International Youth Conference in Kyoto
2017-03-31

Statement

We youths, who were gathered from churches across the world, met at Kansai Seminar House in Kyoto, Japan from March 28-31, 2017 to spend 4 days together learning and discussing under the theme, “Aiming to Realize a Sustainable Energy Future.” We learned deeply about consequences of the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident and radioactive contamination, which were triggered by the Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster of March 11, 2011. We exchanged views from the perspectives of “Problems of Nuclear: Environment, Health, Safety, Human Rights and Other Perspectives,” “Anti-Nuclear Power Movements,” “Litigation and Other Measures,” and “What Can the Church Do?” While being made more deeply aware through this of the limitations and arrogance of human activity, we discussed how humanity, particularly the church which stand in the Bible faith and we as Christian youths, might respond to the fundamental questions raised by Fukushima, accepting these as God’s questions to us. As a result, we reached the conclusion that we want to bring about a future of true peace, though the realization of a sustainable energy society.

We feel joy that participants gathered from many places and were able to hold satisfying Christian fellowship across generations. Also, in a time when there are few places to express freely our views about this world’s issues, we felt it is important to have such opportunities. Furthermore, through this program we were able to hear the stories of people in a variety of situations, and to discover new things.

Wishing not to stop at just stating our views, in order that we may practice our ideas, we commit to the following and call upon others to join us.
1. We will gather periodically across denominational boundaries, to be renewed by Gospel of Jesus Christ revealed in the Bible, and to be sent out into the world.

2. We will make efforts to reduce our consumption of natural resources, including energy resources, in our daily lives.

3. We will meet with people who suffer, listen to their voices, stand with them in their suffering and live with them.

4. We will welcome those who seek refuge and share the meal table with them. We will respect differences of standpoints, or traditions.

5. We will discern facts and enhance our media literacy.

6. We will gather and transmit accurate information.

7. We will, in each of our churches, communicate the importance of renewable energy technology and energy independence through preaching and discussion.

8. We will deepen discussion and engage ourselves for the creation of a model church that realizes energy independence.

9. We will utilize online meeting to continue discussions.

10. We will oppose the economy-first ideology and discrimination structures that support nuclear power generation and endeavor to search for alternative new values and to live according to these.
[Call outs]

1. We call out for participation in citizen-directed radiation measurement activities, and for the installation of monitoring posts.

2. We will call out for the creation of a cooperative framework for times of emergency, which crosses denominational and religious boundaries.

3. We will continue necessary advocacy toward government in order to realize a sustainable society.

4. We invite all people who are in Christ to join us, to sit together around the meal table and live together with people who are amid suffering.

March 31, 2017

Participants in the “International Youth Conference in Kyoto”