GENERAL ASSEMBLY, CREATION CARE & YOU

Presbyterians for Earth Care Online Workshop

July 21, 2022

ZOOM CHAT FILE

00:18:42 Lorie Chesnut: 98 in Cheyenne, WY

00:19:04 Lorie Chesnut: But no humidity here … so not too bad.

00:19:27 Patricia Webb: 92 in Vienna, VA but felt 96

00:19:42 Daniel Herron, YAAD, Olympia: 80 in Tacoma, wa

00:19:59 Pat Queen: We finished paying for our solar panels in 2020. Our electric bill is LESS than it was in 2014. We have saved $9,000 in the last year.

00:20:06 Jed Koball: a blistering 63 in Lima, Peru

00:20:34 Holly Hallman: It was 60 this morning on thed Olympic Peinsula

00:20:58 Daniel Herron, YAAD, Olympia: week 1 in Louisville was kinda toasty lol

00:28:29 Scharmel Roussel, Ark. IPL: CoolCongregations.org

00:30:39 Earl Johnson: Where will the recording of this program be available?

00:30:54 Fawn\_PresbyterianClimateAdvocate\_ChurchvillePresbyterianChurchMD: I would like to share that I just finished a three day Summer Institute: Climate Change Education which was presented online by Climate Generation in collaboration with NOAA's Climate Program Office. Lots of great people, and much shared and taught. I am an ecoAmerica Climate Abassador and also Presbyterian Church (USA) Climate Advocate. These were Jan 2022 and Oct 2021 respectively. Our denomination is on the forefront. :-)

00:32:10 Bruce Gillette: Yes we are recording this evening webinar for future use by all

00:32:35 Mindy Hidenfelter (PEC Coordinator): Investing in a Green Future: A Vision for a Renewed Creation—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000785

00:38:26 Carol Frances Johnston: For a comprehensive approach to solutions, I highly recommend Regenerative Economics. They have figured out an approach to re-shaping our society and economy that starts with placing the dynamic, creative, and fully regenerative systems built in the creation in the center, and working to shift economics to learning from and working with nature. Their "Eight Principals of a Regenerative Economy" does a great job of explaining the importance of "empowered participation" at every level of income and other justice concerns. They not only have the theory figured out, they have projects all over the world that are proving it out.

00:39:20 Alan Jenkins: Thanks,Carol

00:44:15 Alan Jenkins: I was there! :)

00:45:07 Migdal: Hello every body. I am Migdal, from Tampa, Fl.

00:45:09 Andrew McPherson: Information overload!!! already. Need guidance in approaches to churches avoiding the topics in Climate crisis/care "living in denial".

00:46:33 Bruce Gillette: From Rebecca Barnes: We really like the Berkeley one: CoolClimate Calculator (berkeley.edu) but it is too complicated if someone is just wanting to know travel/mileage offsets. It’s more of a full-life calculator.

I think this one is the best/easiest to use just for travel: Travel, Household & Events Carbon Offset Calculator | NativeEnergy (we have used NativeEnergy for General Assembly and I think even PEC Conference past offsets and have trusted them)

For what it’s worth, this is a good fact sheet that does explain that even carbon offsets don’t actually truly neutralize anything, for those feeling skeptical. Carbon Offsets | Sierra Club Outings But our argument is still that it’s a good thing to put some positive things out in the world, when we know we’ve also put some negative/hurtful by-products of our actions as well (such as carbon emissions).

00:47:16 Bruce Gillette: https://www.presbyterianmission.org/eco-journey/presbyterian-carbon-tree-fund/

00:51:47 Carol Frances Johnston: Andrew, my approach is to find local people who are doing great work and inviting them to come tell their story. These are inspiring examples instead of anxiety-raising foci on the terrible side of this work. A really fine book that illustrates this is "Rooted & Rising: Voices of Courage in a Time of Climate Crisis" edited by Leah Schade and Margaret Bullitt-Jonas. It has short accounts of people doing great work for the long haul, how they keep going, and the faith-dimensions.

00:54:51 Bruce Gillette: Christianity and climate change

A nine-part film series featuring Katharine Hayhoe, the internationally renowned Christian climate scientist. https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/christianity-and-climate-change-film-series

00:55:57 Bruce Gillette: Pacific School of Religion, ecumenical seminary based in the Bay area. Needy is teaching online starting this Fall.

00:56:18 Daniel Herron, YAAD, Olympia: A lot of people did not get called on to speak in plenary. :/

00:56:32 Scharmel Roussel, Ark. IPL: LOVE the idea of providing VBS curriculum on trees, energy efficiency, consumerism, pollinator gardens, reducing transportation emissions, etc.

00:58:00 Schaunel Steinnagel: Trees in the Bible is something that I have preached on, more than one time.

00:58:06 Rick Owen: Yay young people!

00:58:45 Linda Johnson (she,her): couldn't every Presby committee have co-chairs, at least one of which is below the age of 35?? or 40??

00:59:16 Lorie Chesnut: Our church planted more trees on our property and will plant more in the future. We also have a pollinator garden with native plants. For those in the West, Audubon Rockies has a program called "Habitat Hero" that is really neat. https://rockies.audubon.org/habitat-hero

01:03:21 Kathy Stoner-Lasala: Linda, YASSSS to your co-chairs idea!

01:03:24 Amanda Riley: It was difficult for our Presbytery to recruit commissioners under 65 because of the format. It was extremely difficult for working people.

01:04:24 Rick Owen: Thank you, Neddy!

01:04:45 Alan Jenkins: Calvin used the word "Frugality"

01:04:59 Holly Hallman: Eloquently said, Neddy!!

01:05:09 Carol Frances Johnston: Here's an approach that I have found very helpful: In a water justice conference I attended, our small group was asked to think of a local environmental problem of someone and discuss solutions. We picked increasing flooding in a nearby town. At first all the solutions proposed were "hardscape" engineering - dams, walls, etc. I finally asked everyone if we could think of ways to approach it that instead of working against nature, would actually work with nature. Wow, that changed everything in a flash! The energy in the room shot up as people thought of things like a watershed study, bioswales, permeable pavement, rain gardens, etc. There is real joy in figuring out the right kinds of solutions, and these are increasingly available and increasingly affordable.

01:05:41 Enrique Sanchez: thank you Neddi!! Awesome summary and message and very well balanced

01:06:06 Lorie Chesnut: I would suggest partnering with your local Audubon Chapter. They aren't just about watching birds … we are working toward protection of their environment too.

01:07:00 Chris Burger: 38% of our energy goes towards production of the "stuff" we consume.

01:08:41 x Jennifer Houston - Wedgwood Pres: Our church has offered shorter amount of years for young people to service on Session.

01:09:03 Kathy Stoner-Lasala: Same thing happened with recognition of YAAD's the last time I was a commissioner. The YAAD's were having trouble navigating "GA Floor" and the YAAD from our presbytery asked for help. A commissioner from another presbytery and I met a group of YAAD's at 6:00 in the morning and coached them up about how to get recognized at the mic. Those in-person tactics would not have worked in the virtual format.

01:10:06 Neddy Astudillo, FL: And thank you Daniel Herron for all your interventions at GA, very powerful!

01:10:46 Kathy Stoner-Lasala: It would be awesome for this group to offer "strategry" to the YAAD's in advance of the next GA - our passion/focus/interest will draw a YAAD crowd I'm sure

01:10:59 Daniel Herron, YAAD, Olympia: Thanks Neddy, I was really disappointed that categorical divestment did not get passed. It's our future we are playing with

01:11:28 Paul Heins (he, him): Carbon dividend legislation has been approved by previous GA’s, and PEC is partner with Presbyterians for Carbon Dividend coming out of the Citizens climate lobby. 🙂

01:11:50 Enrique Sanchez: in my former church (Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC), electited to serve in session for one year term, and often re-elected

01:12:28 Enrique Sanchez: and several even attended the GAs

01:12:37 Daniel Herron, YAAD, Olympia: If YAAD had full vote in plenary, some of the overtures would have had different results..

01:13:01 Daniela Ochoa: can they send the link for this climate camp????

01:13:32 Pat Queen: Not really because there weren't enough of them. We need a FULL complement of YAAD's.

01:13:45 Kathy Stoner-Lasala: Daniel: Amen to YAAD's having both voice AND vote

01:13:57 x Jennifer Houston - Wedgwood Pres: We've had our young people lead adult education sessions on PCUSA curriculum on Racism, Doctrine of Discovery, Food Justice.

01:14:12 Daniel Herron, YAAD, Olympia: That too. This year we had about 30 that were fully participating in plenary. Most in-person years have over 100.

01:14:23 Kathy Stoner-Lasala: I think the participation would soar if YAAD's had actual power to vote

01:14:42 Daniela Ochoa: What about coordinating with the PCUSA VBS? 2019 the topic was “going to mars” what about “caaring for planet earth" instead?

01:14:54 Jane Laping: Kudos to Jonathan Lee for being PEC’s intern and a seminarian.

01:16:52 Carol Frances Johnston: The Indianapolis "Thrive" Plan also prioritizes environmental justice.

01:17:40 Alan Jenkins: 350 ppm of CO2? Can we get back to it, as James Hanson said was necessary. Can we stop the collapse of the Thwaites Glacier in West Antartica? No way, Jose. :(

01:18:09 Carol Frances Johnston: Got to run. Thanks for this session!

01:19:36 Paul Heins (he, him): Thank you to all the contributors today!

01:20:22 Alan Jenkins: Thank you all so much for your diligent persistent advocacy.

01:20:45 Jenny Holmes: Protecting land is a major climate solution. 25 percent of fossils fuels come from public lands. There are 29 million acres that interior Secretary Haaland could protect with the stroke of a pen to reverse a Bush era policy. This solution is vastly overlooked.

01:21:47 Daniel Herron, YAAD, Olympia: jealous of everyone who got the fun committee assignment. I was on mid councils for the second year in a row ;)

01:22:09 Pat Queen: Charging stations rely on fossil fuels. They should be solar powered or wind powered.

01:22:14 Kathy Stoner-Lasala: Many, many thanks to ALL our presenters and facilitators this evening!

01:22:21 Daniela Ochoa: Have you done one webinar on personal divestment?

01:22:21 Shin-Hwa Park: The Synod of So Cal -justice group has studied with dR. Tom English, Excellent speaker on environment issues. I highly recommend him to present webinar for future education. Economic justice, equity is very important and intriguing .

01:22:42 carol soderholm: Dear friends. capitalism is almost totlally responsible for climate change.

01:22:52 thadholcombe: Creating an interfaith network for advocacy has been very effective for us in Lawrence, KS. We focus, using the 2nd principal suggested by the Pope’s encyclical.on local, regional, state. We are a network of Muslim, Protestant, Catholic, Buddhist, Unitarian Universalist, Jewish. The leadership team is composed of reps from each green team ( 9 total ). We collaborate with other earth care groups, I.e. Audubon, Sierra, etc. We have been able to have an effect on singly use plastic, 100% renewable energy for city/county. changed priority in growth decsisons, decreased use of chemicals in flora management (noxious weeds). Education without advocacy can be tiring, but using a praxis theology is helpful.

01:23:10 Nan Fayer (Maryland)): Thank you to Bruce and all the presenters.

01:23:42 carol soderholm: It’s baaed on aggression and use of whatever makes money.

01:23:55 Neddy Astudillo, FL: A GA online certainly took away the possibility to meet others to rally around overtures. We could only find out where people stood in their views, as we heard people speak live before GA, or if you knew them from before. Then it was probably late. It is good next GA will be in person.

01:24:17 Alan Jenkins: Capitalism is based on Competition. Gospel economics are based on cooperation.

01:24:26 Chris Burger: Has there been a poll of those who are served by these pension funds on whether they want their pensions coming from investments in fossil fuels?

01:24:29 Paul Heins (he, him): https://www.wiley.com/en-gb/An+Other+Kingdom%3A+Departing+the+Consumer+Culture-p-9781119194729

01:24:35 carol soderholm: Read R.W.Kimmereri’s discussion on the service berry.

01:27:48 Sarah Windes: Roth, the work of Katharine Hayhoe provides some help with your issue. If you don't know her, look up her videos, etc.

01:28:21 Alan Jenkins: If any are interested: Irony of ironies, i'm fighting the construction of an electric car company manufacturing plant on agricultural land. Rivian. See more here if curious. Front page NYT back in March: https://www.morgancountycitizen.com/opinion/rivian-inc-gov-kemp-and-the-jda-a-good-combination/article\_cb6c6d0a-fc6a-11ec-8c28-efd02ab5a336.html

01:29:39 Julie Hast: Thank you all - especially presenters & Bruce. God gave us a commission: We ARE the Stewards of this Earth… blessings

01:29:43 Fawn\_PresbyterianClimateAdvocate\_ChurchvillePresbyterianChurchMD: www.macoec.org for Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience. https://njclimateducation.org/resources/growth=mindset=posters. Project Budburst==phenology through Chicago Arboretum. very children friendly as a citizen science project or SundaySchool project. Project Climate and Wildlife--field and classroom curriculum for grades 6-12. Elise Trelegan, Coordinator Chesapek B-Wet Program/ERT/NOAA Environmental Science Training Center, Goddard Media Studeios--great for use in presentations. Kamille Lang, Office of Sustainability, San Mateo County, CA;.

01:29:48 Daniela Ochoa: A program for climate action AS PART of confirmation would be great. We havent seen that here

01:29:52 Alan Jenkins: Muchas Gracias a tod@s!

01:30:08 Sue Smith: Thank you everyone - have to run!

01:30:15 Paul Heins (he, him): Building Resilience

01:30:31 Roth: I have a question regarding reaching young people and others have who have interest in local and regional developmental environmental matters... roth.thomas.edwards@gmail.com

01:30:33 Daniela Ochoa: Gracias a todos, in deed!

01:30:51 Alan Jenkins: Pray for Biden to declare Climate Emergency. great stories today on www.democracynow.org

01:31:30 Fawn\_PresbyterianClimateAdvocate\_ChurchvillePresbyterianChurchMD: https://stem4real.org/

01:31:34 Jed Koball: Thank you all for your passion, expertise and action! A privilege to be with you this evening! Buenas noches!!

01:32:08 Briana Soss: Thank you!

01:32:26 Fawn\_PresbyterianClimateAdvocate\_ChurchvillePresbyterianChurchMD: Thank you so very much.