

The Earth Care Initiative Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church

Earth Care Leadership Team: Pat Timm, Convenor; John Hancock, Andrew Henderson, Yana Keck, Bill Muse, John Tallmadge, Bill Stiver, Lew VanderNaald

2016 EARTH CARE ACTIVITIES:

Green Faith.

January. Lew VanderNaald began meeting with the Worship Community and presented proposal for solstice celebrations with a sustainability focus.

April 24. Worship Leader, Elder John Tallmadge, "Sustainability"

August 14. Worship Leader, The Reverend Dr. Patricia Tull, Professor Emerita of Old Testament at Louisville Seminary and Program Director for Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light.

Green Learning.

March 20. Encounters: Presentation on our "Covenant on Sustainability" from 2013 led by John Hancock.

April 24. Encounters: Discussion of the Earth Care Congregational Program and the Earth Care Pledge.

June. Organization of Book Shelves in Social Hall including Environmental Books.

August 14. Workshop with Dr. Tull on Earth Care Congregations, an Environmental Ministries program of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, PCUSA. Trisha Tull led the Jeffersonville, IN congregation through the steps to become Earth Care Certified by the national program.

September 10, 17, and 24. Encounters: Thomas Berry "The Great Work," discussion led by John Tallmadge.

Green Living and Life Style Practices.

January. Began discussions with Buildings and Grounds about the sustainability of our building, conducting an energy audit, and investing in a green energy system and getting our facilities off fossil fuels.

July 9. Tour of the Fort Ancient Earthworks and Nature Preserve led by Professor John Hancock, Chr. World Heritage Ohio Steering Committee

John Hancock, Eric Burgman and Linda Vacariello, and Rick and Jo Sowash installed solar panels on their homes.

Green Outreach. May. John Tallmadge met with Pastor Rich Jones at Immanuel Presbyterian Church to explore the possibility of partnering in the “greening” initiatives.

EARTH CARE REPORT AND POLICY RECOMMENDATION TO SESSION ON DECEMBER 21.

The Earth Care Leadership Team recommends that Session adopt the following policy:

To be prophetic, to become the change we know is necessary, to do the right thing now, we will take steps toward becoming a carbon-neutral and waste-free church. We will seek new approaches to our church facilities that will help the planet rather than harm it. We will take specific steps to transform consciousness through the life practices of both the congregation as a whole and our individual households through informed commitments and faithful actions.

Green Faith: Our worship and discipleship will celebrate God’s grace and glory in creation and declare that God calls us to cherish, protect and restore this earth.

Green Learning: We will seek learning and teaching opportunities to know and understand the threats to God’s creation and the damage already inflicted. We will encourage and support each other in finding ways of keeping and healing the creation in response to God’s call to earth-keeping, justice and community.

Green Living And Life Style Practices: We will endeavor to manage our personal and congregational economies in a manner that respects and cherishes all life, human and nonhuman, in order to meet our own needs without compromising those of others, *or of the future*. We will personally pursue environmentally-friendly paths in our use of energy, transportation, recyclable materials, and other resources while keying them to our own spiritual practice. As a congregation, we will commit to overhaul our buildings and grounds to use energy and resources efficiently and sustainably.

Green Outreach: Our outreach will encourage public policy and community involvement that protects and restores the vulnerable and degraded earth as well as oppressed and neglected people. We will be mindful that our personal and collective actions can positively or negatively affect our neighborhood, region, nation and world. We will seek to achieve environmental justice through coalitions and ecumenical partnerships.