

## Celebrate Earth Hour and Turn off Your Lights on March 28, 2009 at 8:30

Participate in the KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives campaign called Re-energize: Time for a Carbon Sabbath. Deepen your understanding and learn more about the links between fossil fuels, the violation of human rights, and conflict.

KAIROS has developed action, education, and worship materials that can help you mark Earth Hour with neighbours, at church, or at home. Let KAIROS know how you are planning to celebrate Earth Hour so that they can inform others about events and tell the government that Canadians of faith and conscience believe the fossil fuel crisis requires immediate action.



- » Download or order the materials (free except for shipping):  
[www.kairoscanada.org/en/get-involved/campaign](http://www.kairoscanada.org/en/get-involved/campaign)
- » Contact Sara Stratton at KAIROS:  
1-877-403-8933 ext. 241



Please feel free to photocopy this newsletter for church bulletins and newsletters.

*United Action for Justice* is a publication of the Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations (JGER) Unit of The United Church of Canada. For more information on our work, see: [www.united-church.ca/justice](http://www.united-church.ca/justice). To subscribe, see: [www.united-church.ca/communications/newsletters](http://www.united-church.ca/communications/newsletters).



## UNITED ACTION for JUSTICE

The People of The United Church of Canada acting in Solidarity on Issues of  
Justice, Global & Ecumenical Relations

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As we enter this time of Advent waiting, we have an opportunity for reflection and renewal—listening for how God is calling us to transform ourselves, our communities, and the world, and acting in response.

With global and ecumenical partners we can work for ecological justice, support human rights, plan meaningful cross-cultural experiences, and undo racial injustice.

### Call for Climate Change on December 7

On December 7, the United Nations Climate Change Conference meets in Poznań, Poland, to begin the next round of global climate negotiations.



Join thousands gathering in communities across Canada to demand that Canadian leadership commit to deep emissions reductions.

» Find out what events are being planned, how to organize your own, and where to learn more about climate change:

[www.united-church.ca/getinvolved/takeaction/081119](http://www.united-church.ca/getinvolved/takeaction/081119)

» Visit the United Church's new YouTube channel and look for a clip of delegate Jess Wishart and the World Council of Churches link:

[www.youtube.ca/unitedchurchofcanada](http://www.youtube.ca/unitedchurchofcanada)

## Support Human Rights in the Democratic Republic of Congo

United Church members are called to respond to the ongoing conflict and humanitarian crisis unfolding in the eastern province of North Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

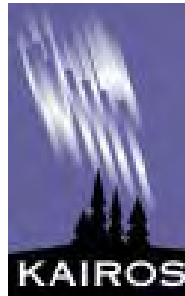
**Urgent  
Action**

The Rev. Milenge Mwenelwata of Église du Christ au Congo, the United Church's partner in the region, says, "The humanitarian situation in North Kivu is catastrophic. More than 1.5 million people are without shelter, food, and water, and are displaced each day with no destination, fleeing hostilities." One of the root causes of the complex conflict is foreign companies, including Canadian ones, exploiting the Congo's mineral resources.

» Learn more about the situation and how you can take action:  
[www.united-church.ca/getinvolved/takeaction/081106](http://www.united-church.ca/getinvolved/takeaction/081106)

## No Free Trade with Colombia without a Guarantee of Human Rights

On November 21, the Canadian government signed a tentative free trade agreement with Colombia, following a similar agreement with Peru earlier this year. KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives, of which the United Church is a member, has been expressing concern about these trade talks since they began over a year ago.



Colombia is a country in a severe human rights crisis, which Harper has been ignoring during negotiations, and free trade will serve to further inequalities without addressing the root causes of the conflict.

- » Participate in the KAIROS action for human rights security before trade agreements are made: [www.kairoscanada.org](http://www.kairoscanada.org)
- » Read an interview with United Church partner Bishop Juan Alberto Cardona of the Methodist Church of Colombia:  
<http://archive.makepovertyhistory.ca/e/colombia/cardona.php>

## Sojourning Handbook Available for Trip Planning

This recently updated resource for planning group education and exposure visits to global partners, from the Canadian Churches' Forum for Global Ministries, is now available from UCRD.



Issues covered include ethical considerations of short-term missions, cross-cultural issues, leadership, funding, and health. Workshops, sample forms, and worksheets for planning and follow-up are also included.

» Contact UCRD and order a copy:  
<http://catalogue.united-church.ca>

» Learn more about the Canadian Churches' Forum for Global Ministries:  
[www.ccforum.ca](http://www.ccforum.ca)

## March 21: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Worship and workshop resources are available to help you mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination observed annually on March 21, or at other times during the year to focus on anti-racism themes.

» Obtain online worship materials:  
[www.united-church.ca/planning/seasons/racial](http://www.united-church.ca/planning/seasons/racial)

» Find downloadable resources from the May 2008 *Mandate* magazine that focuses on Empire and Racial Justice. The full issue can also be ordered from UCRD for \$2.95:  
[www.united-church.ca/sales/magazines/mandate/2008/May](http://www.united-church.ca/sales/magazines/mandate/2008/May)

» Order the more in-depth resource *That All May Be One: A Resource for Educating toward Racial Justice*.  
<http://catalogue.united-church.ca>