

## Quotes from Press Conference Participants

“There is no such thing as a Republican or Democrat, a liberal or conservative, a religious or secular environment. We all breathe the same air and drink the same water. Scientists and evangelicals share a deep moral commitment to preserve this precious gift we have all been given.”

– **Dr. Eric Chivian**, *Nobel laureate, Director of the Center for Health and the Global Environment at Harvard Medical School*

“Great scientists are people of imagination. So are people of great faith. We dare to imagine a world in which science and religion cooperate, minimizing our differences about how Creation got started, to work together to reverse its degradation. We will not allow it to be progressively destroyed by human folly.”

– **Rev. Richard Cizik**, *Vice President for Governmental Affairs of the National Association of Evangelicals*

“Our environment is complex and the biology therein comprises the biocomplexity that maintains the equilibrium and robust nature of our living planet. We simply cannot continue the experiment we are presently carrying out, namely to allow global warming to go unchecked.”

– **Dr. Rita Colwell**, *Distinguished Professor, University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health*

“More than takers, we are care-takers. By returning Creation’s service with service of our own, we care for Creation, we restore what has been spoiled, we preserve the species, and care for the climate system we hold in trust.”

– **Dr. Cal DeWitt**, *Professor, Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies*

“I believe that leaders of the scientific and evangelical communities have the capacity to change the national dialogue about the environment. From science, from faith, or from both, we feel morally compelled to address pressing environmental problems before it is too late. This is not just a technical policy question - it is a moral imperative, and must be taken on as such, with the kind of energy, passion, and commitment that only a morally compelling cause can generate.”

– **Dr. David Gushee**, *Professor and Senior Fellow, Union University*

“In order to avoid clear and substantial dangers...it will be necessary to substantially reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions during the next few decades, and perhaps by 80 percent or more before the end of the century.”

– **Dr. James Hansen**, *Chief, NASA Institute for Space Studies*

“We are glad to be partnering with our friends in the scientific community. They have the facts we need to present to our congregations; we have the numbers of activists that will work through churches, government, and the business community to make a significant impact.”

– **Dr. Joel Hunter**, *Senior Pastor of Northland Church in Orlando, Florida*

“In our vast universe, as far as we know, planet Earth is the only place where a rich diversity of life exists. God has created a diverse array of species that thrive in a web of interdependence. Those of us who are Christians in science recognize that both our faith and our professional vocation call us to unite in action to preserve God’s Creation and to help humankind.”

– **Dr. Randy Isaac**, *Executive Director, American Scientific Affiliation*

“It is difficult to translate to our faith communities the rapport, mutual respect and critical awareness that was present at the recent meeting between scientists and Evangelicals. But we are compelled to do so. Our task is to help our communities overcome the illness of ‘nature deficit disorder’ that affects not only our culture at large but also our churches.”

– **Dr. Cheryl Johns**, *Professor, Church of God Theological Seminary*

“The joint statement issued today is newsworthy and remarkable, in part because it demonstrates how mistaken perceptions of a different community’s perspective can at times mask opportunities for the pursuit of common interests.”

– **Dr. Jim McCarthy**, *Professor of Biological Oceanography, Harvard University*

“Because we are entirely dependent for our lives on other organisms, and simply would not exist without them, I am delighted to be working with Christian Evangelical leaders to try to find new ways to protect them. The abundant productivity and diverse properties of these organisms hold vital keys to attaining social justice and alleviating poverty around the world.”

– **Dr. Peter Raven**, *Director, Missouri Botanical Garden*

“If current deterioration of the environment by human activity continues unabated, best estimates are that half of Earth's surviving species of plants and animals will be extinguished or critically endangered by the end of the century. The price for future generations will be paid in economic opportunity, environmental security, and spiritual fulfillment. The saving of the living environment is therefore an issue appropriately addressed jointly by science and religion.”

– *Pulitzer-Prize winning author* **Dr. Edward O. Wilson**, *Professor Emeritus, Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University*