

Dear Earth Care Congregation pastors and representatives,

First of all, let me congratulate and thank you for working in your churches to maintain the momentum to be good stewards of our common home and consequently being recertified as Earth Care Congregations. I am writing you because of a recent restructuring of the WNC Presbytery Peace and Justice Committee.

Jill, the P & J committee chair, has encouraged members to form a subcommittee in their passion area. I am a member of the Peace and Justice Committee and as many of you know, I am passionate about God's creation. For some time now, I have been interested in forming an Earth Care Team at the presbytery level and now I have permission!

The way I see it, the purpose of this Earth Care Team would be to engage and support congregations in integrating creation care into their church's Christian witness and ministry. This could result in a church becoming an Earth Care Congregation but doesn't have to be the goal.

I would like to form a core group of persons interested in a Presbytery Earth Care Team to work with me and discuss a general direction for this committee, set a date/time/location for the first meeting, and invite and recruit others to join us. I have been communicating with other presbytery earth care teams across the country and individuals interested in forming one, so I have some thoughts on this topic but I want to hear from others in the WNC Presbytery.

Please respond to this email if you would like to be part of the planning group. If you aren't able to commit but know of someone in your congregation who may be interested, please forward this message to them.

We are facing a climate crisis and churches are perfectly positioned to witness to the moral and spiritual call to act to preserve God's creation. I look forward to hearing your ideas about how committed churches such as yours can respond on a presbytery level.

Peace for the Earth,
Jane