

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

by Diane Waddell

The world is becoming more and more complicated. Both coping and responding are becoming more difficult. Yet, commitment to a healthy, socially, and sustainably just society and Earth are vital to our existence as individuals and as a world community. We must renew and refresh and remain on task in caring for each other, caring for Earth.

During our recent General Assembly, the convention center filled with a sense of energy, spiritual centeredness, and hope. There was throughout, a feeling of gratitude for the strength of this denomination, yet at the same time, a knowledge that our strength is through our faith and our connection with our Creator. We are a body of Christ, seeking guidance in working toward being a model for society.

This denomination was well represented. The stalwart organizational strength of the PC(USA) was evident. The brilliant enthusiasm of youth was empowering. Hard-working members brought overtures and resolutions to committees, many of which moved to the floor of GA. And there was the fire, glow, and energy of a new light among us, Fossil Free PCUSA, dressed in appropriately tinged orange shirts and kerchiefs. They were noticed.

We as a body of Christ are all indeed called: we are called to respond and commit in working toward a healthy, beautiful planet. True, it is difficult, challenging, and complicated. Yet God has gifted us individually and collectively with what is needed to heal the planet. I am grateful for your gifts, your commitment, and your work.

I am also sustained by the words of the New Social Creed, which can help strengthen and guide us. The following words from the Creed, particularly, relate to this important work:

*In hope sustained by the Holy Spirit, we pledge to be peacemakers
in the world and stewards of God's good creation, by working for:*

*Adoption of simpler lifestyles for those who have enough; grace
over greed in economic life.*

*Access for all to clean air and water and healthy food,
through wise care of land and technology.*

*Sustainable use of earth's resources, promoting alternative energy
sources and public transportation with binding covenants to
reduce global warming and protect populations most affected.*

*Equitable global trade and aid that protects local economies,
cultures and livelihoods.*

Strength to you all as we work toward climate justice, social justice, and a more loving and sustainable world community.

Diane Waddell, PEC Moderator

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WORRY NOT WHAT YOUR PURPOSE IS, BUT “WHO” IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR LIFE

by Nedly Astudillo

At the end of June, earth honoring faith activists met at Ghost Ranch under the leadership of seven women: two African American, two Native American, two Anglo and one Latina. The overarching question was: *What are the earth's voices saying to us and how do we listen?*

In an effort to help us listen to the earth's voices, Kathy Gonzalez, the Environmental Health and Justice program manager of Tewa Women United, proposed that we ought not to worry so much *what* the purpose of our life is, but instead *who* is the purpose of our life: we are creatures created to exist in relationship. The more intentional and conscious we are of our relationships, the easier it is to listen and find our purpose.

During the week-long event, we realized that listening is not always easy, especially when it requires listening to and accompanying the human suffering. At times we speak and act as if human suffering can be put aside while we follow the earth's agenda, forgetting we are also part of the Earth. Women's voices are part of the Earth's voices and we find healing while listening and responding to the earth.

Next year, the Earth Honoring Faith track at Ghost Ranch will continue this conversation, listening to other voices of the earth. This was a very transformative experience for all participants and I highly recommend it to anyone who is able to attend.



Servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God
(1 Corinthians 4:1b)

HOLY GOOSE*by Vickie Machado*

At the end of June, I was fortunate enough to return to the mountains of North Carolina for my third Wild Goose Festival, a joyous celebration of art, justice, spirituality, and community. Wild Goose is the Celtic metaphor for Holy Spirit. And when the Holy Spirit sets up wild musical bands, a carnival tent, some paint, and a fire show, you know it's going to be a good time. For me, the Goose offers a sense of church. It provides space for open conversations and a place for a marginalized form of Christian spirituality to spread its wings and fly.

Perhaps the best part of the Goose was exploring the notion of rootedness through the conversations, performances, and gatherings that called upon communion with both the land and God. I saw this in the Carnival de Resistance's nightly performances of the elements: air, water, and fire. These performances

echoed the prayers presented at PEC's National Conference on Faith and the Environment, held at Ferncliff last fall. Both incorporated physical forms or representations of nature into the act of worshipping God. Each also offered a new tool for discipleship as they gathered from the natural world lessons and stories on how live out one's faith and how to build the church as a body of believers.

I am thankful for gatherings such as these. It reinforces the notion that church extends well beyond the traditional structural sanctuary. There's a sense of re-imagining, re-thinking, and re-solving the past together as we live our faith into the future. I've never been to a church revival, but I imagine it might follow a similar structure: dancing, singing, praising, worshiping, discovery, and a lot of holy mischief from the Holy Goose – I mean Spirit.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE RELATED OVERTURES AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2014*by Diane Waddell*

Two committees at GA reviewed the overtures which PEC promoted, Immigration and Environment Issues and Social Justice. The process from writer/presbytery to the GA floor is long and rather arduous. Most overtures have amendments proposed by appropriate committees. All overtures passed with some changes. For details, see pc-biz-org.

Overture 15-02, On affirming the Importance on Sustainable Development and the Precautionary Principle, passed with recommendation for a group of 3-5 persons to prepare a study paper with recommendations to the next GA, for use by congregations to enable them to advocate for reform. The alternate term for precautionary was chosen to be preventive.

Overture 15-3, On Affirming a Programmatic Review of the Impact of Expanded Coal Export Projects on Human Health and Well-Being, passed with commendation of the work of Seattle, Cascades and North Puget Sound for their efforts in environmental awareness and advocacy.

Overture 09-09, On Food Sovereignty for All, supports food justice and democracy, and affirms the excellent work of the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

We are also grateful for the work of Fossil Free PCUSA and their groundbreaking work with Overture 15-01, On Divestment from Fossil Fuel Companies, which Megan Gregory eloquently reviews in this Update.

As we move forward, I highly encourage you to review these overtures, and carry the banner of their calling individually and collectively in your congregation and community. All of these overtures are very important in many ways including reducing toxins in the environment and promoting environmental justice for generations to come. True, they have passed, but that is only a first step. It is absolutely up to each of us to become informed, pass the word, and advocate for reform!!!

PEC Conference Fall 2015at Montreat!
More Details Coming Soon

“THE CREATION WAITS”: AN UPDATE ON FOSSIL FUEL DIVESTMENT FROM THE 221ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

By Megan Gregory

“The Creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God”. (Romans 8:19)

Today, the Creation waits for the Church to take moral leadership to mitigate climate change and its impacts on vulnerable sisters and brothers. With this hope, I attended the 221st General Assembly (GA) as an advocate for Overture 15-01: On Divestment from Fossil Fuel Companies, crafted by the grassroots group FossilFree PC(USA). With the overture, we sought to strengthen the PC(USA)’s commitment to climate justice. We were hopeful that divestment by our church could make a powerful moral statement, build public awareness and political will to reduce carbon emissions, and free resources to invest in creating renewable energy jobs.

Ultimately, the overture was referred to the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) for study over the next two years. We are grateful for the faithful work of MRTI and for the Assembly’s overwhelming mandate (81%) to prayerfully consider divesting from fossil fuels. However, FossilFree PC(USA) felt that the GA process excluded crucial information and voices from the discussion. We also grieve the Assembly’s unwillingness to make the moral commitment not to profit from an industry that is causing climate change, endangering countless human lives and the integrity of all Creation. While the PC (USA) has affirmed the goal of limiting global warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius (see: <http://tinyurl.com/PCUSAEnergyPolicy>, p. 3), we continue to finance fossil fuel exploitation that threatens to raise Earth’s temperature beyond this limit.

And yet, despite the disappointment of less

than an immediate commitment to divestment, I see signs of hope as I reflect on my first GA. First and foremost, I am grateful for the energy and commitment of fellow Presbyterians who are concerned about climate justice. We in FossilFree PC (USA) look forward to nurturing the new relationships that we formed with Presbyterians for Earth Care, the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, and supportive commissioners and advisory delegates. Second, there was an overwhelming mandate from the Assembly to consider the call to fossil fuel divestment through MRTI. I pray that their discernment may lead to support for divestment. Third, a solid majority of Young Adult and Theological Student Advisory Delegates voted in support of a stronger motion committing the PC(USA) to divest from fossil fuels in 5 years. Clearly, the young people of the PC(USA) are deeply concerned about climate change, and willing to take bold action to lead our society to a renewable energy future.

As we move forward from the 221st General Assembly, FossilFree PC(USA) is planning a grassroots educational campaign to inspire congregational action for climate justice. We will also engage with MRTI to support their discernment process on fossil fuel divestment. Finally, we are already looking toward the 222nd General Assembly, where we will present a strong overture on fossil fuel divestment, clean energy reinvestment, and will be supporting economic transition in communities that currently depend on fossil fuels. If you would like to get involved, please contact me at:

meganmgregory1@gmail.com.

Please see a longer version of this article, published at <http://justiceunbound.org/carousel/the-creation-waits/> for more detailed information and reflections on the fossil fuel divestment overture, the GA process, and next steps for FossilFree PC(USA).

PEC ANNUAL LUNCHEON FEATURES LEADERS STANDING UP TO POWER

by Jane Laping

Bill McKibben of 350.org, GreenFaith's Fletcher Harper, and the PEC Award Winners all had fossil fuels on their minds at the Presbyterians for Earth Care Luncheon at Fort Street Presbyterian Church on June 21 in Detroit, Michigan. In a six-minute video address, McKibben started off the program with a challenge, "Standing up to power is what we are called upon to do as Christians... There are times we are called to stand up to power, and there are no greater powers and principalities than those who derive wealth from fossil fuels..."

PEC's Restoring Creation Award Winner, First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto, California stood up to power by bringing the Fossil Fuel Divestment Overture, endorsed by twelve Presbyteries, to General Assembly. Six members of the church's Cool Planet Committee were present to receive the award.

The winner of the William Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award was Lynn Cameron of Mt. Crawford, Virginia. Lynn was honored for her early work to reduce the use of fossil fuels and volunteering thousands of hours and traveling countless miles to advocate for cleaner air and water and in protecting her nearby Shenandoah Valley and forest areas from hydro-fracking and other industrial types of development.



Lynn Cameron, winner of the 2014 William Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award



The Rev. Abby Mohaupt and Shirley Eglington with Evan Hughes and Susan Chamberlain of First Presbyterian Church Palo Alto

Fletcher Harper, an Episcopal priest and the Executive Director of GreenFaith concluded the program with words of challenge and encouragement saying, "We need the courage and conviction of our faith that is not just limited to legislative or incremental gain. The audacity of faith in God and the power of God's love will make the creation and God's people whole."

In keeping with the sustainability focus of the luncheon, a tasty Mediterranean-style vegetarian meal was prepared from local produce, obtained mostly from farmers markets. The Rev. Sharon Mook, pastor of Fort Street Presbyterian Church was our gracious hostess.

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 Jane at presbyearthcare@gmail.com or your regional representative.

2014 PEC STEERING COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

by Jane Laping

The Nominating Committee has prepared a slate of steering committee members for this year's election, to be voted on by the membership. Steering Committee members serve two-year terms and this year the Vice Moderator, and Northeast, Midwest, and Pacific Representatives are up for election. Dana Eglinton and Paul Henschen have agreed to be re-nominated as NE and Midwest Reps, respectively. Mary Roberts, Pacific Rep, chose not to continue in her position and the Nominating Committee recommended Kathleen Dove. The PEC steering committee has chosen to hire an independent coordinator, and Jane Laping accepted the offer. The Nominating Committee recommended current Northwest Rep, Holly Hallman, for the Vice Moderator position. The ballot will include the two serving members who agreed to be re-nominated, Kathleen Dove as the new Pacific Rep and Holly Hallman as the new Vice Moderator:

Vice Moderator – Holly Hallman

Holly has been active as a regional representative since 2011. She has learned a lot! She has been invited to explore the connections that bind theology and our challenged world--from the reaches of the Northwest, meeting people of many faith traditions. It is her hope that PEC will grow into an advocacy organization that gives voice to issues that appear to be small and local but are, in reality, important fibers in the tapestry of climate degradation. In the end she wants to grow the hope that is promised to us by the empty tomb. To do the work ahead we need to live into that hope.

Northeast Regional Representative – Dana Eglinton

Dana Eglinton is pastor of Jacksonville Presbyterian Church, in Bordentown, NJ and a participant in its Earth Care Ministry. He has also worked as a

homebuilder, specializing in environmentally responsible construction and Habitat houses. Dana is an enthusiastic bird watcher, hiker, canoeist, backpacker, gardener, consumer of local and organic foods, participant in environmental campaigns, husband, and father.

Midwest Regional Representative – Paul Henschen

Paul Henschen is a Presbyterian minister of twenty-four years, having served churches in Virginia, Louisiana, and Kentucky. Paul is now pastor at The Presbyterian-United Methodist Church in Ellendale, North Dakota. He has held Earth Sunday services each year in his ministry and is now chair of the Presbyterians for Earth Care Team in Northern Plains Presbytery. He enjoys hiking and camping, fishing and team sports, and working on the computer and reading.

Pacific Regional Representative – Kathleen Dove

Kathleen Dove has had an extensive environmental career that started in Alaska where she lived for 20 years. She attended graduate school in Fairbanks and later became an Environmental Planner for the State of Alaska. After moving to California in 2005, she started her current position as an Environmental Planner for the State of California. Kathleen attends St. Mark Presbyterian Church in Newport Beach where she has been Vice President of the Ecophilian Environmental Group since 2007.

To vote, please see page 7 for a ballot or you can visit www.presbyearthcare.org and remember to cast your vote by September 13.

The 2014 Nominating Committee includes Jerry Rees, Karen Turney, Phyllis Zoon and Dick Gibson, Chair. Jane Laping served as Steering Committee Liaison.

SHOWING UP AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

by Holly Hallman

It felt like the first day of school. Did I have a lunch, were my shoes polished, did I have the right supplies? Fortunately, most of my time was spent in the PEC booth (no schools supplies needed), where I got to talk about my favorite thing (no not myself): the environment and God's desire for us to cherish it and its critters.

Rev. Sharon Mook, pastor of Fort Street PC (Detroit) said that she always thought it was like a family reunion. And it was, but the family turned out to have lots of members, known only by their reputation. Or, better yet, distant cousins we didn't know we had. The conversations were incredibly rich, full of ideas and mutual support for things being done all over the nation on behalf of the environment. The best part was finding people who had no idea there was such a thing as PEC. We took care of that!

And so, like at the end of the first day of school, I'm reporting that it was really great, I liked my teacher(s) and tomorrow I/we will go back and start the hard work of making our promises/covenants with each other, become a reality.



Diane Waddell, Sue Smith, Jane Laping, and Holly Hallman at the PEC booth at GA

BALLOT FOR THE 2014 STEERING COMMITTEE ELECTION

All members of or donors to Presbyterians for Earth Care are eligible to vote for members of the Steering Committee. There are four positions up for election this year: Vice Moderator and three Regional Representatives. Please mark a box next to each name to vote.

Position	Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Vice Moderator	Holly Hallman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Write in:			
Northeast Regional Representative	Dana Eglinton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Write in:			
Midwest Regional Representative	Paul Henschen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Write in:			
Pacific Regional Representative	Kathleen Dove	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Write in:			

Please return this ballot to PO Box 9064 Asheville, NC 28815 by September 13



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Please note that you now must opt-in to receive a hard copy of the PEC newsletter via US mail.