Climate Action at the Parliament in 2019

UN ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY
Held every two years, this is the world’s highest-level decision-making body on the environment. The Parliament received accreditation to UNEA as a civil society organization in 2018. Members of the CATF represented the Parliament and presented a program on “Faith, Global Ethics and Climate Commitments.”

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RELIGIONS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (UN), VATICAN CITY
The CATF was represented as the Vatican co-hosted the International Conference on Religions and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The purpose of the Conference was to discuss the contribution that religions can make to implement the SDGs.

CLIMATE COMMITMENTS PROJECT WEB HUB
The virtual face of the CCP, with four areas: EXPLORE (global map), COLLABORATE (platform for sharing resources), ASSESS (climate metrics), and CELEBRATE (inspiration from religious traditions).

LOKA INITIATIVE’S ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM
The Loka Initiative is a new education and outreach platform for faith leaders and religious institutions at the University of Wisconsin whose mission is to support faith-led environmental and climate efforts locally and around the world by helping build capacity of faith leaders and culture keepers of indigenous traditions, and by creating new opportunities for projects, partnerships, and public outreach. Members of the CATF attended the symposium.

LAUNCH OF THE FAITH AND CLIMATE WEBINAR SERIES
In partnership with the Security and Sustainability Forum (SSF), a public interest organization that produces learning events about climate security (www.ssfonline.org) and with support from the Hanley Foundation. The series brings together faith leaders, experts and climate activists from all sectors and traditions. It focuses on the ethical and religious implications of the escalating climate challenge and the actions being taken by people of faith to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, address the consequences of climate change, and carry forward an effective transition to a low-carbon economy and lifestyle. Panelists present their perspectives on specific issues and answer questions from the audience of online participants. All webinars are archived so they can be viewed later. We launched the series with a first installment on Juliana vs. US, the youth climate lawsuit, and a second installment on Laudato Si’.

LAUNCH OF THE CLIMATE ACTION WEBFORUM
It now includes postings of essays and lectures, statements, reports, links and poetry. Some of these tie into the topics of the Faith and Climate Webinar Series. The Climate Forum receives comments from online readers.
CO-ORGANIZER FOR INTERFAITH CONSULTATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE DURING THE UN CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT
On September 24, the Parliament was a co-organizer of the “Interfaith Consultation on the Climate Emergency - Faith-based Organizations Raising Ambition, Leaving No One Behind.” In conjunction with the UN Climate Action Summit, this conference was attended by over 125 key persons from diverse faith-based climate action groups. Breakout sessions discussed “Climate Justice,” “Climate Migration,” “Climate Change Loss and Damage,” “Climate Emergency Declarations,” and “2019 and Beyond.”

THIRD ANNUAL INTERFAITH CLIMATE WEEK RECEPTION
This event was hosted at his residence by the Most Reverend Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church of the USA; the event was co-sponsored by the Parliament and the Episcopal Church. Members of the Episcopal Church and the Parliament’s Climate Commitments Project Partners spoke about their work; the evening was said to be “inspiring” by many of the 75 attendees.

WEBINAR WITH THE SECURITY AND SUSTAINABILITY FORUM
Providing expert practical guidance to faith communities on their energy conservation and transition. The discussion featured the participation of Elisabeth Graffy, Professor of Practice, School for the Future of Innovation in Society at Arizona State University and founder of the Sustainability Education and Energy Knowledge-sharing (SEEK) Project, Jerry Lawson, National Manager, ENERGY STAR for Congregations program of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Thayer Tomlinson, Program Manager, Energy & Security Group.

LAUNCH OF THE GLOBAL CONVERSATIONS
A series of dynamic discussions on climate change with a diverse global interfaith community -

FAITH FOR EARTH
The Parliament completed its Memorandum of Understanding with UN Environment to re-publish Earth and Faith: A Book of Reflection for Action, an introduction to religion and the environment published by UNEP in 2000 that reached a wide audience and has had lasting impact. The proposal for a revised edition had been in development since February in collaboration with Iyad Abu Moghli, with grants and support from UNEP and from the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology (FORE) by CATF members Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim. Tatiana Brailovskaya is Chief Editor with David Hales and Kusumita Pedersen as Co-editors.

A CLIMATE IN CRISIS: THE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE IN A WARMING WORLD
This half-day conference was co-sponsored by the Parliament and organized by the Unitarian Universalist Office at the United Nations, of which Parliament Trustee Bruce Knotts is the Director. Other Co-sponsors included the NGO Committee on Sustainability NY, United Nations Association USA, and the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for the Earth.