December 7, 2021

Incumbents and parish ministry team;

In our ongoing efforts to take concrete actions towards *Engaging God’s World* as part of our [diocesan vision](https://bc.anglican.ca/collections/vision), Bishop Anna is inviting communities throughout the diocese to join her in taking part in a BC-wide initiative. **#Candles4Climate** is organized by the BC Climate Emergency Campaign and arises out of a public call to action of over 300 organizations across British Columbia earlier this year. In a letter to the provincial government, these groups called for the immediate implementation of [ten climate emergency actions](https://thetyee.ca/Opinion/2021/09/29/Open-Letter-BC-Must-Act-Now-Confront-Our-Climate-Emergenc/). To date, none of these actions have been taken by the government.

Bishop Anna and Rabbi Harry Brechner from Congregation Emanu-El, Victoria have jointly signed a letter to the premier calling on his government to respond to this call to action and to implement a transformative climate action plan (see letter on page 5). The two faith leaders will also hold a vigil next Monday, December 13 at 5pm outside Grace Lore’s constituency office in Victoria to pray for the victims of this year’s fires and floods, and to call on the government to take immediate action.

Bishop Anna invites your congregation and its neighbours to join the campaign by organizing a Monday vigil outside your MLA’s constituency office, or to join her and Rabbi Harry at the constituency office at 1084 Fort Street, Victoria on December 13. Most of these vigils are taking place at 5pm on December 13, but you are welcome to hold yours at a time appropriate for your community. You can also take part by lighting a candle each Monday evening at 8pm (see more information on page 2).

If you would like to host your own vigil please coordinate your efforts with BC Climate Emergency Campaign by contacting Mary Leighton, co-coordinator, (604) 908 3321, [mary@climateemergencyunit.ca](mailto:mary@climateemergencyunit.ca?subject=%23Candles4Climate) or follow these important links:

[The website](https://www.wildernesscommittee.org/events/candle-vigil-folks-lost-climate-di)

[Facebook event page](https://fb.me/e/4NwUOMvSw)

Add your event with this [sign up form and toolkit](file:///C:\Users\LOIS\Downloads\%20https\docs.google.com\spreadsheets\d\1Wot_r4gSTXpYs6DBKoMdROuYfqC33dHnQOoTbo587vs\edit#gid=0)

Included in this package you will find templates you can use in organizing your own campaign. We have also included graphics you can use on your website and social media pages. If you would like these in other size specifications, please contact me at [cpate@bc.anglican.ca](mailto:cpate@bc.anglican.ca).

**THE CAMPAIGN**

**Goal:** Demonstrate public support for the [ten climate emergency actions](https://thetyee.ca/Opinion/2021/09/29/Open-Letter-BC-Must-Act-Now-Confront-Our-Climate-Emergenc/) with a visible weekly candlelight vigil for the victims of climate change.

**Action:** Light a candle in your window every Monday night at 8pm until the provincial government takes the movement’s [ten emergency actions](https://thetyee.ca/Opinion/2021/09/29/Open-Letter-BC-Must-Act-Now-Confront-Our-Climate-Emergenc/). Share on social media as you see fit with hashtag #Candles4Climate.

**Organize**: Plan a Monday candlelight vigil outside your MLA’s office with other community members and invite your MLA.

**Sample Social Post**

Tonight, we’re remembering victims of BC’s record heat wave and widespread flooding & calling on the province to take urgent action on the climate emergency. Please light a candle in your window at 8pm this evening. Take a photo, use the hashtag #Candles4Climate & tag your MLA

**Sample Network Email**

Dear [NAME],

Somber news from the B.C. Coroner’s Office confirmed nearly 600 people died from extreme heat this summer in the province. Since then, floods have swept away critical infrastructure, farmlands and First Nations communities throughout the province. These devastating events are sounding the alarm for us to eliminate carbon pollution as fast as possible to prevent even more deadly extreme weather.

People across the province are lighting a candle to remember the victims of these deadly events and to show our communities we need to act on the climate emergency with the urgency it requires.

**Every Monday evening at 8pm,** we’re putting this candle in our windows and sharing a photo on social media. Together, we are grieving the victims of climate change and honouring their memory by demanding action from our provincial government. We’ll continue this weekly vigil until B.C. has a climate plan that reflects the emergency.

Earlier this year, nearly 300 Indigenous organizations, student clubs, faith communities, businesses, unions, environmental non-profits and cultural groups wrote to the provincial government with a list of actions it must take to combat this crisis. You can read the open letter [here](https://thetyee.ca/Opinion/2021/09/29/Open-Letter-BC-Must-Act-Now-Confront-Our-Climate-Emergenc/) and sign on for your organization [here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfHwvKwy9Iiu-U09Kzrn6f7e6RigAJmIsWtg0RcmZuL_D-Log/viewform).

Please join us and put candle (a beeswax, soy-based or LED are great) in your window on Monday night. Share it on social media with the hashtag #Candles4Climate and tag your local MLA! Thanks for taking the time out of your week to remember those we’ve lost to the climate crisis and resolve not to rest until everyone is safe from its devastating impacts.

Sincerely,

[NAME]

P.S. Please be safe and make sure to extinguish your candle before you go to bed.

**Sample letter to MLA**

Dear [NAME],

**I/We am/are calling on you to urge the B.C. government to develop and implement a transformative** [**climate emergency plan**](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1FHDfPJjUwQvaPX89IUMaRjCk2Vpwq74E) that recognizes the interconnected climate, ecological and social crises; embeds equity, anti-racism and social justice at its core; and upholds Indigenous title and rights as well as treaty rights.

The B.C. Coroner’s Office confirmed nearly 600 people in B.C. died from extreme heat this summer. People 70 years of age and older counted for 69 percent of the deaths and 96 percent of the victims died at home. Since then, floods have swept away critical infrastructure, farm lands and First Nations communities throughout the province, killing at least four people and leaving hundreds stranded.

The latest report from the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](https://www.ipcc.ch/reports/) is a “code red” for humanity. The International Energy Agency has called on world governments to immediately stop investments in and approvals of new oil and gas projects. The provincial government’s CleanBC climate action plan is insufficient to limit warming to 1.5 degrees and will not keep British Columbians safe from the worst impacts of climate change.

Earlier this year, nearly 300 organizations including Indigenous groups, student clubs, faith communities, businesses, unions, environmental non-profits and cultural groups wrote to the provincial government with a list of actions it must take to combat this crisis. You can read the open letter [here](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1FHDfPJjUwQvaPX89IUMaRjCk2Vpwq74E).

**Every Monday evening at 8pm,** people across B.C. are lighting a candle in our windows to remember the victims of these deadly events and sharing a photo on social media. Together, we are grieving the victims of climate change and honouring their memory by demanding action from our provincial government. We’ll continue this weekly vigil until B.C. has a climate plan that reflects the emergency situation.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding how your office is advocating for stronger action in your role as our representative.

Sincerely,

[NAME]

Template source: BC Climate Emergency Campaign

**A CALL TO URGENT ACTION BY THE BC GOVERNMENT**

November 2021

Dear Premier Horgan and the Government of British Columbia,

We write as faith leaders representing two local expressions of the Abrahamic traditions governed by the one, eternal and transcendent creator of the universe and the source of moral law. It is under this authority that we are compelled to urge you, as political leaders committed to “protecting and preserving our environment now and for future generations,” ([cleanbc.gov.bc.ca](https://cleanbc.gov.bc.ca/)) to take immediate steps to develop and implement a transformative climate emergency plan.

In the aftermath of this summer’s fires and the recent widespread flooding across this province, it is no longer acceptable to say that events of this nature were unexpected and to [deflect responsibility](https://globalnews.ca/news/8377960/bc-government-defends-response-storm/). We are calling on you to do better.

Earlier this year, nearly 300 organizations including Indigenous groups, student clubs, faith communities, businesses, unions, environmental non-profits and cultural groups wrote to the provincial government with a [list of actions](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1FHDfPJjUwQvaPX89IUMaRjCk2Vpwq74E) it must take to combat this crisis. We are waiting for your government’s response.

This crisis is a spiritual crisis; it’s a failure to honour all human beings as made in the image of God and to live our lives in the best interest of the planetary common good. It is a turning away from our responsibility to be stewards of Creation.

We, as faith groups need to address our complicity in the economic drivers that have led us to the critical precipice. As government, you need to demonstrate bold leadership and undertake the systemic changes being called for by knowledgeable people across this province. It will require a cohesive plan, across all of government. If greenhouse gas reduction is important to one part of government, it MUST be a commitment made by all departments of the government.

We join our voices with those calling on you to be a leader in demonstrating that a zero-emission economy is possible. The science is clear. It will take an annual reduction of 6% year-over-year until 2050 to reach the acceptable 1.5C of warming agreed to at the 2015 Paris climate accords and COP26. What will your government do to reach this annual goal?

We look forward to hearing from you.

Signed,

Bishop Anna Greenwood-Lee, Bishop, [Anglican Diocese of Islands and Inlets](https://bc.anglican.ca/)

Harry Brechner, Rabbi, [Congregation Emanu-El](https://www.congregationemanuel.ca/) Conservative Jewish Synagogue (Victoria)