



## Your guide to participating in CLWR's Friends of Creation campaign

Joining congregations across the country in being Friends of Creation is as easy as 1-2-3! Here's a guide to the resources we have available and how you can get started. Remember, you can always email [churches@clwr.org](mailto:churches@clwr.org) for help!

### HERE ARE THE THREE STEPS TO BEING FRIENDS OF CREATION!

1. **Commit 4 Sundays** to learning and praying about how climate change is playing out around Lake Chad. The 4 Sundays don't have to be consecutive and you can plan them in wherever they fit best!
2. **Choose one thing** from our list of suggested actions your church can take — or come up with your own!
3. **Decide on a number of acres** around Lake Chad that you'll take on together as a congregation by raising funds as part of your four Sundays. Whatever amount is right for your congregation is ok!

That's it! Below, we'll give you some suggestions on rolling this out in your congregation, but you should feel free to make this campaign your own!

#### BEFORE YOU START!

Bookmark the webpage [clwr.org/foc-resources](http://clwr.org/foc-resources) — that's our Friends of Creation resources site, your best friend for this campaign!

### NOW LET'S GET YOU STARTED!

**STEP 1: Choose 4 Sundays to pray and learn about climate change, what scripture says, and the Lake Chad basin.**

#### a) **Choosing your Sundays:**

You might want to plan four Sundays in a row as a month-long focus, to help have a sense of momentum. Others may want to spread their 4 Sundays out one per quarter. Each Sunday has a different theme (Climate and Water, Climate and Food, Climate and Peace, and Climate and Economies) and they can be done in any order, so you may also want to plan some of them around special days on the calendar, like World Food Day (October 16), World Water Day (March 22), Season of Creation (September-October), or during the 16 Days of Activism against

Gender-Based Violence (November-December). You may also want to refer to the lectionary and plan your Sundays around corresponding Scripture readings.

**b) Promoting the campaign before you start**

Before your first Sunday, make sure people in the congregation know it's coming! Our Friends of Creation resource site has a "promotion" section, where you'll find a poster, bulletin insert, powerpoint slide and more that you can use before the campaign launches to get people excited. There's also a special video from Rev. Michael Pryse that you can show on Sunday or email to the congregation to let them know about the campaign!

**c) Planning your Sundays:**

Once your Sundays approach and you're ready to start planning for them, take a look at the resources we have for each Sunday! There's a sample included in this mailing, but they're all available on our resource site, sorted by the four themes. The resources include:

- A sermon you can use as-is or adapt
- A brief video/prayer from Bishop Susan Johnson, sharing her experience on each week's theme during a visit to Lake Chad
- Prayers
- A children's message
- Song suggestions
- Sheet music and a demo of the brand new hymn, "God, Who This World Created" written by Trevor Hicks for Friends of Creation!

HEY, PASTORS/LAY LEADERS!

If you're creating your own sermon, prayers or other resources as part of the campaign, please let us know! We'd love to be able to share it with others who are planning Friends of Creation at their congregation.

**d) Getting ready for Sunday:**

In the week before your Sunday, check the materials in our resource bank that you can use around the congregation to help mark the day, add some easy opportunities for deeper engagement, and get people excited about the campaign! These include:

- A "did you know" bulletin insert (with an activity on the back!) and powerpoint slide
- Sunday school materials
- Youth activities
- A Bible Study & Adult Education suggestions
- Impact stories from our project around Lake Chad - incorporate these in the sermon, or post them on the bulletin board!



**STEP 2: Choose one thing from our list of suggested actions your church can take — or come up with your own!**

Our list of suggested actions is online in our Friends of Creation resource bank at [clwr.org/foc](http://clwr.org/foc), but you're the best expert at what's right for your congregation. We suggest aiming for something that's a little bit of a challenge, but doable — and enjoyable! The point here isn't that you're going to reverse climate change all at once, it's momentum and hope. It's important to give people a way to be involved and do something tangible, and this is especially critical for folks who might not feel like they can contribute financially. Depending on what you select, the action you choose might provide great opportunities for making connections within your community!

Tip: Young people in your congregation are deeply concerned about climate change, and eager to be involved! Consider involving them in your action, or maybe even appointing a committee or "climate champion" from among your congregation's younger members!

Of course, you're more than welcome to do more than one action (we'd love it!) – but our advice is to start small with a bit of a challenge, then get some positive momentum and build from there!

And please... we'd so badly love to hear about what you're doing, get photos of it, and share it to encourage other congregations!

**STEP 3: Decide on a number of acres around Lake Chad that you'll take on together as a congregation by raising funds as part of your four Sundays.**

Before you start the campaign, decide a target for your congregation. Thanks to Government matching, it's only \$50 for your congregation to cover the costs of transforming one acre of land around Lake Chad. Maybe just one acre is right for you! We're thankful for whatever your congregation can contribute, and most of all grateful for the care and solidarity you've expressed by participating in the campaign.

Here are a few things you can do to make sure your congregation hits your target!

- a) **Set up a fundraising page on CLWR's website before you begin your four Sundays!** This is easier than it might sound. Simply send an email to [churches@clwr.org](mailto:churches@clwr.org) to let us know you're ready, and one of our staff will get in touch to help set this up for you. You'll get a handy URL, like [clwr.org/GraceLCKelowna](http://clwr.org/GraceLCKelowna), and folks in your congregation, community, and around the world can donate to your fundraiser directly from CLWR's website! The money will go straight to CLWR, and CLWR will handle receipting, and the gift will be counted towards your congregation's target! CLWR will also create a custom poster, including your new fundraising URL, for you to use in your promotion of the campaign. (If your congregation would prefer to pool funds and donate, no problem, but we're here to help!)
- b) **Check our resource site** for ideas within each Sunday theme for fun ways you can raise funds that connect to each theme. This is another great opportunity to involve your young people!



- c) **Put up the poster**, write in your targets, and keep it up to date with your progress so everyone can be encouraged!
- d) **Let your community know!** Share about your campaign on social media using the graphics we've included, and put the URL on your church sign! We're also happy to provide a badge for your website and even a lawn sign you can put out front!
- e) **Put the challenge in** "Friends of Creation challenge"! This is totally optional but we've already heard from congregations who are planning on issuing a friendly challenge to another local congregation - that kind of idea is a great way to have fun, get people engaged, and build some new relationships.
- f) **Work together!** If challenges aren't your thing, what about working together with other local congregations? You could even plan a special wind-up meal or worship service together once you've hit your combined target.

**That's it!** There's so much you can do with this campaign, but we want you to take on what's right for your congregation, and we're here to help you do that. Please be in touch with your requests, let us know your ideas, and pretty please, let us know that you've decided you'll do the campaign, and then share photos of your events, you using the resources, and your progress along the way! Email [churches@clwr.org](mailto:churches@clwr.org) with whatever you need - and that way we'll have your email to make sure you know as new resources are produced along the way for the campaign.

Thank you for your ministry, for your partnership, and for being friends of creation!

