

Dear friends,

Last week, my daughter Emily, mother of three pre-school children, asked me if there is any hope for the world related to climate change. I struggled to respond, particularly pondering the future of my grandchildren and their children. I thought of the excellent articles PEC members shared about *hope* in a recent *Unbound*. Yet the planet is warming, the oceans are rising, and climate is erratic. The image of the white rabbit in “Alice and Wonderland” running in circles, wondering what to do, has been going through my head.

Wondering will not get us very far. We must act. We are nearing the tipping point. We have been warned for decades by scientists and prophets, but most of us in such a materialistic society end up with selective hearing. You who are reading this are the choir. We need your music!

PEC’s main focus of Advocacy for the past year has been on fossil fuels as noted in the excellent resource [PEC Policy Priorities 2012](#) which highlighted four priorities: hydraulic fracturing (fracking), mountaintop removal, coal mining and export, and the tar sands pipeline. PEC is currently in deep conversation with a PC(USA) group entitled “Divest PC (USA)” discussing Bill McKibben’s call to divest from fossil fuel companies.

PEC is dividing our advocacy efforts into three areas: adding environmental toxins and genetic modification as well as lifestyle simplification/”going deeper” (including fair trade, economic and social justice, and covenanting for accountability.)

We ask your prayers and wisdom and offer the following ways to work with us:

- Share your thoughts/prayers on PEC’s Facebook page.
- Contact us at presbyearthcare@gmail.com if you would like to discuss joining one of the three committees (which meet by phone conference).
- Write an overture. **PEC is CALLING for OVERTURES!** This is a fascinating process and can be very helpful in setting official PC(USA) policy. We can help give you guidance in determining what areas to write about and how to go about the process. It is urgent to start soon as there are many steps in the process and it will need to be voted in by your presbytery (by late 2013 or very early 2014). GA is in Detroit June 14-21, 2014. Areas related to environmental justice could include social and economic justice and the moral imperatives associated with both.
- Join the new PEC yahoo e-mail group if you are interested in keeping up with emails about PECs three advocacy groups and the call for overtures. (Just email us at presbyearthcare@gmail.com to be included.)
- Register for our PEC conference, Ethical Earth Care: Keeping Creation Sacred, Oct. 16-19. In addition to many other excellent plenary, worship, and workshop sessions, there is one on writing overtures, plus several on areas of advocacy.

There are multiple areas that call for us to study and share. Sustainable lifestyles include critically looking at climate change, clean air, water, soil, transportation systems, health care, ethical eating/food/agricultural systems, and sustainable communities. It certainly also includes fair trade (particularly the Trans-Pacific Trade Agreement which is very bad news) population of the planet, inequitable lifestyles/income, and land grabs.

Thank you, PEC choir for sharing your ear and your music. We look forward to working and sharing together.

Working together and seeking a sustainable planet,
Diane Waddell, Moderator, Presbyterians for Earth Care

MODERATOR’S MESSAGE

By Diane Waddell

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UPDATE FROM ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRIES: EARTH CARE AND GREEN FAITH

By Rebecca Barnes

As Environmental Ministries seeks to strengthen its support of PCUSA congregations caring for the earth, we are partnering with GreenFaith to offer PCUSA congregations a new kind of support to sustain and grow their earth care efforts.

GreenFaith provides extensive support to participating churches, based on over 20 years of experience in the religious-environmental field. Six webinars, an online center with over 200 resources, one-on-one feedback and coaching, and support via phone and email helps congregations succeed. Participants are linked into a network of congregations that share best practices and success stories on-line.

Churches enrolling in GreenFaith will receive PC(USA) Earth Care Congregation certification and continued support from Environmental Ministries. PC(USA) provides Presbyterian-specific resources to GreenFaith which will enable participating churches to give a distinct Presbyterian identity to their environmental ministry.

I really like the environmental justice and advocacy focus of the GreenFaith program and I believe it is helpful to have this opportunity to diversify activities, particularly for churches that have already renewed a year or two with the Earth Care Congregation program. We will continue to offer the ECC program as is, but enrolling in GreenFaith will count for both so it is a win-win situation. One of our veteran PCUSA Earth Care Congregations, Trinity Presbyterian Church in

East Brunswick, NJ, is also a GreenFaith sanctuary. In fact, they were the first GreenFaith church certified in the country! Debbie O'Halloran, Earth Shepherds leader, says, "GreenFaith provides a clear, concise path to complete your goals. It is not for the faint of heart, but is definitely worth the effort!"

Churches in this GreenFaith program receive numerous resources, one-on-one coaching and interfaith connectivity, resulting in the reduction of operating expenses, attraction of new members, and renewed energy and success around environmental programming.

To launch the collaboration, GreenFaith is underwriting 50% of the tuition of 10 PC (USA) congregations from Maryland/Washington DC, North Carolina, and Minnesota.

More information about this partnership is available at pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations and a webinar on GreenFaith is at <http://greenfaith.org/success-stories/certification-program-2-25-webinar-recording-powerpoint>.

The application deadline for the next pool of applications to GreenFaith is December 1st. Contact me and/or Stacey Kennealy (SKennealy@greenfaith.org) if you are interested.

Rebecca Barnes is the Associate for Environmental Ministries for the Presbyterian Church (USA). Her email address is rebecca.barnes@pcusa.org

GET THE UPDATE EMAILED TO YOU!

In 2013, we would like to encourage our members who are comfortable with email to get *The Update* in electronic form only to decrease PEC's dependency on paper.

If you would like to make this change, please contact PEC's Coordinator, Elspeth Cavert, at presbyearthcare@gmail.com. Thank you!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT: 2013 PEC Steering Committee Elections*By Jane Laping*

Each year, a Nominating Committee presents a slate of steering committee members to begin their two-year terms at the PEC Annual Meeting. This year, the Committee unanimously recommended the following five serving members who agreed to be re-nominated and Paul Homeyer as the new Southwest Regional Representative:

Moderator - Diane Waddell

Diane incorporates her work as a nurse practitioner in integrative, holistic medicine with her passion of caring for Creation. In her eco-spiritual journey, she has a particular interest in sustainable agriculture, toxic burden, and sharing Earth equitably with God's other creatures. She founded and moderates Heartland Presbytery's Environmental Justice Team. Diane is a member of the Environmental Ministries Action Network (EMAN) team representing Environmental Ministries and is member of the Presbyterian Hunger Program Advisory Committee. She lives in St. Joseph, MO.

Treasurer - Sue Smith

Sue currently serves as Treasurer of PEC. She is an elder and member of the First Presbyterian Church of Rumson (NJ). Sue is a GreenFaith Fellow and a student at New Brunswick Theological Seminary. Living at the Jersey Shore, Sue has a particular interest in clean oceans and rivers, and as a resident of New Jersey, a call to speak out about environmental injustice. She holds degrees from Cornell University and NYU's Stern School of Business.

Southeast Representative - Andrew Plocher

Andrew Plocher is the teaching elder at New Hope Presbyterian Church in Derwood, Maryland, just outside the DC beltway. A native Oregonian, he grew up in a family passionate about earth care and continues that heritage. A graduate of Carleton College and Luther Seminary, Andrew has worked as a community and labor organizer and served as an Associate Pastor in Philadelphia prior to moving to DC. He has served with interfaith and labor leadership boards, serves on the Mission Coordinating Committee of National Capital Presbytery, and is passionate about environmental and social justice issues.

Northwest Representative - Holly Hallman

In September 2011 Holly retired from her work as a hospice chaplain, allowing her more time to be an active advocate for the Puget Sound ecosystem. One of her favorite things is teaching children by dissecting salmon at school science fairs. She is a coordinator for Food & Water Watch's effort to have genetically engineered foods labeled. Her specific area for PEC Advocacy is Coal Exports from West Coast cities.

At-Large Representative - Fred Milligan

Fred's passion for social justice and pastoral ministry led both to congregational and community ministry as well as denominational staff positions in the PC(USA) and ELCA as a Stewardship Educator. Fred currently serves as Interim Pastor and Head of Staff of The Newtown Presbyterian Church near Philadelphia. Fred holds degrees from Bethel and Vanderbilt Universities (B.A. and M.Div. respectively) and The University of Chicago Divinity School (M.A.). Fred serves as a member of the Steering Committee of the Presbyterian Eco-Stewards program and is the liaison with PEC.

Southwest Representative - Paul Homeyer

Paul is a Presbyterian Elder at First Presbyterian Church of Houston where he and his family have been active members for over twenty years. Paul is an architect specializing in historic preservation and adaptive reuse and is an accredited professional in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program. He has a passion for environmental stewardship and sees the care of God's creation as an act of loving God and loving our neighbor. Paul and his wife, Shelley, have 3 children and see protecting and nurturing God's creation for their children's generation as a solemn obligation.

Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee: Karen Turney, Lauren Wright, Richard Krajcski and Dick Gibson, Chair. Jane Laping served as Steering Committee Liaison.

**Visit www.presbyearthcare.org or page 5
and cast your vote by July 20.**

2013 CONFERENCE: *Worship and Honoring the Earth*

By Neddy Astudillo

Twenty years ago in a Social Ecology class in college, a professor observed something that continues to resonate in my mind: "the problem of selecting some as protected areas is that it leaves unprotected those which are not." The awareness of our interconnections and the reality of the environmental crisis challenge us today to consider the entire earth as an area needing protection.



Worship may also be regarded concurrently. Considering some areas of life as sacred, and therefore worthy of prayer and intercession, distinguishes and sheds light upon the many other areas which also need our prayerful attention. The environmental crisis can be very overwhelming; countless areas, including our own bodies - temples of God - are being neglected. One wonders sometimes where to start, realizing that by our desire to care for one, sometimes we inflict further ecological damage elsewhere. Undeniably, we face a complex and imminent task. However complex our dilemma, our need for creativity and imagination in addressing it is greater, and can be very exciting.

For the 2013 Earth Honoring Faith conference, we hope its theme, conveyed by its very name, will begin providing inspiration for your own prayerful preparation. The journey to honoring the earth is not ahead of us; it begins when we connect our faith journey with the travails of the earth. Our worship time at Ferncliff will be grounded in a sincere recognition of our challenges and a faithful response to God's love for creation, a movement already beating in our hearts.

Rev. Dr. Neddy Astudillo is the pastor of an Ecumenical (ELCA/PCUSA) Latino Ministry in Beloit, Wisconsin. She will serve as the Conference Theologian and Worship Leader at Ferncliff.

These photos are from Neddy's time at the Earth Summit, about which she wrote, "I find hope in the young people who are joining the movement, the possibility of being creative and joyful even as we join a very difficult task, and praying together with people from many other religions for the healing of the earth."



ETHICAL EARTH CARE: KEEPING CREATION SACRED

2013 Conference of Presbyterians for Earth Care

October 16-19, 2013

Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center - Little Rock, Arkansas

Keynote Speaker: Larry L. Rasmussen, ThD

Conference Theologian and Worship Leader: Rev. Neddy Astudillo

Conference Musician: Rev. Bryan McFarland

Visit presbyearthcare.org for more information and to register

ADVOCAY UPDATE

By Sue Smith

“For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” (Ephesians 6:12, NRSV)

The author of Ephesians tells us that our struggles are against cosmic powers. Much of our lives are influenced by powers: government, corporations, the media, the law, the church and maybe most powerful of all – the economy. All of these powers are players in our struggles against the impact of climate change. Our struggles call us to speak with prophetic voice, speaking truth to these powers. Speaking truth to our representatives in government has not resulted in meaningful climate change legislation. Now there is a call for fossil fuel divestment to speak truth to the corporations.

There is ongoing discussion within PEC about what role we play in calling the denomination to divest. Divestment campaigns had a positive impact in the 1980’s in response to apartheid in South Africa. Reasons cited for pursuing divestment against particular companies hold for the fossil fuel industry: they undertake activities that cause grave injury or death to large numbers of people—often those people already marginalized—and they do not engage with shareholders calling for change. Another reason for divestment is to try to change the conversation and to shift the cultural and political dynamics related to climate change. In this instance, divestment asks the church why it is morally acceptable to profit from the damage that is being done to God’s creation. But divestment is not enough; there must also be reinvestment in renewable energies.

Personally, I am conflicted about divestment. First, with the tremendous growth in indexed mutual funds and ETFs it is almost impossible for individual investors to divest from the fossil fuel industry. And unlike the South Africa campaign, I am daily complicit in the growing profits of the fossil fuel companies in the way I live my life. I confess to being an ExxonMobil shareholder. As a shareholder, I voted my shares for resolutions calling on ExxonMobil to disclose its lobbying efforts, to report on its procedures to minimize adverse environmental and community impacts from fracking and to adopt quantitative goals for reducing total greenhouse gas emissions from the company’s products and operations. I could not have spoken that truth to power without

being a shareholder. And if I divest, the shares do not go away; I can only divest by selling my shares to someone else. I make no economic impact on the company. I only transfer my moral misgivings. But what am I doing to change my complicity and become more carbon neutral? I fear not enough.

Divestment is complex and I do not know the right answer. People of faith engaging in the divestment discussion is one way to speak to the powers about climate change mitigation. I think there are other ways as well. A GA resolution in 2006 urged all Presbyterians to make a bold witness by aspiring to live carbon neutral lives. I would like to see the church undergo a discernment process, much like the current peace discernment process, to ask the question of what it would really mean for the PC(USA) to be a carbon neutral church. What actions can we take and how should we use our prophetic voice? This goes to the heart of our complicity in the profits of the fossil fuel industry.

What do you think?

Note: There is a growing network of Presbyterians discussing divestment overtures. To join the conversation, email divestpcusa@gmail.com.

PEC Steering Committee Ballot 2013

Moderator:

 Diane Waddell

Pacific Representative

 Mary Roberts

Treasurer:

 Sue Smith

At-Large Representative

 Fred Milligan

Regional Representatives:

Southeast Representative

 Andrew Plocher

Northwest Representative

 Holly Hallman

Southwest Representative

 Paul Homeyer

Please mail your ballot to

PEC at

110 Maryland Ave. NE,

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or vote online at

www.presbyearthcare.org

CONGREGATIONAL UPDATE: GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

By Jo Randolph

KAIROS, an ancient Greek word for “right or opportune moment,” captures the compelling call felt by members of a small but active team at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church (GCPC) in suburban Overland Park, KS. This team is called to act now on behalf of urgent issues that affect the *least of these* in the areas of Peace, Justice, and the Environment. KAIROS makes a difference by becoming involved, linking, and working with others of similar interests at GCPC, in Kansas City and the world.

Through the work of KAIROS, lead by Jo Randolph, Grace Covenant was recognized by PC(USA) as an Earth Care Congregation in 2010, one of the first 20 congregations to be certified. KAIROS encouraged the church Session to take the “Earth Care Pledge” integrating environmental practices and thinking into all facets of congregational life – worship, education, facilities, and outreach. The congregation is committed to responsible care for the world God has created and became a 3rd year certified congregation this past January.

An educator by training, Jo teaches at Johnson County Community College. She has recently earned a certificate in Environmental Ministry and Leadership from McCormick Theological Seminary, studying with pastors, educators, and lay members from a broad base of faiths and earned her LEED, AP (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, Associate Professional) in the summer of 2009.

A few of the projects developed with the awareness of these intertwined passions:

“Putting Energy into Stewardship – Adopt a Light” Mike Lorimer a KAIROS member and licensed energy auditor developed a plan to retrofit the existing florescent lighting throughout the facility by upgrading with more energy efficient bulbs, retrofitting fixtures to use only 2 bulbs, and replacing the magnetic ballast with a more efficient electronic ballast. Originally designed to be financed by donations and accomplished over a 2-year time frame – phase one financed and installed last spring. They installed phase 2 of the project this May, one year ahead of schedule! They were awarded a seed grant last spring from Environmental Ministries as part of the fundraising for this project. Savings in energy equates to savings in utility costs, which can then be re-apportioned to other pro-

jects within Grace Covenant outreach needs.

“Grace Garden” Member, Lauren Bond came to KAIROS with a proposal to plant “Grace Garden,” a garden plot with the mission to grow and donate produce to a local food pantry. With support from the team, donations from passionate congregational members, and the awarding of a small Hunger Grant from Heartland Presbyterian Mission & Social Justice Division, Grace Garden donated over 135 lbs. of fresh organic produce last summer with a goal to donate 150 lbs of food this summer.



“Soles4Souls:” In response to the devastating earthquake in Haiti, KAIROS has partnered with Soles4Souls to collect new and used shoes. The team has collected and delivered over 1300 pairs of shoes to the Soles4Souls Iowa partner, Village Northwest Unlimited in Sheldon, IA, giving shoes to those with need and keeping them out of landfills and jobs to those with disabilities.

KAIROS also sponsors quarterly Sunday “Lunch and Learns,” inviting and bringing in speakers from such organizations as Kansans Against the Death Penalty, Kansas Interfaith Power and Light, Fair Trade Representatives, and Heart of America Stand Down.

The Biblical call for care and justice is clear, repeated over and over, in more ways than any other call in Scripture. KAIROS seeks social, economic and environmental care & justice by “setting things right.” It is a call to action and solidarity, a commitment to caring for the least and the outcast of all creation.

Presbyterians for Earth Care (PEC) invites individuals and congregations to participate in the growing earth care movement within the Presbyterian Church(USA). PEC is a national eco-justice network that cares for God’s creation by connecting, equipping, and inspiring Presbyterians to make creation care a central concern of the church. Founded in 1995 as a grassroots organization to help the denomination educate and energize church members to address environmental concerns from a faith perspective, it works in partnership with PC(USA)’s Environmental Ministries Office and the Office of Public Witness to promote earth justice with a biblical and theological base. Regional representatives recruit presbyteries, churches, organizations, and individuals to help form a national network of Presbyterians to work toward the common goal of restoring creation for ecology and justice. Check out PEC’s web site at www.presbyearthcare.org If you would like to become involved or have questions, contact Elspeth at presbyearthcare@gmail.com or your regional representative.

BOOK REVIEW : A MORAL CLIMATE*By Holly Hallman**Moral Ground: Ethical Action for a Planet in Peril*

Edited by Kathleen Dean Moore and Michael P. Nelson

How do you do a short review of a book that has picked up your life and set it down in another place? Every one of you reading this knows the environmental news. Is it reasonable to suggest that we need more of the same—yet another book of bad news? Trust me! We all need this book!

I recently met a community organizer who made a room full of us write down why we were working on a particular issue. The results were amazingly diverse. However, each of us was comfortable with only one or two approaches to the topic. The editors of *Moral Ground* maintain that if hearing the story were enough to bring about change, we would have turned things around 30 to 50 years ago. What is lacking is a moral imperative. But, as I learned from the community organizing exercise, each of us has a narrow band of arguments and our audience is wildly diverse in how they need to engage morally.

Moral Ground offers us 87 voices/reasons/stories told with compelling, personal, energetic force. Obama, the Pope, the leader of the Orthodox Church, the Dali Lama, Desmond Tutu, Terry Tempest Williams, Bill McKibben, Ralston Holmes, the first woman VP of Iran (a Muslim), Daniel Quinn, Thich Naht Hanh - just to whet your appetite. I can't imagine how two editors I have never heard of got 87 people I have (mostly) heard of to write down what drives them to change how they live in this world. Amazing! And, those same editors end each of the 14 chapters with suggestions for ethical action.

So read this book. And buy it in paper. The e-book does not give authors names in the table of contents nor does it provide links in the author index to the piece they wrote. Page numbers did not match up and who cares! I have it in both formats. My e-reader is with me almost all the time and so I can use it like a Bible. The paper version is by my chair, marked up and written in.

PRACTICAL STEPS: CURRICULUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE*By Katie Preston*

Virginia Interfaith Power & Light received a grant for 2013 to develop "Climate Conversations" across the state. I have decided to develop a curriculum to spur these conversations in local congregations and will hopefully have regional gatherings to continue and grow the conversation to lead toward systemic change at the state and federal level. My proposal includes a base module on why this is a faith conversation – including references to scripture and tradition specific to many different traditions – as well as additional, "plug-in" modules on water, air, energy, and advocacy. The congregations will be encouraged to at least teach the base module, and add the plug-ins around their interests and schedule. Here is a brief selection from "Climate Conversations:"

This curriculum is intended to start conversations within your congregation – from the basis of your faith tradition – about the need to respond to the climate crisis. There is plenty of science on the topic, but where is the faith voice? This curriculum is meant to help you find the faith voice in your own congregation, and to share it with your elected officials on issues that matter to your community. We encourage every congregation to study the base module, and then to use the other modules as your schedule and interests allow.

In the Presbyterian tradition, the Restoring Creation policy was passed at the 202nd General Assembly in 1990. This policy states that we are in a time of ecological crisis, and that as people of faith, the PC(USA) has a moral obligation to respond to the crisis through engagement at all levels. While the initial timeframe of this policy is passed, it is important for us to recognize our moral obligation to care for Creation and to put those policies into practice. One way to do this is to engage in energy efficiency – which helps save money on utility bills and allows for spending that money on the real work of the church. ENERGY STAR for Congregations can help you do this. For more information, visit:http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=small_business.sb_congregations.

**THANK YOU!**

In our Spring 2013 issue of *The Update*, we neglected to acknowledge and thank Jerry Rees for his contribution to Presbyterians for Earth Care. Thank you for your gifts to PEC— for your prayers, your time, and your financial contributions.



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