellectual leadership in a wide variety of life settings. We have come together at Sandy Cove, Maryland in order to pray, reflect, and learn together about our role as stewards of God's creation. We are convinced that God has moved among us in our time together over these three days.

We represent a variety of perspectives and varying levels of expertise about environmental issues. Some of us have given our entire lives to caring for all of God's creation, while for others the issue is a new one. For all of us, this meeting has resulted in a deepening of our concern about God's creation, a joyful sense of community, and a desire to work together on these issues in days ahead.

In reflecting on Scripture and on the pressing environmental problems that beset our world, we are persuaded that we must not evade our responsibility to care for God's creation. We recognize that there is much more we need to learn, and much more praying we need to do, but that we know enough to know that there is no turning back from engaging the threats to God's creation.

We feel called of God to covenant together to move the work of creation-care ahead in a variety of ways. Therefore:

We covenant together to make creation-care a permanent dimension of our Christian discipleship and to deepen our theological and biblical understanding of the issues involved.

We covenant together to draw upon the very best and most trustworthy resources that can help us understand the particular environmental challenges we face today, as well as promising solutions, as fully and accurately as possible.

We covenant together to share our growing knowledge and concern about these issues with other members of our constituencies.

We invite our brothers and sisters in Christ to engage with us the most pressing environmental questions of our day, such as health threats to families and the unborn, the negative effects of environmental degradation on the poor, God's endangered creatures, and the important current debate about human-induced climate change. We covenant together to engage the evangelical community in a discussion about the question of climate change with the goal of reaching a consensus statement on the subject in twelve months.

Our continuing goal is to motivate the evangelical community to fully engage environmental issues in a biblically faithful and humble manner, collaborating with those who share these concerns, that we might take our appropriate place in the healing of God's creation, and thus the advance of God's reign.

Signatories*

*Please Note: Institutional affiliation provided for information purposes only.
Signatories do so as individuals and not as representatives of their institutions.

Rev. Peter Borgdorff, Executive Director, Christian Reformed Church

Rev. Paul Cedar, Chair, Mission America

Rev. Richard Cizik, VP of Governmental Affairs, National Association of Evangelicals

Andy Crouch, Columnist, *Christianity Today*

Dr. Cal DeWitt, President, Au Sable Institute of Environmental Studies

Rev. Barrett Duke, VP for Public Policy & Research, Southern Baptist Ethics Commission

Adrienne Gaines, News Editor, *Charisma* magazine
Dr. Dave Gushee, Professor, Union University
Rev. Ted Haggard, President, National Association of Evangelicals
Rev. Dave Holdren, General Superintendent, Wesleyan Church
Sir John Houghton, Chairman, John Ray Initiative
Dr. Cheryl Johns, Professor, Church of God Theological Seminary
Jennifer Jukanovich, Founder & Chairperson, The Vine
Rev. Jo Anne Lyon, Executive Director, World Hope
Dr. Ron Mahurin, VP for Campus Programs & Communications, Council for Christian Colleges and Universities
Rev. Dwight McKissic, Senior Pastor, Cornerstone Baptist Church
Rev. Brian McLaren, Emergent
David Neff, Editor, *Christianity Today*
Shelly Ngo, Dir. of Publications, World Vision
Michael Nyenhuis, President, MAP International
Rev. Paul Risser, Former President, FourSquare Church
Rev. Ron Sider, President, Evangelicals for Social Action
Mark Smith, Dir. of Disaster Response, World Relief
Dr. Howard Snyder, Prof., Asbury Seminary
Rev. Roy Taylor, Stated Clerk, Presbyterian Church in America
Rev. Bob Wenz, VP of Natl. Ministries, National Association of Evangelicals
Bruce Wilkinson, VP of International Programs, World Vision
John Wilson, Editor, Books & Culture, *Christianity Today*
Rev. Jim Ball, Ex. Dir., Evangelical Environmental Network