

## **Moderators Call on Churches to Act to ensure COP Succeeds**

The Moderator of the General Assembly, along with the Moderator of Glasgow Presbytery and Glasgow Churches COP26 Ambassador Martin Johnstone, wrote on 6 October to all churches calling on congregations to do all they can to ensure the success of COP26:

Dear All,

As we enter the final few weeks before COP26, the global climate change conference taking place in Glasgow (31<sup>st</sup> October – 12<sup>th</sup> November), we are writing to encourage every congregation in the Church of Scotland to do all that we can do to ensure that this gathering succeeds in addressing the huge challenges that we are facing.

The Moderators' letter includes:

### **(a) A call to prayer and worship**

Our first message to you is to encourage our congregations to pray; in our worship and preaching in the Sundays leading up to and during COP26, and to join the many opportunities for in-person and online worship that are now being planned, across Glasgow and elsewhere. We would also ask that you will consider arranging local events where people can come together to pray for justice for the poorest and for our planet.

### **(b) A call to witness on the streets**

We hope you will encourage as many people from your congregations as possible to take part in the global day of action and mass mobilisation which will take place on the 6<sup>th</sup> November in Glasgow and around the world.

If you are able, come to Glasgow for a rally which will gather in Kelvingrove Park from 11.30am and will parade through the city streets, arriving in Glasgow Green at 3pm. Faith and belief communities will be a specific part of this rally and we would want as many congregations as possible to consider being there. Details of the rally and how to sign up to be there are available [here](#). If you are hoping to come along and have any questions please email Martin Johnstone ([cop26office@glasgowchurches.org.uk](mailto:cop26office@glasgowchurches.org.uk)). That way we can seek to ensure that you are kept informed of further details as they emerge.

Should the pandemic rule out travelling and gathering in large numbers for you or members of your congregation, or if you are unable to travel for other reasons, we invite you to hold a vigil outside your own church on 6<sup>th</sup> November as a public sign of solidarity and support for climate justice and care for creation. You may want to organise this in partnership with other churches, faith groups or community organisations.

### **(c) Hear the voices of those people most deeply impacted**

Our third request is to ensure that the wisdom and experience of our sisters and brothers in the countries most affected by global heating and in societies least able to cope with measures to mitigate the impact is uppermost in our thoughts and actions. The poorest are often excluded from decisions which hurt them most. There is a real fear that this will be even more the case in Glasgow where many people will be unable to travel to the UK because of COVID restrictions.

We have a specific commitment to the poorest and most marginalised and we want to ensure that their voices are heard. In partnership with Christian Aid, SCIAF, Tearfund and the Church of Scotland, Glasgow Churches Together COP26 Group have produced four short videos from [Ethiopia](#), [Honduras](#), [Malawi](#) and [Zambia](#). We would encourage you to use and share these videos widely and to do everything else that you can do to ensure that the reality and plight of those most deeply impacted by climate injustice is heard over these coming weeks. We stand, with Christ, in solidarity with them.

