



## **Pastor Outreach Guide**

Thank you for your interest in the Good Steward Campaign! We are excited to get you involved and find ways for you to bear witness publicly on behalf of the least of these who are suffering from the negative consequences of climate change.

The purpose of this document is to guide you through how to go about meeting with pastors and what we ultimately are seeking to accomplish.

### **WHY?**

First it's important to address – why are we asking you to meet with your local pastors? Well, looking at the big picture, our pastors are supposed to be the moral voice of our society. They need to know that as young people we care about climate change and how it's affecting the poor. What better way to do this than to meet with them face-to-face expressing our concerns?

### **HOW?**

Logistically, how do you set up meetings with pastors, and who do you want to talk to?

1. Identify local churches you want to reach out to. If you're working with a group, split up the churches to either individuals or pairs.
2. Reach out to the head pastor (and assistant pastors if the head pastor is not accessible). Start with an e-mail. A sample e-mail can be found on Page 3.
3. Follow-up with a phone call a day or two later.
4. Arrange a meeting that works for both your schedules.
5. Feel free to print out some copies of the Good Steward Campaign one-pager to use in the meeting (separate PDF file on our website).
6. Meet!
7. Report back to Drew ([drew@goodstewardcampaign.org](mailto:drew@goodstewardcampaign.org)).

### **MEETING OUTLINE**

Below is an outline for a meeting with a pastor. Adapt it for your particular circumstances.

- Thank the pastor for taking the time to meet
- Tell the pastor that you are there to speak about the Good Steward Campaign – something that is an important part of your faith. Before you get started, ask the pastor what he or she believes about the importance of protecting Creation.
- Thank the pastor for sharing his/her views. Describe what you came to talk about – creation care, environmental stewardship and specifically, climate change. Speak with conviction. Tell the pastor how much these issues matter to you and why.
- Ask the pastor:
  - Will you preach about creation care/the climate crisis?
  - Can you share their sermon with the Good Steward Campaign?
  - Are you willing to write a blog post for the Good Steward Campaign?

- Is your church interested in learning more about World Food Day<sup>1</sup>?
- Ask the pastor if s/he has any questions and thank them again for their time.

### **THEMES TO STRESS**

- Our central concern of the climate crisis is how it affects God's most vulnerable people, who are heavily impacted by pollution and climate change. This resonates with pastors, many of whom are involved with ministry to the poor.
- We (i.e. members of the Millennial Generation) have a sense of urgency that doesn't exist among the general public. Climate change is an issue that is only going to get worse the longer we sit around accepting the status quo and we and our children are the ones that are going to have to suffer the consequences.
- Occasionally pastors have questions about the science behind climate change. Stress here that the respected scientific community is in complete consensus that the earth is warming and humans are the primary cause. While some people have tried to politicize the science, we believe, as Christians, that we need to take this science seriously – just as we take science seriously when we learn we or a loved one is suffering from a serious illness. It's not political. It's moral.
- Don't speak extensively to the science if you are unaware of all the details. If you want to be informed check out [www.skepticalscience.com](http://www.skepticalscience.com). Point them to that resource and other resources like our website and the books, videos and podcasts we point people to there.
- Talk about how investing in renewable energy will create jobs for Americans – and for your generation. Say that you are sad to see our country falling behind China, India and others in building an economy for the future because of a senseless political standoff. Note that you are confident that the market can create new jobs that create prosperity and protect the environment. Say that this is good news – that it can give people meaningful work, a way to serve God, and a way to support their family.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Drew  
([drew@goodstewardcampaign.org](mailto:drew@goodstewardcampaign.org))

---

<sup>1</sup> World Food Day is an annual event where churches/small groups come together and share a meal, discussing where our food comes from. This year there's a special focus on how climate change is affecting food production throughout the world. Materials for World Food Day can be seen and ordered here:  
<http://www.nae.net/worldfoodday/825-wfd-materials>

## Sample E-mail

Dear Pastor \_\_\_\_\_,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm a \_\_\_-year old Christian. I am a student at \_\_\_\_\_ OR resident of \_\_\_\_\_. I am writing on behalf of the [Good Steward Campaign](#), an initiative gathering young Christians in several states, including \_\_\_\_\_, to answer the Biblical call to care for God's creation and to protect the poor from the droughts and severe weather that is part of global warming. For me and my generation, these issues matter – a lot. We need your help to make a difference.

A recent [study](#) revealed that 81% of young Christian adults are more likely to believe their religious leaders than any other source about global warming. As we confront the most crucial issue of our generation, your voice is critical.

Scripture tells us that “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.” (Ps. 24:1) As Christians we’re called to be good stewards of creation, and the Good Steward Campaign has developed a number of resources to help congregations discuss and engage on these issues, such as:

- An exegetical [scripture guide](#) on creation care
- [Bible studies and lessons](#) on creation care for both adults and children
- A sermon/teaching visit to your church on good stewardship from a member of the Good Steward Campaign team, such as Rev. Richard Cizik, Rev. Mitch Hescocx, and Rev. Jim Ball
- Free educational webinars and continuing education activities
- Tips on cutting down consumption in your church and home
- Opportunities for advocacy

We hope you'll want to help us. You can:

- Pray for the protection of God's creation and our efforts to be Good Stewards
- Preach about creation care, or write a post for our [blog](#)
- Make your consumption habits reflect your values – at church and at home
- Advocate for a clean, healthy environment
- Get others involved
- Speak to members of the media as a representative of the Good Steward Campaign

**I would love to meet if you are available! Are you available \_\_\_\_throw out 2-3 dates/times\_\_\_\_?** Please feel free to connect me with a member of your congregation or anyone else you think would be interested. I'll be in touch quickly to learn more about your interests and how we can work together!

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you!

In Him,

\_\_\_\_\_