

Creation Justice Ministries Celebrates President Obama and Prime Minister Trudeau's Commitment to Cut Methane Pollution and Steward God's Arctic Creation

Washington, DC (March 10, 2016) -- Creation Justice Ministries celebrates President Obama and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's joint announcement that our two neighboring nations will collaborate to exercise better stewardship of God's creation and assist vulnerable communities with climate change mitigation and

adaptation. Specifically, the two heads of state have made a public commitment that our nations will take action to cut dangerous methane emissions from oil and gas operations, collaborate with scientists to care for God's fragile and imperiled creation in the Arctic, and support climate change mitigation efforts by investing in renewable energy via the Power Africa initiative. These actions build upon the historic Paris Agreement of December 2015, for which Creation Justice Ministries worked diligently.

Creation Justice Ministries Executive Director Shantha Ready Alonso explained the significance of methane pollution reduction and climate justice action for Christians: "To honor our Creator, we show reverence for what God has made – land, creatures, and people. As the United States and Canada are major emitters of greenhouse gasses, it is our responsibility to reduce our climate impacts now, and rectify climate injustice by investing in our neighbors' wellbeing. That is why we applaud President Obama's follow-through on his Climate Action Plan." The announcements made today are a necessary step in meeting the Obama Administration's stated goal of reducing methane pollution from the oil and gas sector 40 to 45% below 2012 levels.

Greenhouse gasses such as methane are harming all of God's creation, and the people who are most impoverished suffer most. In the Arctic, many of the people suffering most are indigenous communities who depend on the health of local ecosystems, and have few resources to cope when God's creation becomes desecrated. Likewise, many African countries are enduring drought and severe weather from climate damage. It is our responsibility to rectify climate injustice by investing in opportunities for African nations to develop their energy infrastructures with economic dignity, while also mitigating climate change.

As the Psalmist declares, "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" God's creation transcends national boundaries, and it will require the types of bilateral agreements announced today to meet and exceed the goals set by more than 190 nations in Paris.

Creation Justice Ministries represents the creation care policies of 38 Christian communions, including Baptist conventions, mainline Protestants, Historically Black Churches, Peace Churches, and Orthodox communions. Together, we reach more than 100,000 churches and more than 45 million faithful. Learn more at www.creationjustice.org

Contact: Shantha Ready Alonso 760.408.0688 (mobile) * shantha@creationjustice.org

