

Climate Call

On Saturday March 28 2009 'Church and Environment', the Project Management Group of the Council of Churches, presented the call 'Vulnerability, responsibility and courage; climate change in the hour of truth'. The Council of Churches in the Netherlands contributes ecumenically with this call up to the rethinking and discussion around climate change and its consequences.

Hans Schraevesande, chairman of 'Church and Environment' presented this call up to drs. Henk van Hout, chairman of the Council of Churches, ds. Gerrit de Fijter, chairman of the General Synod of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands and Arnold van Heusden, chairman of the Evangelical Alliance. From their reaction to the call up they showed to be united on the threatening consequences of the climate change for churches: this is a challenge and assignment for structural change and change-over.

Contributions

Weatherman/climatologist Reinier van den Berg, climate activist Wijnand Duyvendak, *FairClimate* ambassador Anne-Meta Gerritsen and synod chairman De Fijter debated with each other and the visitors on the seriousness of climate change, possibilities to prevent worse and the role of the churches in this. Concrete ideas were mentioned: continuation of the theological reflection, more attention for the creation in liturgy and education, the encouragement of church-managements for durable policy and the encouragement of church-member for durable lifestyle.

Copenhagen

In the coming months the churches will contribute to a large national action to influence the UN-Conference on climate which will be held at the end of the year in Copenhagen.

The day ended with a worship officiated by poet-vicar Hans Bouma, who has been involved with heart and soul in stimulating religious attention for creation, nature and environment since the sixties.