

PMV Moderator's Report Nov 2024

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I thank all of you for the privilege of being the PMV Moderator. I hope that I fulfill your expectations and do let me know if there is more you would like me to do.

On October 27, I had the privilege of participating in the Installation of Rev Annie Melick. An Installation is a wonderfully encouraging event and I am delighted to experience the love and warmth given to our pastors, such as Annie, in their churches and in PMV.

Earth Care is my term's emphasis. "Over the past year, we've experienced the hottest year on record, the hottest ocean temperatures on record, and a seemingly endless string of heat waves, droughts, floods, wildfires and storms," said Rick Spinrad, administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "We must recognize that these are **clear signals of the damage carbon dioxide pollution** is doing to the climate system." The biggest contributors to carbon dioxide pollution are from burning fossil fuels for transportation, electricity and heat.

In addition, in Louisiana, fossil fuel and petrochemical industry practices have created an area between New Orleans and Baton Rouge that is known as "Cancer Alley" which has devastated the health, lives, and environment of residents. Cancer Alley has the highest risk of cancer from industrial air pollution in the United States. The area is home to about a quarter of the country's petrochemical production, including oil refineries, pipelines, and other gas and oil operations. The Human Rights Watch has dubbed this a '**sacrifice zone**' implying the lives of those in Cancer Alley is the price the fossil fuel and petrochemical industry feels justified in sacrificing to reap benefits. Sadly, both state and federal government agencies have failed to enforce laws and mandates.

We have been given the task of caring for the earth not abusing the earth. Presbyterians must do more than reading about devastating changes and shaking heads. People, God's children, in vulnerable communities are most affected and need our action.

What can you do? Your voice matters so you can engage with a group such as Citizen's Climate Lobby (<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/>) which has a Presbyterian Action Team. Citizen's Climate Lobby advocates with our state and federal governments to adopt a policy for charging corporate polluters a fee which would discourage the use of fossil fuels and encourage a shift to less-polluting fuels. The action team actively works in engaging Presbyterians at all levels (synods, presbyteries, churches, and members) in climate action and advocacy, particularly for a Carbon Fee and Dividend, which has been supported by the 223rd and 225th General Assemblies of PC USA.

And, of course, there are the daily actions that you can do toward respectful care of the earth. We can each push ourselves a bit outside of our convenience zone by joining the Dayton Foodbank composting program (<https://thefoodbankdayton.org/compost-bucket-program/>) or using less plastic or remembering to use re-usable bags when shopping. Perhaps we are here for such a time as this to help the planet be sustainable for our children, grandchildren and other generations to come.