



# PC(USA) CERTIFIED EARTH CARE CONGREGATIONS

A project of the Presbyterian Hunger Program

In spring 2018, the Presbyterian Hunger Program certified 206 Earth Care Congregations, including 27 churches with first year certificates and 20 churches with five years certificates!

The Presbyterian Church (USA) “Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice,” policy was approved by the 1990 General Assembly and reaffirmed by the 2010 General Assembly. The PC(USA) recognizes that restoring creation is not a short-term concern to be handled in a few years, but a continuing task to which the nation and the world must give attention and commitment.

In 2010, a dozen pilot PC(USA) congregations were certified as Earth Care Congregations. The goal of the program is to celebrate and inspire churches to care for God’s earth in a holistic way, through integrating earth care into all of church life.



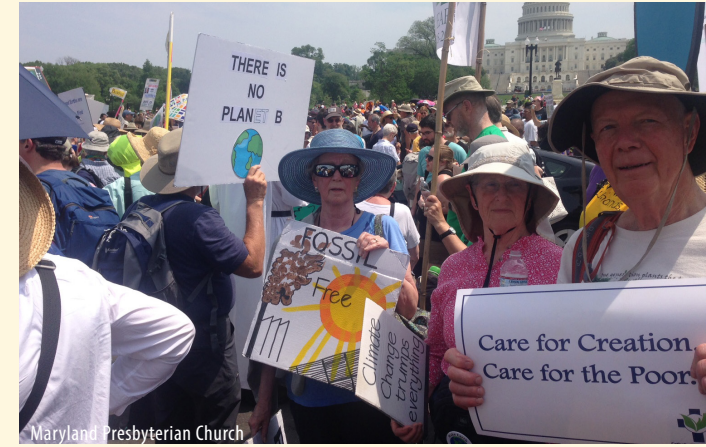
**FACILITIES:** *Newport Presbyterian Church, Bellevue, WA.* The Green Team’s mission is to “weave creation-care into the fabric of Newport’s church life.” The ways in which their facilities factor into that is a source of pride for the congregation. They have a city-certified wetlands, a nature trail, a chapel in the woods, and a Mission Garden with an attractive wooden deer fence built as an Eagle Scout project. Their lawns have native plants and their preschool also has a barked play area. In addition to that, in 2017 their Property Committee also took on the “lofty” task of installing new LED lights in their sanctuary.

THE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN AND THEIR CHILDREN AND ALL WHO COME AFTER IS AT STAKE.

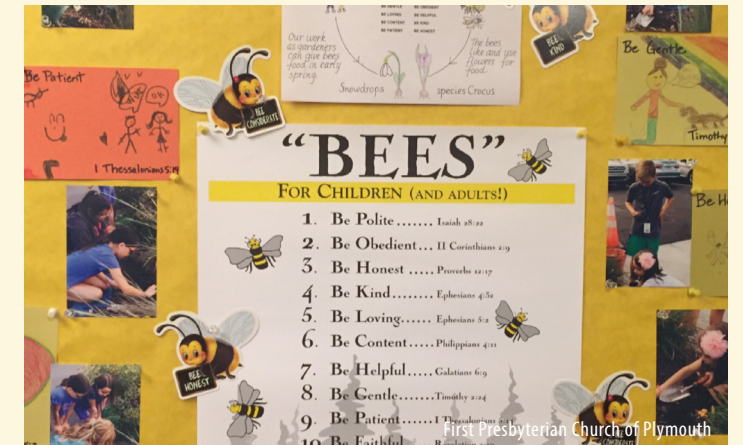
- The Call to Restore the Creation, 1990



**WORSHIP:** *Central Presbyterian Church, Waxahachie, TX.* Susan Cravens with her German Shepherd, Allie, who is being blessed by Rev. Matt Curry during the church’s animal blessing. Allie passed away the next Saturday on due to kidney failure. Susan said, “I’ll always remember Matt’s service fondly. I was a basket case but it was very moving and touching for me to be surrounded by so much love and others who care for their animal partners as much as myself.”



**OUTREACH:** *Maryland Presbyterian Church, Towson, MD.* One of the first Earth Care Congregations, piloting the program in 2009 for certification in 2010. They have grown and deepened in their ministry and witness ever since, tackling storm water management, energy efficiency, creating a congregational covenant, educating area children, and more. For the outreach portion of their earth care ministry, members of the church participated in the 2017 Washington D.C. Climate March.



**EDUCATION:** *First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, MI.* The Partners in Earth Care team worked with the children in the congregation’s mid-week program, “The Bridge,” to educate them on the importance of bees in the world. The children then planted flower bulbs in the church garden that will attract bees. This information was used to create a poster for the Earth Care bulletin board for the rest of the congregation to view.

## HOW TO BECOME AN EARTH CARE CONGREGATION

The Earth Care Congregation certification recognizes in a tangible way the churches that make the commitment to take seriously God’s charge to “till and keep” the garden. To learn more about the Earth Care Congregation Program, to download an application, or to view the complete list of churches please visit [www.pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations](http://www.pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations).

**1. Get started by talking with others at your church,** the pastor(s), and the session. Form an “Earth care team” or assign this function to a current committee, so there is a dedicated group to track earth care ministry.

**2. Explore together Earth Care Congregation materials,** including the certification application which has the church “audit” and Earth Care Pledge [www.pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations](http://www.pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations).

**3. Take the Earth Care Pledge** to integrate environmental practices and thinking into all facets of church life. Using the “audit” in the application, track your completed activities in the fields of:

- Facilities
- Worship
- Outreach
- Education

**4. Submit the Earth Care Pledge** and commitments to earth care between January 1—February 15, by email to [jessica.maudlin@pcusa.org](mailto:jessica.maudlin@pcusa.org).