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## Grace's "Making peace with the earth: Action and advocacy for climate justice" (Book Review)

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# Book Reviews

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Grace Ji-Sun K. (Ed.). (2016). *Making peace with the earth: Action and advocacy for climate justice*. Geneva: World Council of Churches Publications. 274 pp. \$24.00. ISBN 9782825416686

The title *Making peace with the earth: Action and advocacy for climate justice* assumes that the earth has been violated and that climate justice is a must. In the forward of this latest publication on climate change by the World Council of Churches (WCC), Guillermo Kerber says that the impetus for the book came from the Working Group on Climate Change, which participated in the WCC's Pilgrimage for Peace and Justice in 2013. According to the editor, Grace Ji-Sun Kim, the purpose of the book is to provide a space where specialists, theologians, and others in faith organizations from around the world could engage climate-change believers and non-believers in dialogue about their programmatic efforts for Climate Justice.

Eighteen short chapters of this book divide into three parts, excluding the epilogue. The first part, "Churches Respond to Climate Change" consists of seven practical but well researched chapters. The first chapter defines the discourse by contextualizing the problem of climate change, and justifying the church's role in solving the problem. The following pieces describe Climate Justice's programs and projects conducted by individuals and groups in Europe and Palestine. All chapters end with a lesson learned and a best practices section.

The second part of this work, entitled, "Eco-Theology and Climate Justice" consists of eight theoretical, but very readable chapters. Authors draw from eco-theology and spirituality, creation theology and spirituality, post-colonial and feminist theories, eco-feminism and the spiritualities integrated into indigenous eco-systems to create alternative theological and spiritual frameworks that help translate faith into action for climate justice. The argument is that the current political and ethical trend of corporations' commodification of spaces and fossil resources and promotion of endless consumption is unsustainable. To reverse the trend, individuals and communities need ethical and spiritual renewal to live a lifestyle of enough and care for the earth.

Part three is entitled “Interfaith Initiatives and Care for the Earth.” These three concluding chapters recapitulate that the current civilization crisis consists of humanity being seized by the “false consciousness of endless consumption.” To fix the crisis, individuals and communities must tap into their ethical and moral being, whether secular or spiritual, to work for climate justice.

The epilogue by Conradie is a critical evaluation of the book. It provides some good ideas, perhaps for the WCC’s next volume on climate change. This reviewer, however, does not concur with Conradie’s argument that the book lacks hope. A golden thread of hope runs through the entire volume. That *hope* is called ‘faith in action.’

This book is a milestone in the context of the global work of the WCC on climate change. It is very readable, well researched and well documented.

**Reviewer**

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