



## **Creation Care Council Statement on Climate Change**

In 2013 EMU President Loren Swartzendruber signed the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, publicly committing the university to achieve climate neutrality. In order to contextualize and underpin the importance of this commitment, EMU's Creation Care Council crafted and adopted a statement of foundational understandings about climate change to guide planning and action:

1. We accept the scientific consensus on the realities of climate change and the role of human behavior in contributing to the problem.
2. We acknowledge that the wealth and opportunities afforded us today, unprecedented in human history, are partly due to energy derived from fossil fuels over the past 150 years, which we now know to cause climate imbalances.
3. We agree that the effects of climate change will disproportionately impact those who have contributed to it least, and who are least-equipped to adapt to predicted environmental, social, economic, and political changes.
4. We agree that our continued emissions of greenhouse gases places further strain on the poor and disadvantaged, and impacts all of Creation.
5. We agree that the operations of EMU and each of our individual parts in it are contributing to climate change.
6. We agree that we have a responsibility and choice as an institution and as individuals to reduce our climate impact.
7. We agree that taking full institutional responsibility requires a policy-level action plan.