

Partnering with a Green God: Calling People of Faith to Environmental Ministries

WORKSHOPS

We are offering pre-registration for workshops and the current offerings listed below are included as part of the registration form. Your registration packet will include tickets for the workshops for which you have registered. There are five workshops lasting two hours (two sessions); you may select one workshop for each session.

SESSION I WORKSHOPS — 11:15 am – 12:15 pm

1 ***Voice of the Earth: A Contemplative Musical Response to the Environmental Crisis*** – Coracle: Cynthia Hughes (Celtic Harp) & John Crockett (Cello and Celtic Whistles), Westminster, Vermont

For millennia, humans have drawn inspiration from the voice of the Earth: the music of whales and seals, birds and insects, wind and forest. The challenge of our day is to candidly address our urgent environmental crises without falling into anxiety and despair. Through music we reconnect with the common language of the Earth and the still center of creation. We become listeners and collaborators with the Earth. We become friends and colleagues with plants and animals. We fall in love. And that makes all the difference.

Education/Worship Track

2 ***Creation Care: A Biblical Foundation to Taking Care of the Gift of Life and Community*** – The Rev. Pat Watkins, Executive Director, Caretakers of God’s Creation, Virginia Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church

Creation Care applies biblical principles of stewardship to the environment that we share with all living things. Creation care does not just mean caring for “nature,” apart from humanity. It means caring for the entire creation: the environment and “all creatures great and small,” including humanity.

Education/Worship Track

3 ***Roots and Fruits of a Movement*** – Rabbi Andrea Cohen-Kiener, Director, Interreligious Eco-Justice Network, Hartford, CT

Faith activism on climate change work touches hearts as well as minds. We are required to see how we are connected to the larger wholeness of society, creation and cosmos. This connection is the root of our work and the medicine of connection is sorely needed in our times! When our work is embedded in this deep root, the results - the fruits - can and must be visionary. In this workshop, we’ll tap into this compelling vision.

Justice/Advocacy Track

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| <p>4</p> | <p><u>Resizing Your Ecological Footprint</u> – Katherine Freygang, Cornwall (CT) Energy Task Force, Chairperson, CT Conference UCC Environmental Ministries Team, Co-chair, and Architectural Designer</p> <p>An Ecological Footprint measures the amount of renewable and non-renewable resources that one uses in daily activities. How many earths does it take to support the lifestyle of an average American, Japanese, Kenyan or Indian? What actions can you take to better conserve your footprint on the planet? Demonstration, calculation and lively discussion will ensue.</p> <p>Stewardship/Conservation Track</p> |
| <p>5</p> | <p><u>Becoming a Green Justice Congregation</u> – The Rev. Jim Deming, Minister for Environmental Justice, Justice and Witness Ministries, United Church of Christ, Cleveland, OH</p> <p>This workshop gives your congregation a way to measure your environmental justice impact. Based on a point system similar to the LEED certification system, it encourages you to go beyond changing light bulbs by including credit for educational programs and advocacy. Your progress can be measured annually with accountability for: Worship and Education, Coordination and Communication, Equipment, Stewardship, Energy Use, Transportation, Natural Surroundings, and Advocacy.</p> <p>Whether you are beginning or continuing the greening of your church and congregation, this workshop will give structure to your planning and implementation processes. Join other congregations across the countries that are using the same measurements.</p> <p>Stewardship/Conservation Track</p> |
| <p>6</p> | <p><u>Energy Management for Congregations</u> – Carol A. Wilson, President, Wilson Educational Services, Cheshire, CT</p> <p>Does your congregation spend too much money on energy bills? Discover how congregations throughout New England are learning how to identify energy problems in their houses of worship, and find out how to address those problems in ways that save energy, money and the environment.</p> <p>Stewardship/Conservation Track</p> |
| <p>7</p> | <p><u>The Impact of Genetic Engineering on Our Food System and Our Planet: Working with God's Gifts for Justice and Integrity</u> – The Rev. Bob Burns, Buddhist Teacher, and Owner, Aiki Farms, Ledyard, CT, and Steven M. Druker, J.D., Executive Director, Alliance for Bio-Integrity, Fairfield, IA</p> <p>With the rise in genetic engineering in the 1980s, giant chemical corporations rushed ahead to develop complete systems of food production using their patented seed, herbicides, pesticides, and chemical amendments. In their lust for profit, they are taking control of the earth's food systems, often using products not fully tested in the laboratory and with human beings bearing the ill effects. Their intense lobbying efforts in legislative halls of governments drive home the message that they are bringing order to the universal chaos of nature. This seminar will share why people of faith should be concerned and provide ideas for involvement by faith communities in the struggle for justice and integrity within our food system.</p> <p>Justice/Advocacy Track</p> |

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| 8 | <p><u>Eaarth Calling Church: Time for a New Vocation</u> – The Rev. Dr. Jim Antal, Conference Minister and President, Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ</p> <p>How has God called the church (as well as the Mosque, Synagogue and Temple) to embrace a new vocation in the context of various, sweeping circumstances? We will touch upon the Benedictines in the fifth century; Bonhoeffer’s Confessing Church Seminary in Finkenwalde; many churches in S. Africa in the second half of the 20th century; and many churches in America’s south between 1955 and 1965. We will assess and own up to the “sleeping giant” of what has been described as the most organized hour of the week. We will ponder how a British Environmental Agency concluded that an ecological coalition of faith leaders would be second on a list of 50 things that could save the planet. We will look at the role church will play as our climate warms. And we will identify what is needed for the vocational shift to take hold.</p> <p>Justice/Advocacy Track</p> |
| 9 | <p><u>Climate Change: What is Happening Now and What Do We Expect?</u> – Thomas A. Stone, Senior Research Associate, Woods Hole Research Center, Falmouth, MA</p> <p>An environmental geologist and senior research associate at Woods Hole Research Center will discuss the current evidence that climate change is already happening and address the following questions: How or when will climate change affect our lives? Where are we vulnerable at the national and at the international scale? Can we mitigate climate change or should we adapt, and why local actions are important?</p> <p>Justice/Advocacy Track</p> |
| <p>SESSION 2 WORKSHOPS — 1:45 – 2:45 pm</p> | |
| 10 | <p><u>What’s Out There Belongs In Here: Developing Ecologically-Themed Worship</u> – The Rev. Tom Carr, Pastor, First Baptist Church, West Hartford, CT, and Co-Chair, Board of Directors, Interreligious Eco-Justice Network, Hartford, CT</p> <p>How can we worship God as creator and redeemer of life in such a way that we care for and defend the world God created? This workshop will explore the many ideas and resources that are helpful to enhance worship devoted to environmental concerns or to incorporate creation care into any worship service.</p> <p>Education/Worship Track</p> |

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| 11 | <p><u>Let's Fly with the Eagles: A Spiritually Green Vacation Bible School Style Experience for Children</u> – <i>The Rev. Steve Hastings, UCC minister serving 2 Presbyterian churches in central Maine and Board Member, Maine Interfaith Power & Light</i></p> <p>How can we rise up on wings as eagles, if we have never seen one? Many species of life are threatened with extinction because of destructive human activity. Mindful of God's concern for all life, a new VBS-style curriculum for children developed by UCC minister Stephen Hastings of Mount Vernon, Maine presents nature as intrinsic to and inseparable from our spiritual experience. Children will discover nature through outdoor ecology lessons at the Church Of The Singing Trees; enjoy a video series about life on Hildegard's Farm; make crafts that help bring nature and farm life into worship; and enjoy “low and local” eating. This curriculum is currently in development, portions of it were field tested in 2010 and are available for testing in 2011. A complete curriculum will be available for the summer of 2012.</p> <p>Education/Workshop Track – TWO-HOUR Workshop (Sessions II and III)</p> |
| 12 | <p><u>Stewards of Earth and Spirit: Cultivating Sustainability</u> – <i>The Rev. Nancy Haverington, First Parish Church of Newbury, Newbury, MA and Erin Stack, New Eden Community Gardens Director</i></p> <p>The story of how one local church’s environmental vision is growing into a holistic mission called New Eden, which began with transforming church land into collaborative community gardens and an outdoor chapel for year round eco-services. Practical and replicable ideas for your congregation.</p> <p>Stewardship/Conservation Track – TWO-HOUR Workshop (Sessions II and III)</p> |
| 13 | <p><u>Sustainable Church Landscaping as Stewardship</u> – <i>Stephen A. Yarabek, ASLA, Principal, Hudson & Pacific Designs</i></p> <p>Thomas Berry reminds us that “The Universe is a communion of subjects not a collection of objects.” Landscape Architect Stephen Yarabek will conduct a site assessment and sustainable landscape master plan workshop for a portion of the Silver Lake campus. Workshop participants will learn this master planning methodology for healing the broken ecological and historical threads of the landscape tapestry of their <i>own</i> church grounds as they relate to the broader community of life. A sustainable Landscape Plan ensures the highest and best use of the church yard while rejuvenating its immediate environs. The product of the workshop will be a gift to Silver Lake.</p> <p>Stewardship/Conservation Track – TWO-HOUR Workshop (Sessions II and III)</p> |
| 14 | <p><u>Green Outreach and Advocacy</u> – <i>Katherine Freygang, Cornwall (CT) Energy Task Force, Chairperson, CT Conference UCC Environmental Ministries Team, Co-chair, and Architectural Designer</i></p> <p>Learn how to bring the principles and practices of the UCC Green Action Steps to the community. Become involved with community stakeholders, town governments, and state incentive programs to further the greening effort. Learn about educational resources, successful town efforts, and legislative changes that are provided by non-profits, universities and government agencies to customize your community of faith’s plan of action.</p> <p>Justice/Advocacy Track</p> |

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| 15 | <p><u>Save Energy and Money in Your Congregation with Help from the EPA's ENERGY STAR Program</u> – Wadi Muhammad, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, New England Energy Team, ENERGY STAR</p> <p>ENERGY STAR Congregations is a free, unbiased energy efficiency technical support program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Members receive a free electronic newsletter and access to how-to resources and technical support. Successful congregations are recognized annually with awards. Learn more about the program in this workshop.</p> <p>Stewardship/Conservation Track</p> |
| 16 | <p><u>From the Frontlines of Justice Work</u> – Thomas A. Rist, J.D., Rist Law Offices, Charleston, WV</p> <p>Tom Rist, one of five attorneys from West Virginia, Ohio, and Washington who have set up a virtual law firm, is helping to defend protestors of mountaintop removal from SLAPP lawsuits pursued by Massey Coal Company – the very coal company that denies responsibility for the death of 25 miners last fall in a coal mine disaster in West Virginia. His compelling story is about defending the rights of those who are protesting - through civil disobedience - the immoral destruction of mountains in southern Appalachia. At last count, over 500 mountains in Southern Appalachia gone forever! And, his story is also about standing up for a way of life that is being destroyed by corporate greed and consumer indifference. You can help! Come and hear how.</p> <p>Justice/Advocacy Track TWO-HOUR Workshop (Sessions II and III)</p> |
| 17 | <p><u>New England Forests at the Crossroads</u> – Chris Matera, Founder, Massachusetts Forest Watch</p> <p>Recent aggressive logging and clear-cutting in New England's publicly owned forests, as well as a multitude of proposed wood-fueled energy projects, pose a serious threat to forests and impact atmospheric carbon emissions and air pollution levels. Citizens unwittingly provide public support for this through hundreds of millions of dollars in taxpayer-funded government subsidies. This workshop will include a photographic and graphical presentation dedicated to the appreciation of New England's magnificent forests, and to raising citizen awareness and action in their defense at a time when these important issues are being hotly debated.</p> <p>Justice/Advocacy Track</p> |
| 18 | <p><u>Transition Towns: Building Community Resilience</u> -- Tina Clarke, Transition Towns Trainer, and The Rev. Jim Deming, Minister for Environmental Justice, Justice and Witness Ministries, United Church of Christ, Cleveland, OH</p> <p>The Transition movement is an exciting network of thousands of communities around the world taking positive action in response to the environmental, economic, equity & energy challenges of our time. The Transition process, tools, principles and approach is highly effective in engaging a very broad range of community members, institutions, agencies and councils in collaboration and action. Congregations are discovering that the Transition model echoes their own historic role and provides a way to engage local community members in a relationship-building, inclusive, energizing process for transitioning from fossil fuels to community resilience.</p> |

SESSION 3 WORKSHOPS — 3:00 – 4:00 pm

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| 19 | <p><u>Deep Partnering: The Power of 'With'</u> – <i>The Rev. Dr. Lois Happe, Mansfield Center, CT</i></p> <p>The workshop will focus on exploring the elements of our theology that hinder as well as heighten our understanding of who God is for us in our circumstances. Discussion, activities, resources -- deep partnering of each other. We will explore relinquishment and transformation (what do we need to consign to the compost heap), trusting that what happens there will nourish our souls.</p> <p>Education/Worship Track</p> |
| 20 | <p><u>Let's Fly with the Eagles: A Spiritually Green Vacation Bible School Style Experience for Children</u> – <i>The Rev. Steve Hastings, UCC minister serving 2 Presbyterian churches in central Maine and Board Member, Maine Interfaith Power & Light</i></p> <p>How can we rise up on wings as eagles, if we have never seen one? Many species of life are threatened with extinction because of destructive human activity. Mindful of God's concern for all life, a new VBS-style curriculum for children developed by UCC minister Stephen Hastings of Mount Vernon, Maine presents nature as intrinsic to and inseparable from our spiritual experience. Children will discover nature through outdoor ecology lessons at the Church Of The Singing Trees; enjoy a video series about life on Hildegard's Farm; make crafts that help bring nature and farm life into worship; and enjoy "low and local" eating. This curriculum is currently in development, portions of it were field tested in 2010 and are available for testing in 2011. A complete curriculum will be available for the summer of 2012.</p> <p>Education/Workshop Track – TWO-HOUR Workshop (Sessions II and III)</p> |
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| 23 | <p><u>Get Your Church Connected</u> – <i>The Rev. John C. Hall, Pastor, First Congregational Church, Middletown, CT and Executive Director, The Jonah Center for Earth and Art, Middletown, CT</i></p> <p>The Jonah Center for Earth and Art developed from a working relationship between the City of Middletown and Wesleyan University, resulting in specific projects or programs in the areas of environmental studies, renewable energy, outdoor recreation, green building and landscape design, and habitat restoration. Churches are in an ideal position to be coalition builders for these projects, connecting with local public officials, local commission boards, and leaders of other groups and institutions. These projects can bring revenue to the church. Pastor John Hall talks about his church’s involvement with Jonah Center projects.</p> <p>Stewardship/Conservation Track</p> |
| 24 | <p><u>The Greening of a Congregation</u> – <i>Christine Davis and Courtney Bourns, Members of the Earth Ministries Team, Asylum Hill Congregational Church, Hartford, CT</i></p> <p>Come hear how Asylum Hill Congregational Church of Hartford, CT has implemented green thinking <i>and doing</i> into the life of its congregation. You will learn how the church’s environmental ministries team works to create activities like workshops, forums, selling green products, and a implementing a building audit with pursuant actions. You’ll also get advice about how to get a green team started in your own faith community. At Asylum Hill we aren’t done yet, but we are on the path, and we would like to share our learnings with you!</p> <p>Stewardship/Conservation Track</p> |
| 25 | <p><u>From the Frontlines of Justice Work</u> – <i>Thomas A. Rist, J.D., Rist Law Offices, Charleston, WV</i></p> <p>Tom Rist, one of five attorneys from West Virginia, Ohio, and Washington who have set up a virtual law firm, is helping to defend protestors of mountaintop removal from SLAPP lawsuits pursued by Massey Coal Company – the very coal company that denies responsibility for the death of 25 miners last fall in a coal mine disaster in West Virginia. At last count, over 500 mountains in Southern Appalachia gone forever! And, his story is also about standing up for a way of life that is being destroyed by corporate greed and consumer indifference. You can help! Come and hear how.</p> <p>Justice/Advocacy Track TWO-HOUR Workshop (Sessions II and III)</p> |
| 26 | <p><u>Planet at Risk: The Hidden Costs of War and Militarism on Our Ecosystem</u> – <i>Beth Adams, M.M., M.S.W., MACUCC Eco Ministries, UCC NEREM, and UCC NER Justice Ministries, Leverett, MA</i></p> <p>Bridging peace and environmental concerns, this workshop offers information and action steps for faith-based advocacy. As the “largest single consumer of petroleum in the world” the Pentagon is using valuable resources needed to effectively prepare for a post-oil future. Come learn about impacts of wars and the global military industrial complex on God's wondrous creation: on our ecosystem, on climate, on humans and “<i>all our relations.</i>” Then join the discussion to help envision and co-create a more just and peaceful future!</p> <p>Justice/Advocacy Track</p> |

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Transition Towns: Building Community Resilience -- Tina Clarke, Transition Towns Trainer, and The Rev. Jim Deming, Minister for Environmental Justice, Justice and Witness Ministries, United Church of Christ, Cleveland, OH

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Justice/Advocacy Track TWO-HOUR Workshop (Sessions II and III)