



## Final Statement

The participants in the camp that took place in Ecumene from 23-25 July, entitled "Better to safeguard the earth than to run out of wood", were mostly very young and came from about ten congregations. They are the expression (and protagonists) of the work of networking carried out by Irene Abra, coordinator for Italy of the international project 'Climate Justice for All', and by the collective (shapers) that was gradually formed by meeting young people from all the Italian Methodist communities over a period of six months between 2020 and 2021.

The international project 'Climate Justice for All', promoted by the Methodist Church of Britain and of which OPCEMI is a partner for the development of the project in Italy, is a valuable opportunity to increase awareness of the impact of climate change in different parts of the world.

The sections into which the meeting was divided focused on the theological and ethical challenges posed by climate change and pollution to the faith of each individual, and were carried out in an attempt to enhance participation by alternating games, testimonies, liturgical moments and reflections.

During the debate it was agreed that:

The international project sponsored by the Methodist Church of Britain is a valuable opportunity to raise awareness of the impact of climate change in different parts of the world.

It enables the participation in the mobilization of many people and both lay and religious organizations towards the Conference of the Parties on Climate Change that will take place in Glasgow in November 2021 and will have a preliminary session in Milan from 28 September to 2 October.

Nothing is more urgent than converting to bring the human species to respect the timing of the reproduction of life and to the understanding that it is all interconnected and interdependent.

This paradigm shift in religious terms passes through a re-comprehension of God's plan that includes every creature because all creation is in the image of God (Psalm 104,29ff), has a covenant bond with him (Gen 9,9ff), suffers and hopes and is included in the promise of salvation (Romans 8,19-23).

Like the same components of the camp, the path suggested can only be intergenerational because each person is called upon to fulfil his or her part, to 'have more soul'.

In the context of the reflections carried out and the testimonies received, the renovation of Ecumene with criteria of eco-sustainability may constitute a model and a possible case study.

In conclusion, the participants in the camp, which is an important stage of the international Methodist project in the run-up to the Youth Summit (28-30.09.2021) and Pre-COP26 (30.09-2.10.2021) in Milan, undertake to:

Strengthen their testimony, in particular through their sustainable consumption choices, plastic waste management and energy transition, with actions to raise awareness of climate change



starting in our communities and reaching out to civil society and those with governing responsibilities.

To give a public testimony of their commitment by creating a network in their territories with other young people, including those involved in Fridays for Future, on the occasion of PreCOP26 and the Youth Summit in Milan.

Continue and increase the attention of young people and the Italian Methodist churches as well as other Protestant churches even after COP 26.