

# Second Presbyterian Church

## Little Rock, Arkansas

[www.secondpreslr.org](http://www.secondpreslr.org)

Second Presbyterian is an 1800-member church that has been dedicated to sustainability for decades. The current earth care group formed in 2009, but a similar committee existed at the church in the 1970-90s. New in 2019, was the addition of a part-time, volunteer staff position – Sustainability Coordinator.

As suggested in the new PEC *Guide to Starting a Church Earth Care Team* and the PC(USA) [Earth Care Congregations: A Guide to Greening Presbyterian Churches](#), Second first formed a congregational earth care team, which we have called Environmental Stewardship. We spent much of the first year planning and brainstorming about the types of activities and programming we'd like to develop; we also held a logo contest!

In 2009, we were invited to pilot the new PC(USA) Presbyterian Mission Agency's [Earth Care Congregations](#) (ECC) program. For 10 years, Second has been a certified ECC and has had an annual budget through our Outreach Ministry. We track our progress using the ECC suggested areas of worship, education, facilities and outreach:

### **Worship**

- Held Blessing of the Solar Panels ceremony in 2019
- Purchased [Eco-Palms](#) for Palm Sunday worship services
- Had earth-care-themed sermons, worship components and worship services
- Gave Minutes for Mission on creation care

### **Education**

- Enhanced our church website by creating pages for [Environmental Stewardship](#)
- Created new earth care section of the church library with several dozen resources
- Included creation care tips in many issues of the church newsletter
- Gave away [Sweat-Free t-shirts](#) imprinted with Environmental Stewardship logo
- Created earth care bulletin board in high-traffic area of the church
- Offered short- and long-term adult education courses, including *Ethical Eating*; *The Heat is On: Global Warming*; *Hope for Creation*; *Stewards of God's Creation: A Biblical Understanding of the Relationship Between Christians and the Environment*; [A World of Health: Connecting People, Place and Planet](#)
- Had screenings of environmentally-themed films like [Carbon Nation](#)
- Offered several creation care sessions for youth during Vacation Bible School
- Had green-themed Fellowship Picnic at [Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center](#)
- Distributed reusable shopping bags (youth project)
- Had creation care displays in the church narthex

## **Facilities**

- Installed in 2019 [two car chargers and a solar parking lot array with 81 panels](#) producing 39,000 kW hours annually; first car chargers at a church in the state!
- Began composting food with [The Urban Food Loop](#) in October 2019
- Installed motion sensors for the lights in eight bathrooms
- Recycled mixed paper, cardboard, steel cans, aluminum, plastic bottles; previously with other recycling companies, in 2020 we began our contract with Natural State Recycling

## **Outreach**

- Hosted the [Drawdown](#) Conference in March 2018 with keynote speaker: Katharine Wilkinson, senior Drawdown writer
- Supported environmental initiatives at [Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center](#)
- Attended and helped to sponsor [Presbyterians for Earth Care](#) conferences
- Supported [Solar Under the Sun](#) program of the Synod of the Sun
- Hosted presentations on environmental issues: natural gas fracturing, home water conservation and solar power installations
- Sponsored [Eco-Steward](#) from our congregation
- Conducted collection events for a local Habitat for Humanity ReStore resale store
- Participated in the annual National Solar Tour in October 2019
- Screened documentaries: *Food Inc.*; *Gasland*; *The Natural State of America*; and one on mountaintop removal in conjunction with Sierra Club
- Hosted community-wide Vegan Potluck
- Adopted one-mile stretch of University Ave. through the [City of Little Rock Adopt-a-Street](#) program
- Provided meeting space for conservation group [The Ozark Society](#)
- Supported local sustainability organizations and community gardens – [Arkansas Interfaith Power & Light](#), Arkansas Sustainability Network, Felder Farms, Village Commons, Dunbar Gardens
- Hosted seasonally a weekly farmer's market in church parking lot
- Became active members of Presbyterians for Earth Care

## **Awards & Grants**

- Honored with the 2020 *Restoring Creation Award* by [PEC](#)
- Received the 2020 *Sustain the Rock Award* from the [Little Rock Sustainability Commission](#) in the nonprofit category
- Presented the *Faithful Friend Award* from Arkansas Interfaith Power & Light (AIP&L)
- Awarded a grant in 2019 by AIP&L for car chargers

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