

Monthly Update

April 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

This “Monthly Update” contains more information on the issues we will be addressing at General Conference 2016 (a predominately large proportion of this Update) and, unfortunately, yet again “Global Warming.”

I along with at least one other member of the Advisory Board as listed on our letterhead received a letter on this subject taking us to task with our position on the issue. I shall differ to the excellent response given by Mr. Bob Lankford of Duncanville, Texas who did send him a written letter (contained on page 9) of the Update. I shall, however, quote a key point made in his letter:

Concerned Methodists is concerned about the earth. But our main concern is the falling away, as a nation and our Methodist Church leaders, from the study of God’s Word and our task to bring us back to what made this nation great: Christian values as outlined in the Bible.

I urge you to read the rest of Bob’s reasoning in his letter along with my summary and introductory analysis of two other reports at the end of this Update; the dissenting scientists’ names are in small print because of a lack of space. Please notice on page 10 that in excess of 700 scientists dissent from the UN report on “Climate Change” (Global Warming), over 13 times the number of the 59 scientists who supported it.

As I had narrated in past issues of the Update, I felt strongly called by God to “contend for the faith” in the United Methodist Church. In that regard, I stand with my fellow volunteers in Concerned Methodists and other friends in the renewal movement. We use the funds entrusted to us efficiently and economize in every conceivable way – and make the most effective use possible of your gifts to our ministry.

With that being said, we have extraordinary expenses in preparation for this General Conference with the printing of multiple mailings that we are sending to our bishops and to all of the delegates around the world. We are doing all that we can to impact GC-2016 – but we can’t do it without your help. Can you send your most generous gift to support this ministry in our efforts to impact the legislation that will be decided there in Portland – so that we can maintain our moral foundations, restore faithfulness to our Wesleyan heritage, and enact an efficient, accountable structure in our church?

Can you stand with us at this critical hour in the life of our denomination? In addition, we covet your prayers and ask that you continue to pray for us – that our actions will maximize the influence we have in renewing our United Methodist Church.

In His service,

Allen O. Morris,
Executive Director

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April 2016 Update

Bits and Pieces from across the United Methodist Church

Let us, therefore, act like men inspired with a resolution that nothing but the frowns of Heaven shall conquer us.

~ General Nathaniel Greene in a letter to Samuel Ward of Rhode Island, January 4, 1776

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The Good Stuff

+ *The prisoner in the isolation cell.* The late Chuck Colson, founder of Prison Fellowship, tells the story of a notorious prison in Brazil named Humaita. It was so run-down and ineffective the Brazilian government turned the prison over to two Christians. From that moment the prison was run on Christian principles. With the exception of two full-time staff, all the work was done by the inmates. Colson visited the prison and he said, “When I visited Humaita, I found the inmates smiling, particularly the murderer who held the keys, opened the gates and let me in. Wherever I walked, I saw men at peace. I saw clean living areas and people working. The walls were decorated with biblical sayings from Psalms and Proverbs. My guide escorted me to the notorious prison cell once used for torture. “Today,” he told me, “that torture room houses only a single inmate.” As we reached the end of a long concrete corridor, he put the key in the lock and he looked at me and asked, “Are you sure you want to go in to see this prisoner?”

Colson, “Of course, I’ve been in isolation cells all over the world.”

Slowly he swung open the massive door and Colson saw the prisoner in that punishment cell – it was a crucifix, beautifully-carved by the prisoners and on the cross hung the prisoner Jesus. The guide said to Chuck Colson, “He’s doing time for the rest of us. He gave his life for us. He’s changed our lives.”

+ **2016 Lenten Reflection Day 32:** Martin Rasmussen. As I struck the car that pulled out in front of me, I thought, “This is it.” As I went over the car, I thought that I must be on my back since I saw such a bright light, but there was no glare and it didn’t hurt my eyes as a bright light would and there was no pain. I landed on my feet and fell over.

Traffic had stopped and a man said, “I saw it all and I will be your witness if needed.” But, I was not hurt. The ambulance came, and the crew that insisted I be tested and checked found nothing amiss. They and I were amazed as we looked at the car and motorcycle.

I called my daughter to bring me a pair of shoes since mine were twisted in the wreckage, and to take me to the house. That was it. But as I reflected nights later, I knew who the bright light was, and why there was no glare or pain.

– From the Lenten Reflection Devotional published by the North Carolina Conference of the UMC, 700 Waterfield Ridge Place, Garner, NC 27529; March 17, 2016. Note: Martin Rasmussen is the Treasurer of Concerned Methodists.

+ *Life is Good.* Brothers who cofounded a \$100 million company say this question their mom asked every night at dinner is what inspired their business. “Life is Good.”

The two Jacobs brothers first sold their T-shirts on the street. Bert and John Jacobs, the brothers who cofounded the \$100 million “Life Is Good” T-shirt company, grew up the youngest of six children in a lower middle-class family in Boston. When the brothers were in elementary school, their parents were in a near-death car accident from which their mother managed to escape with just a few broken bones – but their father lost the use of his right hand.

The stress and frustration from his physical therapy caused him to develop a harsh temper, they explain in their new book “Life Is Good.” “He did a lot of yelling when we were in grade school,” John told Business Insider. And life certainly wasn’t perfect. “There were often difficult things happening around the house,” the brothers write.

But their mom, Joan, still believed life was good. So, every night as the family sat around the dinner table, she would ask her six kids to tell her something good that happened that day. “As simple as mom’s words were, they changed the energy in the room,” the brothers write. “Before we knew it, we were all riffing on the best, funniest, or most bizarre part of our day.” John says that this daily exercise prevented them from developing a victim’s mentality of “Oh, you wouldn’t believe this horrible thing that happened to me today.” Instead of griping about a teacher or homework assignment, he says that they would be laughing about a silly haircut a classmate got that day, or a neat project they worked on at school.

Life is Good. “That optimism was something that our family always had, even when we had little else,” they write.

Growing up with a mother like theirs – one who sang in the kitchen, told animated stories, and acted out children’s books for them, no matter what bad situation they were going through – taught them an important lesson: Being happy isn’t dependent on your circumstances. “She showed us that optimism is a courageous choice you can make every day, especially in the face of adversity.”

They say her unwavering positive outlook on life is what inspired Life Is Good – their \$100 million company the mission of which is to spread the power of optimism, with the tagline, “Life is not perfect. Life is not easy. Life is good.”

Since their mother’s daily question served them so well in life, John says he and his brother now ask their employees the same thing when they all come together – “Tell me something good” – and the results have been positive. “It leads to ideas, which lead to progress, which leads to building on successes, instead of dwelling on challenges,” he said.

– Natalie Walters, Dec. 17, 2015.

Of Interest.

+ ***Passover 5770***. [Note: This was received some time ago, but we believe it merits printing just after Easter. – AOM]

A Message to Rabbis, Cantors, Educators, and Community Leaders: Passover 5770 finds Israel and the Jewish people facing some of the most monumental challenges in recent memory. While Iran strives, unimpeded, to acquire nuclear military capability, and its leaders swear almost daily to wipe Israel off the map, efforts to deny Israel the right to defend itself – or even exist – proliferate. Meeting these challenges will require all of us in Israel and the Diaspora to overcome our differences and unite as a people as we have done so frequently in our history.

In addition to the threats to Israel’s security and legitimacy, Israel faces the challenges of peace. We have made unprecedented and far-reaching gestures to facilitate the resumption of peace talks with the Palestinians. Israel has pledged to refrain from building new settlements, from acquiring new territory for settlements, from expanding settlements territorially, and even from incentivizing Israelis to move to settlements. Israel has also frozen all new construction in Judea and Samaria for ten months – a move praised by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton as “unprecedented.” Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has joined with President Barack Obama in calling for immediate renewal of direct peace talks without preconditions, and has agreed to a preliminary period of proximity talks that will serve as a corridor to direct discussions.

On the Jerusalem question, Israel’s policy is that all residents, Arabs and Jews alike, have the right to build legally anywhere in the city, without prejudice. This is not the position of the Netanyahu government, but of every Israeli government going back to 1967. It was the policy of Golda Meir, Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Rabin. With that, Israel understands that the Palestinians also have a position on Jerusalem and is fully willing to discuss it at the negotiating table. Unfortunately, the Palestinians have refused to negotiate or even to prepare their people for peace. The Palestinian leadership persists in sponsoring the deeply slanted Goldstone report, which accuses of Israel of war crimes, in promoting violent demonstrations, and in glorifying terrorists.

Nevertheless, Israel remains committed to reentering the peace talks and moving swiftly to a resolution of all the core issues, including Jerusalem, and achieving an historic peace. Our vision remains one of a demilitarized Palestinian state living peacefully alongside Israel and recognizing it as the nation-state of the Jewish people just as Israel will recognize the Palestinian state as its people’s national home.

Israel is also grappling with challenges in its relations with Diaspora Jewry, particularly in the United States. Questions have arisen surrounding the status of women and egalitarian prayer at the Western Wall as well as changes in Israeli conversion law. The Government of Israel remains keenly aware of these issues and their deep sensitivity. We are committed to listening to all parties and to finding equitable solutions in accordance with the principles of pluralism, tolerance, and democracy. But we urge Israeli and Diaspora Jews together to exercise restraint and understanding in the face of these highly complex matters.

Passover recalls the daunting challenges that confronted the Jewish people on the eve of its birth as a people, but the holiday also celebrates the precious achievement of liberty. In Israel, we see the immense fruits that freedom has brought us. We see a robust economy, a vibrant democracy, and a flourishing Hebrew culture. We fostered cutting-edge research that has made Israel the world's leader in the per capita number of scientific publications, patents, and Nobel Prizes. And an Israeli, Omri Casspi, is playing in the NBA.

As we gather with our families around our seder tables this year, let us be vigilant of the challenges and dangers we face but also thankful for the extraordinary blessings we have gleaned. The Embassy of Israel joins you, your communities, and your families in raising a glass and restating our timeless hope, Next year in Jerusalem!

– Received from Dr. Michael Oren, Israel's Ambassador to the United States

+ ***K-Scope 2016***. K-Scope 2016 – April 8-10: K-Scope is a middle school event held at Camp Don Lee. Our theme is “When Push Comes to Shove” and our theme scripture is Jeremiah 29:1-14. When the people of Israel were in Babylon, they had to figure out how to live as God's people in a strange place. – NC Conference of The UMC, Jan 04, 2016.

[Note: It is important to know what is happening here and what is being taught to the kids. – AOM]

+ ***Global Vision 2016***. Global Vision 2016: Global Vision was a six day trip to both Washington D.C. and York City that gives youth an insight into issues within their community and internationally. The trip begins in Washington D.C. on the first day and then on to New York City. – NC Conference of The UMC, Jan 04, 2016.

[Note: Under no circumstances would I recommend that any parent let his child go on this trip. This will be used to give youth an orientation to political affairs and orient their thinking from a left-wing point of view. – AOM]

Islam. *Philly Officer Ambushed by Terrorist Who Says He Did it For Islam, Pledged to ISIS.*

[Note: This is another incident that happened and can be attributed to Islam – the “religion of peace.” What was not stated in this very brief note was the officer was able to get out of his patrol car and return fire, wounding the suspect – who was later taken into custody. If one studies the history of Islam, it will reveal the true nature of this religion. – AOM]

As reported earlier [as of that date] Philadelphia Police Officer Jessie Hartnett, who has been on the force for five years, was ambushed in his vehicle earlier today.

– Katie Pavlich, Townhall Daily, 1901 N. Moore St - Suite 701, Arlington, VA 22209; January 8, 2016.

(UM) General Conference – 2016.

[Note: The following “bullets” are included to show some issues to be addressed. Four are discussed further on. – AOM]

+ Multiple proposals regard how the church ministers with LGBTQ individuals. The initials stand for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer or questioning. Some legislation aims to end the church's current restrictions and some would strengthen penalties when the restrictions are violated. Ultimately, General Conference may determine just what accountability will look like in the coming years. (Hahn, Daily Digest; UMNS; March 10, 2016.)

[Note: There will be a push to accede to the homosexual lobby. These efforts must be soundly defeated. – AOM]
+ Africa Initiative plans pre-GC2016 gathering Group wants to keep denomination’s current ordination rules and definition of marriage; hopes to empower and strengthen church in Africa. [Note: This needs to be supported. – AOM]

+ Coalition to Africa bishops: Group hopes to open channel for working together over LGBTQ rights in church. [Note: This needs to be opposed. The Africans have it right and their efforts to support Biblical morality needs to be reinforced and expanded to the American church. This measure will be an indirect challenge to our BOD. – AOM]

+ With most of \$75 million goal raised, UMs will celebrate how Imagine No Malaria has made a difference both inside & outside the church. [Note: This is admirable – but in all of this, where is the clear message about Jesus Christ? – AOM]

+ There will be various “environmental” issues brought before GC-2016. [Note: This will be addressed later. – AOM]

+ Addressing immigration issues at GC2016 Keeping families together has long been at the heart of the church’s mission with refugees and immigrants. [Note: This will be a push for “open borders”/no control of illegal immigration. – AOM]

+ Promoting ‘Abundant Health’ at GC2016 Campaign led by United Methodist Board of Global Ministries aims to improve health of 1 million children. [Note: This may be a push for health care without accountability. – AOM]

+ Fairness of GC2016 delegate allotment questioned Critics say Europe and the Philippines are overrepresented, but others point to cultural, geographical factors. [Note: This poses a challenge to our allotment of delegates. – AOM]

+ Bishops urged to adopt accountability covenant The proposal comes two months before the 2016 General Conference, where multiple petitions aimed at increasing accountability are on the table. [Note: This will be addressed later. – AOM]

+ GC2016: Should the general church budget go up? The denomination’s budget debate comes at a time when U.S. worship attendance is going down yet giving is going up. [Note: No. There is an initiative to reduce the budget. – AOM]

+ Commentary: Liberian divorce rule and connectionalism. What does Liberia’s ban on divorced candidates for bishop mean for the worldwide nature of The United Methodist Church? [Note: Liberia is taking a moral stance. – AOM]

+ Praying for GC2016: What will happen? Prayer beads, prayer vigils, a prayer wall and a prayer room help United Methodists prepare for the 2016 General Conference. [Note: This is a bright spot. Prayer for the GC is needed. – AOM]

+ Pre-GC2016 video on divestment gets pushback. Some United Methodists believe the Pension Board went too far in telling central conference delegates how to vote on General Conference petitions.

[Note: The Pension Board should not be telling any of the delegates how they should vote. It is ironic that our UM leadership, the National Council of Churches, and the World Council of Churches have shown support for the Iran Deal, Marxist dictators, and for investment in North Korea, yet they have called for Divestment against Israel. – AOM]

– Heather Hahn reports; Daily Digest; United Methodist News Service (UMNS); March 9, 10, 2016.

+ ***Bishops urged to adopt accountability covenant.***

[Note: This is of extreme importance. The lack of accountability among the bishops is notoriously absent. Furthermore, since the bishops provide leadership for the church, their example sets the pattern for the whole denomination. – AOM]

A bishops’ task force has recommended that the full Council of Bishops adopt a covenant of accountability when the body next meets in May. The proposed covenant, based largely on the bishops’ consecration vows, comes at

a time when the denomination is struggling with declining U.S. worship attendance, deep divisions regarding homosexuality and questions of what it means for church leaders to be accountable. General Conference 2016 delegates will consider multiple proposals aimed at holding bishops' feet to the fire. "Accountability is a fundamental way of life among the people called Methodists," said Philadelphia Area Bishop Peggy Johnson, a task force member. "We are to hold one another accountable as a part of our spiritual disciplines as we live together in community."

The proposed covenant, based largely on the bishops' consecration vows, comes as the denomination is struggling with declining U.S. worship attendance, deep divisions regarding homosexuality and questions of what it means for church leaders to be accountable. It also comes just two months before the 2016 General Conference, where delegates will consider multiple proposals aimed at holding bishops' feet to the fire. These petitions include giving the council more authority when bishops face complaints under church law.

Bishops do not vote at General Conference – the denomination's top legislative assembly – but they do have the responsibility of providing parliamentary guidance and presiding over legislative sessions.

The Council of Bishops will next meet starting May 5 in Portland, Oregon, immediately before the assembly. The bishops also plan to meet again on May 21, the day after General Conference concludes. "As we prepare for the 2016 General Conference, we join together in a covenant that is rooted in our consecration vows and that outlines how we intend to fulfill those vows and provide spiritual leadership prior to, during, and after General Conference," the proposed covenant says. San Francisco Area Bishop Warner H. Brown Jr., the president of the Council of Bishops and a task force member, said all bishops are committed to carrying out their vows to the best of their abilities. "This (statement) is putting it out there that this is a part of our accountability process," he said. "This is something we take seriously, and we look to each other to honor that commitment." Johnson sees the covenant as a way to strengthen ministry. "Steel sharpens steel as we encourage one another into greater degrees of holiness and righteous living."

The proposal comes after years of discussions among bishops about how they can hold each other accountable. The Council of Bishops formed its Accountability Task Force in May 2013, after the bishops decided to find a mechanism for mutual accountability, especially in fulfilling their commitment to foster congregational vitality. In addition to Brown and Johnson, task force members also include Bishops Janice Huie, Gregory Palmer as well as retired Bishops Hans Vaxby and Peter Weaver. Charlotte (North Carolina) Area Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster is the task force's chair.

In November 2014, Brown concluded his first address as the Council of Bishops president by inviting his fellow episcopal leaders to reaffirm the vows they took during their consecration as bishops. During that same Council of Bishops meeting and the following one in May 2015, bishops also broke into small groups and discussed what might be included in a code of conduct. At the task force's prompting, the bishops discussed some common courtesies, such as responding to email and phone calls promptly, and seeking permission first before doing church work in each other's areas. "The goal of our task force is to find the common agreements and expectations that we have of one another," Goodpaster told United Methodist News Service at the most recent Council of Bishops meeting last year. He added that the Book of Discipline, the denomination's book of law and teachings, gives bishops limited authority in how they hold each other accountable with regard to church law. "Complaints, charges, any of those kinds of things – that's defined in the Discipline and that's beyond our control and our power," he said. "What we can do is hold each other accountable for our ministry and our work together."

The proposed covenant does not include any mechanisms for enforcement. "We trust in God's grace that we will live in the spirit of what we intend do," Brown said. However, General Conference may take up the question of enforcement.

Two complaints. Even as the task force has gone about its work, two United Methodist bishops have faced two highly public, but very different complaints under church law. At the request of the United Methodist Council of Bishops, retired Bishop Melvin G. Talbert faced a complaint in March 2014 after he officiated at the union of two men – Joe Openshaw and Bobby Prince – in defiance of church law. The complaint ended in January 2015

with a resolution agreed

to by all parties involved in the case. The resolution has both supporters and detractors.

In a separate situation, the board of the denomination's General Council on Finance and Administration filed a complaint in March 2013 against East Africa Area Bishop Daniel Wandabula, who faces longstanding questions of whether his episcopal area misused more than \$757,000 in church funds. That complaint is still pending, and to date, the Council of Bishops has offered no public statements on the matter.

Both of these situations have prompted multiple pieces of legislation aimed at revising the complaint process against bishops. Currently, a complaint against a bishop is handled mainly within that bishop's geographical area – namely, the jurisdiction if the bishop is in the United States, or the central conference if the bishop is in Africa, Europe or the Philippines. Various proposals would give the Council of Bishops more authority in addressing complaints. 2 proposals would require the council to get involved if a complaint has not been adjudicated in 180 days (roughly six months).

Reactions to the covenant. Wandabula said, "As we prepare for the 2016 General Conference, I know that there are a number of issues that are threatening the unity of The United Methodist Church," he said by email. In response to the covenant proposal, he said he has committed himself to prayer and fasting ahead of the bishops' May meeting. For his part, Talbert said he does not have any objections to the proposed covenant, but he does think the document is unnecessary. He also pointed out that as a retired bishop, he has voice but no vote in whatever the council decides. "Some bishops may feel that this is helpful," he said. "But from my perspective, I knew the covenant I made when I was elected a bishop in 1980. I lived by it then & continue to live by it now."

[Note: In last statement by Talbert, who advocates changing the Discipline, said after the 2012, General Conference he "felt compelled as a bishop to declare that the derogatory language and restrictive laws in our Book of Discipline are wrong, immoral and unjust, and no longer deserve our loyalty and support." {UMNS Nov. 15, 2013, "After hours of closed-door sessions throughout the week, the Council of Bishops has "respectfully" requested a formal complaint be filed against retired Bishop Melvin G. Talbert, who officiated at a same-sex union on Oct. 26 despite church law. The Book of Discipline officially bans clergy from performing and churches from hosting same-sex weddings. The church also defines marriage as between a man and a woman.}" Two observations: 1) His statement that he "continue[s] to live by the covenant I made" is not true, and 2) his "restrictive laws in our Book of Discipline are wrong, immoral and unjust, and no longer deserve our loyalty and support" is devoid of truth since the BoD reflects a sound, Biblical foundation. It is Talbert's conclusions that are "wrong and immoral" and are in contravention to God's teachings which define what is just and unjust. Later, Talbert was reported in that he "sees his challenges to denominational positions as in line with his vows and his Christian faith" and calls his campaign biblical obedience. "Defending the faith has to do with your interpretation with Scripture and your understanding of who God is," he said. { UMNS; March 10, 2016.} We are not free to mold the Bible and God into who we want Him to be and into our ideas of what is right or wrong. The Bible is clear on moral teachings. Talbert is seriously in error. – AOM]

Proposed Covenant of Accountability.

Bishops of the church are spiritual leaders who are set apart by the church to lead with hope in our Savior and Redeemer Jesus Christ. The vows which each bishop affirmed at her or his consecration continue to guide and shape our ministry. We as a Council have affirmed this commitment to our vows. The heart of those commitments are found in these statements from the Service of Consecration. We vow and commit ourselves...

• "...to guard the faith, to seek the unity, and to exercise the discipline of the whole Church...."

• "...to preach and teach the truth of the gospel to all God's people..."

• "...to lead the people...in their mission of witness and service in the world...."

• "...to lead and guide all persons entrusted to [our] care...."

(The complete Order for the Consecration of Bishops may be found in the United Methodist Book of Worship, pages 698-710.)

As we prepare for the 2016 General Conference, we join together in a covenant that is rooted in our consecration vows and that outlines how we intend to fulfill those vows and provide spiritual leadership prior to, during, and after General Conference. By God's grace we, the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church, covenant together to...

- Honor God, follow Jesus, and lead relying upon the Holy Spirit in all we say and do.
- Be in prayer for the General Conference, the delegates and visitors.
- Work for the unity of the church.
- Show respect for all persons.
- Offer pastoral care to and with anyone.
- Carry out our presidential duties in a manner that enables the work of the General Conference to be conducted in an orderly and non-disruptive manner.
- Be guided by the clear intent of the Book of Discipline as we fulfill our vows to "...guard the faith, order, liturgy, doctrine, and discipline of the church." (§403.1)
- "...plan for the general oversight and promotion of the temporal and spiritual interests of the entire Church and for carrying into effect the rules, regulations, and responsibilities prescribed and enjoined by the General Conference." (§47)
- Grow as spiritual leaders who offer passion, clarity, hope and imagination to the church as we are fully engaged in the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
- Order our lives and leadership in the firm conviction as stated by John Wesley: "the best of all is, God is with us."

We pledge to hold each other accountable for living out this covenant and to seek the support and prayers of the entire church. – Heather Hahn reports; Daily Digest; United Methodist News Service (UMNS); March 9, 10, 2016.

+ ***Where is the zeal for agency reform?*** An effort to reform United Methodist agencies in 2012 had the endorsement of bishops, the advocacy of church leaders and the vote of General Conference. The only snag came on the last day of General Conference – when the Judicial Council, denomination's top court, ruled the plan unconstitutional and void. Now, a determined group of United Methodists is bringing back a slightly revised version of the plan to the 2016 General Conference when the denomination's top lawmaking body meets May 10-20 in Portland, Oregon. They believe "Plan UMC Revised" is now constitutional and still can win the majority of votes. What the new plan lacks, proponents acknowledge, is the denomination-wide fanfare that agency restructuring proposals received just four years ago. "I think it's fair to say that a lot of people who worked on this, starting with the bishops, really were demoralized by the Judicial Council decision," the Rev. Don Underwood said. "So much work went into that, and it was stopped dead in its tracks." Underwood is the senior pastor of Christ United Methodist Church in Plano, Texas, a General Conference delegate and one of the six drafters of the restructuring plan. The pastor noted that he too was initially reluctant to revisit the legislation. Ultimately, he concluded, agency reform is "important for Methodism."

The thrust of that reform is reducing the number of agencies and increasing their oversight with a strong executive.

"It's not just downsizing the agencies, and it's not just about saving money," Underwood said. "What's really important about Plan UMC ... is the creation of an executive, who will keep our agencies out of the silos, increase collaboration and keep our agency leaders focused on the mission statement."

The plan has its critics – among agency leaders and others. Fred Brewington, a General Conference delegate from New York, criticized Plan UMC Revised as too similar to a corporate model. "We're talking about making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world," he said. "Sometimes the strictness of a corporate structure is not the answer."

Nonetheless, Underwood and other proponents are hoping to reinvigorate the passion for agency reform, even as a Judicial Council review of the legislation is still pending.

They are doing so without the advocacy of some major players in denominational leadership. That raises the question: What has changed? Different church climate in 2016The Council of Bishops – in referring the revised plan for Judicial Council review – made clear the action was “in no way intended as support or opposition” to the proposal.

The plan also is getting some pushback from the Connectional Table, a denominational leadership body that in 2012 was one of the biggest champions for agency restructuring. The body has not endorsed any restructuring plan. Instead, it recommended principles for examining restructuring plans, which among other things, specifically urges that General Conference delegates “not act in haste and allow God to order our steps.” The 59-member Connectional Table acts as sort of a church council for the denomination, coordinating general church ministry and resources, including the work of the agencies. But this is not the same Connectional Table as four years ago. More than half of the Connectional Table’s membership has changed, in part because some of the most ardent reformers had completed their eight-year terms. Among the new members are a number of lay people and clergy who were critics of the body’s 2012 restructuring proposals. Brewington is one of those critics, and he urges holding off on agency restructuring. He noted that there are two ongoing endeavors, started at the 2012 General Conference’s behest, that when completed would have far-reaching effects on the work of the agencies. Those initiatives have commanded many church leaders’ attention these past 4 years.

The United Methodist Board of Church and Society has the task of revising the denomination’s Social Principles to be more globally relevant. The General Conference’s Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters has a separate mandate to make the Book of Discipline’s largest section – Part VI, Organization and Administration — truly global. That section includes agency functions and administration. Neither Church and Society nor the standing committee expect to complete its proposals until the 2020 General Conference. “I think what we’re really looking at is something that is going to be more holistic for the denomination in the long run (than agency reform),” said Brewington, who is also a standing committee member. “I think that’s where the Connectional Table and Council of Bishops are giving some forethought so we’re not doing something in a rushed way.”

However, Lonnie Brooks, one of the drafters of Plan UMC Revised and a General Conference delegate from Alaska, said he and other plan proponents believe the denomination has waited long enough to see significant changes in the agency operations. “How can taking action in 2016 be seen as rushing?” he asked. To him and others, change already has been eight years in coming.

How the church got here. Brooks and other restructuring proponents point out in a statement that the impulse to reduce the number of agencies and strengthen their oversight came out of the Call to Action, an initiative that examined both congregational vitality and general church operations. The Council of Bishops and Connectional Table officially launched the initiative in the wake of the 2008 economic crisis and the decades-long decline of U.S. membership. As part of the endeavor, church leaders commissioned an operational assessment by the outside consultant, Apex. The Apex study found that agencies often failed to collaborate with each other and their boards were too large and met too infrequently to provide effective supervision. Ultimately, three comprehensive agency restructuring plans aimed at addressing these issues ended up going before the 2012 General Conference. It wasn’t smooth sailing for any of the plans at the lawmaking assembly. The original Plan UMC and its revised version are the result of a compromise between two of the restructuring plans. Plan UMC passed by nearly 60 percent of the vote.

After the Judicial Council struck down the original Plan UMC, the 2012 General Conference spent its last night trying to salvage some of the reforming impulse by approving legislation submitted by agencies to shrink their boards.

Great Plains Area Bishop Scott Jones said agencies should be consolidated even further than what Plan UMC Revised proposes. However, Jones said an improving U.S. economy has sapped the sense of urgency, and as he sees it, the Council of Bishops has given insufficient attention to the Call to Action over the past four years. He commended the Plan UMC Revised proponents for working on reform. “Our current system of funding and

administering general church ministry is unsustainable, and yet there is insufficient attention being given to fostering a new way of living and serving as a global church,” he said.

Work still to do. Many United Methodist leaders would agree that structural reform is needed denomination-wide, but they disagree on what that change should look like or the timeline for carrying it out. The Rev. Amy Valdez Barker served on the initial Call to Action Steering Team and is now the top executive of the Connectional Table. “The Call to Action was really about looking at the church as a whole and beginning to focus our attention, energy and resources toward increasing vital congregations across the connection,” she said. The Connectional Table, she said, has worked the past four years to help agencies collaborate to bolster church vitality. “The larger vision, the thing we are really working with zeal toward is: What does it mean to serve a worldwide church?”

What Plan UMC Revised Changes. “Plan UMC Revised” includes the following changes to the current structure:

- It gives the Connectional Table, a church coordinating body, new authority to elect the top executives for United Methodist Discipleship Ministries and the boards of Global Ministries, Church and Society, and Higher Education and Ministry once those agencies’ boards have nominated a candidate. The legislation says the top executives will be accountable programmatically to their boards and administratively to the newly created position of Connectional Table executive general secretary.
- It authorizes the Connectional Table executive general secretary to evaluate these agencies’ top executives annually and possibly recommend their dismissal “based in large part on the degree of cooperation and collaboration with other agencies toward the goal of making disciples of Jesus Christ.” The legislation bans a bishop from holding this position.
- It details the Connectional Table’s authority to evaluate agencies based on how the agencies direct the flow of energy toward vital congregations and carry out the mission of the global church.
- It reduces the size of some agency boards and the Connectional Table, while increasing representation from outside the United States, especially Africa. The Connectional Table, for example, would see its total membership decrease from 59 to 45.
- It eliminates the Commission on Archives and History, and moves its functions to the General Council on Finance and Administration.
- It eliminates the United Methodist commissions on Religion and Race and the Status and Role of Women. The plan moves the commissions’ work to a new Connectional Table committee called the United Methodist Committee on Inclusiveness. It makes few changes to United Methodist Communications – which includes United Methodist News Services – or United Methodist Men.

– By Heather Hahn, UMNS; Feb. 26, 2016.

+ ***Top agency executives urge sizable budget cuts.***

Conferences would be asked to pay lower apportionments under a budget being proposed by general agency executives.

The top executives of The United Methodist Church’s 13 general agencies unanimously recommended that the denomination’s general church budget be cut to its lowest level in 16 years. Under the reduction, if adopted, U.S. conferences would pay the lowest percentage of general church apportionments since the current apportionment formula began in 2001. The executives propose a bottom-line budget of \$599 million for general church funds in 2017-2020. That’s down from the \$603.1 million general church budget approved at the 2012 General Conference. The executives’ recommendation is also down by \$12 million from the budget proposal that just received approval in February from General Council on Finance and Administration board and the Connectional Table. Both bodies are responsible for developing the general church budget, and they both plan to vote on the proposals by early April. The four-year budget sets the apportionments that support bishops, United Methodist ministerial education and denomination-wide efforts such as the Black College Fund, ecumenical work and Africa University in Zimbabwe. The largest proportion of the budget supports 10 of the denomination’s 13 general agencies. That includes United Methodist Communications, which encompasses United Methodist News Service.

The executives hope the reduction shows support for conferences and local churches struggling with their own financial challenges. “As local churches and annual conferences continue to cut budgets or hold them flat, we believe that all of the general funds must adjust as we stand in solidarity with United Methodists across the connection,” Gil Hanke said in a statement. He is the top executive of the Commission on United Methodist Men and convener of the General Secretaries Table, which brings the agencies’ top executives together. Ultimately, it’s up to the 2016 General Conference to determine the budget for the coming four years.

The executives made their recommendation after the Economic Advisory Committee – a group of eight United Methodist economists and other financial professionals who advise the budget process – raised alarms about plummeting U.S. worship attendance. U.S. average weekly worship attendance dropped by 2.6 percent between 2013 and 2014 – the loss of nearly 76,000 worshippers is the largest in the denomination’s records going back to 1977. At this point, the U.S. church supports the bulk of general church finances for the global denomination. In 2014, the Economic Advisory Committee recommended raising the general church budget of \$628 million. In 2015, the committee reduced its recommendation to \$621 million, still an increase over the current budget. But at its late January meeting, the committee urged denominational leaders to consider cutting the budget instead to \$595.6 million or an optimistic budget of \$604 million. The executives’ proposal also responds to concerns they have heard from conferences and local churches tightening their own annual budgets. “We listened to the Economic Advisory Committee,” Hanke told United Methodist News Service. “We also listened to our constituents – people who are active in annual conferences across the country who – like the agencies over the last several years – are making significant cuts to conference budgets.”

Those concerns were on display when the board of the General Council on Finance and Administration, the denomination’s finance agency, and the Connectional Table, which coordinates the work of agencies, each met in February. Back in May 2015, the two bodies had jointly approved a budget of \$611 million. But when the two bodies met earlier this year, members of both bodies pushed back against the budget increase. The bodies reaffirmed the budget, but by a narrower vote. “We felt further reduction was in order,” Hanke said. Agency executives have voice but not vote on the Connectional Table. The Rev. Marc Brown, the Virginia Conference’s director of connectional ministries, was among the Connectional Table members who objected to the \$611 million budget. “I believe the budget request by the general secretaries reflects a thoughtful response to concerns that have been expressed about an increase in the proposed budget,” he told United Methodist News Service. “The leadership of the general secretaries is valued and appreciated.”

Donald R. House Sr., the Economic Advisory Committee chair and an economist, expects the proposed cut will ease the budgetary pressures on conferences. He does not expect the reduction to have much impact of reversing worship declines. “Our studies indicate that 90 percent of any reductions in apportionments to the annual conferences will be passed on in the form of reductions in apportionments to the local churches,” he said. “This reduction from \$611 to \$599 (million) averages less than a \$100 reduction in annual conference apportionments per year for the average church. “The reduction becomes diluted across so many local churches that it cannot be expected to have any measurable impact on worship attendance, even if the dollars were all spent for the sole purpose of growth.” However, House does think a lower general church budget will result in a higher payout rate by conferences, which will encourage local churches to give more to their conferences. In short, cutting the budget just might be good for morale.

In the U.S., the denomination’s finance agency requests apportionments from each conference based on a formula that includes its local church expenditures, local church costs, the economic strength of the conference and a base percentage approved by General Conference. The General Council on Finance and Administration is asking the 2016 General Conference for the first time to approve a formula for apportionment giving from the central conferences – the seven church regions in Africa, Europe and the Philippines. Even if approved, the new apportionments likely will not have much budget impact. The finance agency projects that these new central conference apportionments will amount to slightly more than \$1 million a year, or about \$4 million over four years.

For the agencies, a reduced budget means using fewer funds for their efforts to help local churches and conferences and to carry out the denomination’s missional goals. But Hanke said he thinks agencies can still

make it work. “The general secretaries collectively and individually have a skill set that brings flexibility to the jobs that they have,” he said. “This makes the job much harder. But knowing my colleagues as I do, I think they will do their best to find a way to provide for each conference, district and local church that asks for assistance.”

– Heather Hahn reports; UMNS; March 16, 2016.

+ **Global warming.** As referenced earlier, an individual sent a letter to members of our Advisory Board taking issue with

our stance on this. After Mr. Lankford’s letter in response to the individual, we shall address the issue of “Global Warming” in other ways.

March 1, 2016

516 North Blount Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27604

Dear Mr. Brooks,

Thank you for your letter of February 16th in regard to Global Warming. You are correct that we have not taken care of the world that God has given us, particularly in the United States. Some of this problem is due to an increase in population, but due mostly to our lack of care by people to be thoughtful for our environment and the lack of thoughtfulness to each other. Mostly, I think for lack of concern for other people.

Global Warming is going to happen by 2200 some people say. But, we have more to be concerned about that is happening now and closing in quickly, long before so-called Global Warming can happen...if it does. Remember, we have always had Global Warming. Ice is becoming thicker at the South Pole now!

Long before 2200 comes we have ISIS: cutting off heads and killing innocence people, cyber threats, aggressive non-state actors, infectious disease, vulnerable food supplies, weapons of mass destruction, satellite warfare, drug trafficking, Iran, Russia, China, North Korea, and this information is from our Intelligence Community, headed by James Clapper, Director of National Intelligence. Also, we have a president who is content to destroy our nation long before any Global Warming!

Concerned Methodists is concerned about the earth. But our main concern is the falling away, as a nation and our Methodist Church leaders, from the study of God’s Word and our task to bring us back to what made this nation great: Christian values as outlined in the Bible. So, part of your analysis of Concerned Methodists is correct, but you missed the point. We must have the values that this nation was built on and only God will determine when this earth is finished!

Again. Thank you for your letter.

– Robert Lankford, Duncanville, Texas

75116

And, Bob, I thank you for your response to Mr. Brooks.

This is similar to the subject of “evolution” and how the educators believe that it is “settled” in the secular school system. Someone once asked, “Do we think we can control the weather by passing a law?” The answer, of course, is “No.” The beliefs of the secular climatologists who push this stem from the anti-capitalist/“Mother Earth”/global control sector. When you delve into the core beliefs of the ones who had constructed this worldview, you will find that they have a “humanistic” worldview rather than seeing the universe from that of a Christian. Unfortunately, their message is seductive and has appealed to many good-natured people who have not examined this issue from a logical perspective. Following is information giving an “overview” and analysis of the issue so that we may gain a greater understanding of this. Indeed, there is more to this than meets the eye and we would be well advised of the implications and what the effect would be on us, our country, and our freedoms. The climatologists believe that there is already too much industry and too many people on the earth today; some believe that anywhere from 500 million to 1.57 billion people is an optimum number. They believe (erroneously) that anything more than this places an undue burden on the planet – “Mother Earth.”

In summary, here is a 7-point analysis of this issue:

1. Contention that it is “settled science”. Truth: it is not. It is far from settled as the following reports attest.
2. Humans are causing global warming because of overpopulation, therefore we need to reduce the world’s population to a sustainable 500 million people so we don’t destroy the earth. Truth: The sun and cow flatulence are far greater factors that cause “climate change/global warming”. Can we regulate those and reduce them? I believe that God is in control.
3. Overpopulation causes excess carbon emissions, drought, flooding, & other natural disasters leading to poverty, which are factors that cause people to join terrorist groups such as ISIS. Truth: This is false; ideology is why people do this.
4. We need to get rid of fossil fuels and use “clean energy”. Truth: “clean energy” is not “clean” but is hard on wildlife and is not consistent, but intermittent – and very expensive.
5. “Carbon emissions” are a poison to the environment. Truth: in reality, we are talking about carbon dioxide (CO₂), which is used by plant life, symbiotically with animal life – this is elementary biology.
6. CO₂ hurts the poor the most. Truth: Unreasonable “climate change” requirements hurt industry, kill businesses, and eliminate jobs – this hurts the poor. The best way to get the people out of poverty is to have affordable (cheap) fuel that helps businesses grow, thereby producing jobs which are used to employ people. This is elementary economics.
7. A global authority is necessary to “save our planet”; we need to give an international organization like the United Nations the authority to regulate energy types and usage. Truth: This is the crux – control of all aspects of our lives.

Note: Do you see where all of this is leading? Control of the people. That is why we need to really analyze what we read and are told and not let ourselves be manipulated. Above all else, we need to fight this with every possible effort.

In addition to what I had offered previously that the founder of the Weather Channel is passionate in his opposition to human-caused “global warming.” I would add as further commentary two other articles from climate scientists:

+ *More Than 700 International Scientists Dissent Over Man-Made Global Warming Claims.*

“Outpouring of Skeptical Scientists Continues as 59 Scientists Added to Senate Report.”

“The science has, quite simply, gone awry.”

Washington, DC: Fifty-nine additional scientists from around the world have been added to the U.S. Senate Minority Report of dissenting scientists, pushing the total to over 700 skeptical international scientists – a dramatic increase from the original 650 scientists featured in the initial December 11, 2008 release. The 59 additional scientists added to the 255-page Senate Minority report since the initial release 13½ weeks ago represents an average of over four skeptical scientists a week. This updated report – which includes yet another former UN IPCC [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change] scientist – represents an additional 300 (and growing number of) scientists and climate researchers since the initial report’s release in December 2007. The over 700 dissenting scientists are now more than 13 times the number of UN scientists (52) who authored the media-hyped IPCC 2007 Summary for Policymakers. The 59 additional scientists hail from all over the world, including Japan, Italy, UK, Czech Republic, Canada, Netherlands, the U.S. and many are affiliated with prestigious institutions including, NASA, U.S. Navy, U.S. Defense Department, Energy Department, U.S. Air Force, the Philosophical Society of Washington (the oldest scientific society in Washington), Princeton University, Tulane University, American University, Oregon State University, U.S. Naval Academy and EPA.

The explosion of skeptical scientific voices is accelerating unabated in 2009. A March 14, 2009 article in the Australian revealed that Japanese scientists are now at the forefront of rejecting man-made climate fears prompted by the UN IPCC. Prominent Japanese Geologist Dr. Shigenori Maruyama, a professor at the Tokyo Institute of Technology’s Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences who has authored more than 125 scientific

publications, said in March 2009 that “there was widespread skepticism among his colleagues about the IPCC’s fourth and latest assessment report that most of the observed global temperature increase since the mid-20th century ‘is very likely due to the observed increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations.’” Maruyama noted that when this question was raised at a Japan Geoscience Union symposium last year, ‘the result showed 90 per cent of the participants do not believe the IPCC report.’” [Also See: The prestigious International Geological Congress, dubbed the geologists’ equivalent of the Olympic Games, was held in Norway in August 2008 and prominently featured the voices of scientists skeptical of man-made global warming fears. See also “Skeptical scientists overwhelm conference: ‘2/3 of presenters and question-askers were hostile to, even dismissive of, the UN IPCC’”] “I do not find the supposed scientific consensus among my colleagues,” noted Earth Scientist Dr. Javier Cuadros on March 3, 2009. Cuadros, of the UK Natural History Museum, specializes in Clay Mineralogy and has published more than 30 scientific papers. Award-Winning Princeton University Physicist Dr. Robert H. Austin, who has published 170 scientific papers and was elected a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, lamented the current fears over global warming. “Unfortunately, Climate Science has become Political Science...It is tragic that some perhaps well-meaning but politically motivated scientists who should know better have whipped up a global frenzy about a phenomena which is statistically questionable at best,” Austin told the minority staff on the Environment and Public Works Committee on March 2, 2009.

Could turn the climate change world upside down. The rise in skeptical scientists is responding not only to an increase in dire “predictions” of climate change, but also a steady stream of peer-reviewed studies, analyses, real world data, and inconvenient developments have further cast doubts on the claims of man-made global warming fear activists. The latest peer-reviewed study in *Geophysical Research Letters* is being touted as a development that “could turn the climate change world upside down.” The study finds that the “Earth is undergoing natural climate shift.” The March 15, 2009 article in WISN.com details the research of Dr. Anastasios Tsonis of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. “We realized a lot of changes in the past century from warmer to cooler and then back to warmer were all natural,” Tsonis said. “I don’t think we can say much about what the humans are doing,” he added. Tsonis further added: “The temperature has flattened and is actually going down. We are seeing a new shift towards cooler temperatures that will last for probably about three decades.” [See also: Peer-Reviewed Study Finds Global Warming could stop ‘for up to 30 years! Warming ‘On Hold? ‘Could go into hiding for decades’ study finds – Discovery.com – March 2, 2009]

Climate “primarily being driven by natural forcing mechanisms”. Climatologist and Palaeoclimate researcher Dr. Diane Douglas, who has authored or edited over 200 technical reports, also declared natural factors are dominating climate, not CO2. “The recent ‘panic’ to control GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions and billions of dollars being dedicated for the task has me deeply concerned that US, and other countries are spending precious global funds to stop global warming, when it is primarily being driven by natural forcing mechanisms,” Douglas, who is releasing a major new paper she authored that [was] presented at a UNESCO conference in Ghent, Belgium on March 20, 2009, told [the foregoing] the minority staff on the Environment and Public Works Committee on March 10, 2009. Also, retired award-winning NASA Atmospheric Scientist Dr. William W. Vaughan, recipient of the NASA Exceptional Service Medal, a former Division Chief of NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center and author of more than 100 refereed journal articles, monographs, and papers, also now points to natural causes of recent climate changes. “The cause of these global changes is fundamentally due to the Sun and its effect on the Earth [emphasis added] as it moves about in its orbit. Not from man-made activities,” Vaughan told the minority staff on the Environment and Public Works Committee on February 6, 2009. Yet another, Geology Professor Uberto Crescenti of the University G.d’Annunzio in Italy, the past president of the Society of Italian Geologists, also agrees that nature, not mankind is ruling the climate. “I think that climatic changes have natural causes according to geological data...I am very glad to sign the U.S. Senate’s report of scientists against the theory of man-made global warming,” Crescenti told the minority staff on the Environment & Public Works Committee on January 15, 2009.

UN IPCC Scientist Dr. Steven M. Japar, a PhD atmospheric chemist who was part of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Second (1995) and Third (2001) Assessment Reports, and has authored 83 peer-reviewed publications and in the areas of climate change, atmospheric chemistry, air pollutions and vehicle emissions, challenged the IPCC's climate claims. "Temperature measurements show that the [climate model-predicted mid-troposphere] hot zone is non-existent. This is more than sufficient to invalidate global climate models and projections made with them!" Japar told the minority staff on the Environment and Public Works Committee on January 7, 2009. Yet another, Mathematical Physicist Dr. Frank Tipler, professor at Tulane University who has authored 58 peer-reviewed publications and five books, ridiculed man-made climate claims. "Whether the ice caps melt, or expand --- whatever happens --- the AGW (anthropogenic global warming) theorists claim it confirms their theory. A perfect example of a pseudo-science like astrology," Tipler wrote on December 22, 2008.

And still another skeptic, Botanist Dr. David Bellamy, a famed UK environmental campaigner, former lecturer at Durham University, and host of a popular UK TV series on wildlife, says the international promotion of man-made global warming fears are nearing their end. (Note: Bellamy was in the original 2007 U.S. Senate report.) "The science has, quite simply, gone awry. In fact, it's not even science anymore, it's anti-science," Bellamy, who used to believe in man-made warming, declared on November 5, 2008.

Journalistic malpractice. Chemist Dr. Mark L. Campbell, a professor of chemistry at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, who has published numerous studies in the Journal of the American Chemical Society on topics such as methane, squarely blames the media for promoting unfounded climate fears. "The sky is not burning, and to claim that it is amounts to journalistic malpractice...the press only promotes the global warming alarmists and ignores or minimizes those of us who are skeptical," Chapman wrote on January 13, 2009. "Scientists across the globe are catching on -- global warming is not real science. There is a sucker born every minute who believes in it, and Al Gore is playing the role of P.T. Barnum," Chemist Max S. Strozier declared December 22, 2009 in an email to the minority staff of the Environment and Public Works Committee. Strozier spent 26 years specializing in chemical laboratory analysis, served as a U.S. Department of Defense aerospace chemist and a former lecturer at San Jose State University and the University of Texas.

Highlights of the Updated 2009 Senate Minority Report of 700 plus scientists featuring the 59 additional scientists:

+ The new scientific report "directly challenges the conclusions of the IPCC Summary that human emissions of carbon dioxide are causing dangerous and unprecedented warming." – Quantitative Economist Kenneth A. Haapala, the past president of the prestigious Philosophical Society of Washington, the oldest scientific society in Washington (founded 1871), has reviewed hundreds of reports based on quantitative techniques. Haapala co-authored the report "Nature, Not Human Activity, Rules the Climate"

+ "I think that climatic changes have a natural causes according many geological data...I am very glad to sign the U.S. Senate's report of scientists against the theory of man-made global warming." – Geology Professor Uberto Crescenti of the University G.d'Annunzio in Italy is the past president of the Society of Italian Geologists.

+ "I am appalled at the state of discord in the field of climate science...There is no observational evidence that the addition of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions have caused any temperature perturbations in the atmosphere." – Award-winning atmospheric scientist Dr. George T. Wolff, former member of the EPA's Science Advisory Board, served on a committee of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and authored more than 90 peer-reviewed studies.

+ "The sky is not burning, and to claim that it is amounts to journalistic malpractice...the press only promotes the global warming alarmists and ignores or minimizes those of us who are skeptical." – Chemist Dr. Mark L. Campbell, a professor of chemistry at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, who has published numerous studies in the Journal of the American Chemical Society on topics such as methane.

+ "Once again we have misleading climate change pronouncements being based on data errors, data errors detected by non-UN, non-IPCC, non-peer-reviewed external observers...This is exactly what happens when you base your arguments on 'consensus science' and not scientific fact." – Professor Dr. Doug L. Hoffman, a

mathematician, computer programmer, and engineer, who worked on environmental models and conducted research in molecular dynamics simulations. Hoffman co-authored the 2009 book, *The Resilient Earth*, described as “bringing a dose of skeptical reality to climate science and the global warming debate.”

+ “The questions are scientific, but the UN answers are political. The global warming debate is hardly about science.” – Computer Modeler and Engineer Allen Simmons, who worked 12 years with NASA’s top climate scientists and wrote computer systems software for the world’s first weather satellites and aided in the development of computer systems for polar orbiting satellites. Simmons co-authored the new skeptical book *The Resilient Earth*.

+ Belief in climate models compared to “ancient astrology”... “I believe the anthropogenic (man-made) effect for climate change is still only one of the hypotheses to explain the variability of climate.” – Award-winning Japanese Physicist Dr. Kanya Kusano, program director of the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology whose research “focuses on the immaturity of simulation work cited in support of the theory of anthropogenic climate change.” compared climate models to “ancient astrology.”

+ “Temperature measurements show that the [climate model-predicted mid-troposphere] hot zone is non-existent. This is more than sufficient to invalidate global climate models and projections made with them!” – UN IPCC Scientist Dr. Steven M. Japar, a PhD atmospheric chemist who was part of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s (IPCC) Second (1995) and Third (2001) Assessment Reports, and has authored 83 peer-reviewed publications and in the areas of climate change, atmospheric chemistry, air pollutions and vehicle emissions.

+ “The cause of these global changes is fundamentally due to the Sun and its effect on the Earth as it moves about in its orbit. Not from man-made activities.” – Retired Award Winning NASA Atmospheric Scientist Dr. William W. Vaughan, recipient of the NASA Exceptional Service Medal, a former Division Chief of NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center and author more than 100 refereed journal articles, monographs, and papers.

+ “Unfortunately, Climate Science has become Political Science...It is tragic that some perhaps well-meaning but politically motivated scientists who should know better have whipped up a global frenzy about a phenomena which is statistically questionable at best.” – Award-Winning Princeton University Physicist Dr. Robert H. Austin, who has published 170 scientific papers, was elected a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and is the current Chair of the U.S. Liaison Committee of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics. Austin, who won the 2005 Edgar Lilienfeld Prize of the American Physical Society

+ “If global cooling will come soon -- scientists will lose trust.” – Award-winning Japanese Geologist Dr. Shigenori Maruyama, a professor at the Tokyo Institute of Technology’s Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences who has authored more than 125 scientific publications, was decorated with the Medal of Honor with Purple Ribbon for a major contribution in the field of geology, specializes in the geological evidence of prehistoric climate change.

+ “Observe which side resorts to the most vociferous name-calling and you are likely to have identified the side with the weaker argument and they know it.” – Materials and Research Physicist Dr. Charles R. Anderson, a former Department of Navy research physicist who has published more than 25 scientific papers specializes in spectroscopy, microscopy, thermal analysis, mass spectroscopy, and surface chemistry.

+ “The data which is used to date for making the conclusions and predictions on global warming are so rough and primitive, compared to what’s needed, and so unreliable that they are not even worth mentioning by respectful scientists.” – Award-winning Aerospace and Mechanical Engineer Dr. Gregory W. Moore, who has authored or co-authored more than 75 publications, book chapters, and reports, and authored the 2001 Version of the NASA Space Science Technology Plan which included a comprehensive approach to studying the Sun-Earth connection aspect of space-based research.

+ “I appreciate the opportunity to add my name to those who disagree that global warming is man-made...Hansen embarrassed NASA by coming out with his claims of global warming.” – Retired senior NASA atmospheric scientist Dr. John S. Theon, a former supervisor of NASA’s James Hansen, and the former Chief of the Climate Processes Research Program at NASA Headquarters and former Chief of the Atmospheric Dynamics & Radiation Branch.

+ “I am pleased to be considered a ‘denier’ in this cause if this puts me in the class with those who defied prevailing ‘scientific consensus’ that the earth was flat and that the earth was the not the center of the universe.”
– Retired U.S. Air Force (USAF) Meteorologist William “Bill” Lyons, of the USAF’s Global Weather Central at Strategic Air Command.

+ “I do not find the supposed scientific consensus among my colleagues... Curiously, it is a feature of man-made global warming that every fact confirms it: rising temperatures or decreasing temperatures. No matter what the weather, some model of global warming offers a watertight explanation.” – Earth Scientist Dr. Javier Cuadros of the UK Natural History Museum, who specializes in Clay Mineralogy and has published more than 30 scientific papers

+ “It is amazing to me, as a professional geologist, how many otherwise intelligent people have, as some may say, ‘drunk the Al Gore Kool-Aid’ concerning global climate change.” – Professional Geologist Earl F. Titcomb Jr. has co-authored analyses of geological and seismological hazards.

+ “Let’s be clear: the work of science has nothing whatever to do with consensus [which] is the business of politics. . . . What is relevant is reproducible results. The greatest scientists in history are great precisely because they broke with the consensus.” – Atmospheric Scientist Timothy R. Minnich, who has more than 30 years experience in the design and management of a wide range of air quality investigations for industry and government, is a past member of the American Meteorological Society and specializes in issues like acid rain and ozone, and has authored or co-authored numerous technical publications and reports.

+ “Based on the laws of physics, the effect on temperature of man’s contribution to atmospheric CO2 levels is minuscule and indiscernible from the natural variability caused in large part by changes in solar energy output.” – Atmospheric Scientist Robert L. Scotto, who has more than 30 years air quality consulting experience, served as a manager for an EPA Superfund contract and is co-founder of Minnich and Scotto, Inc., a full-service air quality consulting firm. He also is a past member of the American Meteorological Society (AMS). Scotto, a meteorologist who has authored or co-authored numerous technical publications and reports.

+ “Whether the ice caps melt, or expand --- whatever happens --- the AGW (anthropogenic global warming) theorists claim it confirms their theory. A perfect example of a pseudo-science like astrology.” – Mathematical Physicist Dr. Frank Tipler, professor at Tulane University has authored 58 peer-reviewed publications and five books.

+ “My dear colleague [NASA’s James] Hansen, I believe, has finally gone off the deep end... The global warming ‘time bomb,’ ‘disastrous climate changes that spiral dynamically out of humanity’s control.’ These are the words of an apocalyptic prophet, not a rational scientist.” – Chemist Dr. Nicholas Drapela of the faculty of Oregon State University Chemistry Department

+ “There is no credible evidence of the current exceptional global warming trumpeted by the IPCC...The IPCC is no longer behaving as an investigative scientific organization or pretending to be one...Their leaders betrayed the trust of the world community.”

– Chemist Dr. Grant Miles, author of numerous scientific publications who was elected to a Fellowship of the Royal Institute of Chemistry, was a member of UK Atomic Energy Authority Chemical Separation Plant Committee.

Other scientists added to the U.S. Senate Minority Report since its initial December 11, 2009 release include the following. These are just some of the scientists who take oppose the theory of “global warming”:

Geologist Dr. Lloyd C. Furer, a past Associate Scientist and Visiting Professor at Indiana University who served as a meteorologist for the U.S. Air Force and has authored more than 35 publications; Physicist and environmental activist John Droz, Jr., who holds a graduate degree in physics from Syracuse University; Geologist Dr. A. Neil Hutton, former District Geologist for Northwest Territories and the Arctic Islands and former Assistant Chief Geologist for the Western Canadian Basin; Professional Geologist Gary Walker, a member of the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists; Ohio’s NBC 4 chief meteorologist Jym Ganahl who was the youngest person to be granted the American Metrological (AMS) Seal of Approval; Dr. Jim Buckee, who holds a PhD in Astrophysics from Oxford University, lectured about climate change at the University of

Aberdeen; Geologist Allan Shepard, former Chief Geologist for Amoco International and member of the Association of Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta; Physicist Gary M. Hoover, a consultant with research and operational experience in atmospheric energy absorption, nuclear reactor operations and exploration geophysics; Meteorologist Scott Sumner of North Carolina; Professor Dr. Caleb Stewart Rossiter, an adjunct professor at the School of International Service at American University and a former teacher of quantitative research methods; Chemical Process Control Engineer Dr. Pierre R Latour, who holds a PhD in Chemical Engineering and has published more than 70 publications and managed NASA's Apollo Docking Simulator development; Terry Jackson of the Institute of Physics in London, the founder of the Energy Group, and a physics teacher at Belfast Institute Further and Higher Education for 30 years; Certified consulting meteorologist Anthony J. Sadar, co-author of Environmental Risk Communication: Principles and Practices for Industry; Physicist Dr. Paul Drallos, who worked as a Post Doc at Sandia National Labs in Albuquerque and at the University of Toledo, formed Plasma Dynamics Corporation, a small research company that specializes in plasma display technology and computer simulation; Surface Chemist Dr. Mark Rose Head of Environmental Quality at Qatar Petroleum who has generated two patents and developed the largest Purified Wet Acid Plant in the world; Geologist Dr. Seymour Merrin, a Fellow of the Geological Society of America and a research scientist; Environmental Chemist Jim Nibeck, who also worked in the biomedical research industry, wrote a 2008 paper on climate titled "Doubt About Anthropogenic Global Warming"; Physicist Jerome Hudson whose studies focused on aperture synthesis and optics; Certified Consulting Meteorologist Mike Smith, the CEO of WeatherData Services of Wichita Kansas; Environmental Engineer James A. Haigh, PE, a Certified Plant Engineer and Licensed Professional Engineer of 36 years who has assisted in the design of Class III Nuclear Valves for Nuclear Power Plants; Meteorologist Tony Pann of WUSA 9 in Washington DC, holds the American Meteorological Seal of Approval; Biologist and Biochemist Dr. John Reinhard, a member of the American Chemical Society who has published 76 papers and currently a scientist in the pharmaceutical industry; Engineer Alan Cheetham has 30 years experience including extensive scientific training, data analysis, modeling and statistics and runs the skeptical website "Global Warming Science"; Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Dr. W. M. Schaffer, Ph. D., of the University of Arizona; CNN Meteorologist Chad Myers, an meteorologist for 22 years, certified by the American Meteorological Society; Engineer and Physicist J.K. "Jim" August, formerly of the U.S. Navy nuclear power program; Biologist and Neuropharmacologist Dr. Doug Pettibone, who has authored 120 scientific publications and holds ten patents and is a past member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; Meteorologist Tom Wismuller, former weather forecaster at Amsterdam's Royal Dutch Weather Bureau; MIT Scientist Dr. Robert Rose, a professor of Materials Science and Engineering at MIT with approximately 50 years of experience teaching various scientific; Climate researcher Dr. Craig Loehle, formerly of the Department of Energy Laboratories and currently with the National Council for Air and Stream Improvements, who has published more than 100 peer-reviewed scientific papers; German Meteorologist Dr. Gerd-Rainer Weber, a Consulting Meteorologist; Professor Luigi Mariani of the Agrometeorological Research Group, Dept. of Crop Science at the University of Milan, has authored or co-authored more than 50 peer-reviewed studies and other scientific reports; Miroslav Kutilek, Emeritus Professor of Soil Science and Soil Physics at Czech Technical University in Prague who specialized in paleoclimatology of soil; Coastal Engineer Cyril Galvin, member of the American Geophysical Union; Nuclear Chemist Gary L. Troyer has worked as an analytical chemist and was a Fellow Scientist at the Westinghouse Hanford Company; and Award Winning Physicist Dr. Will Happer, Professor at the Department of Physics at Princeton University and Former Director of Energy Research at the Department of Energy, pub. over 200 scientific papers.

– Source:

http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Minority.Blogs&ContentRecord_id=10fe77b0-802a-23ad-4df1-fc38ed4f85e3

For further research: To read John Coleman's Special Report, or watch "Global Warming: The Other Side", go to <http://www.kusi.com/weather/colemanscorner/81583352.html>

Also, review: <http://www.kusi.com/home/78477082.html?video=pop&t=a>

+ ***Global Warming (AKA Climate Change) is the World's Greatest Threat? Not!!*** According to Mr. Henderson, the great psycho-wave of the past 35 years is “global salvationism.” This quasi-religious belief has two ill-fitting articles of faith: environmental alarmism, and the assertion that Third World poverty is in some way due to the West taking more than its fair share of global resources. Both problems are alleged to require top-down global political solutions, including giant corporations accepting more “social responsibility.” The focus of this global master-plan is the subversive notion of “sustainable development,” that without extensive UN-administered government controls the world is going to “Hades”.

Peter Foster: “The Prince of Power [Maurice Strong],” Financial Post (May 19, 2005). I can’t think of a better way to put Climategate into proper perspective than to revisit a 1998 Financial Post editorial titled “Global Warming: The Real Agenda.” Its author, Terence Corcoran, quoted from statements given to the Calgary Herald by the former Environment Minister, Christine Stewart. As “minister of the environment, I am very worried about global warming,” Stewart said, “no matter if the science is phony, there are collateral environmental benefits.” In another statement quoted by the Herald, Ms. Stewart gave another reason for adopting the religion of global warming. “Climate change [provides] the greatest chance to bring about justice and equality in the world.” Here she gets closer to the core...of some of the leading global warming activists. Where socialism’s attempt at a global redistribution of wealth ended in economic catastrophe, global warming is being wheeled in as the next new economic crusade.

Consolidating Ms. Stewart’s statements, we reach some horrific conclusions. Whether global warming actually exists is irrelevant. It is, in the hands of government and environmental activists, a convenient front for the introduction of programs and economic policies that Canadians – and most citizens of the world – would not otherwise accept. Ms. Stewart, perhaps unintentionally, has identified the two key foundations of the global warming movement. One is based in environmentalism, which essentially claims that human beings are a problem in nature. The other foundation is the old business of economic redistribution. Both these movements are linked in the international climate change treaty Canada signed in Kyoto. Environment Canada has already given up trying to examine the science. It never really tried. Instead, it spends hundreds of millions of dollars churning out propaganda on the hypothetical effects of global warming. [The government’s solution? Global regulations—not a good idea. – AOM]

See: <http://www.renewamerica.com/columns/dunkin/131106.>; Calvin Beisner, Ph.D, Cornwall Alliance for Stewardship of Creation, <http://www.CornwallAlliance.org/>

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The philosophy of the classroom in one generation will be the philosophy of the government in the next.

~ President Abraham Lincoln