

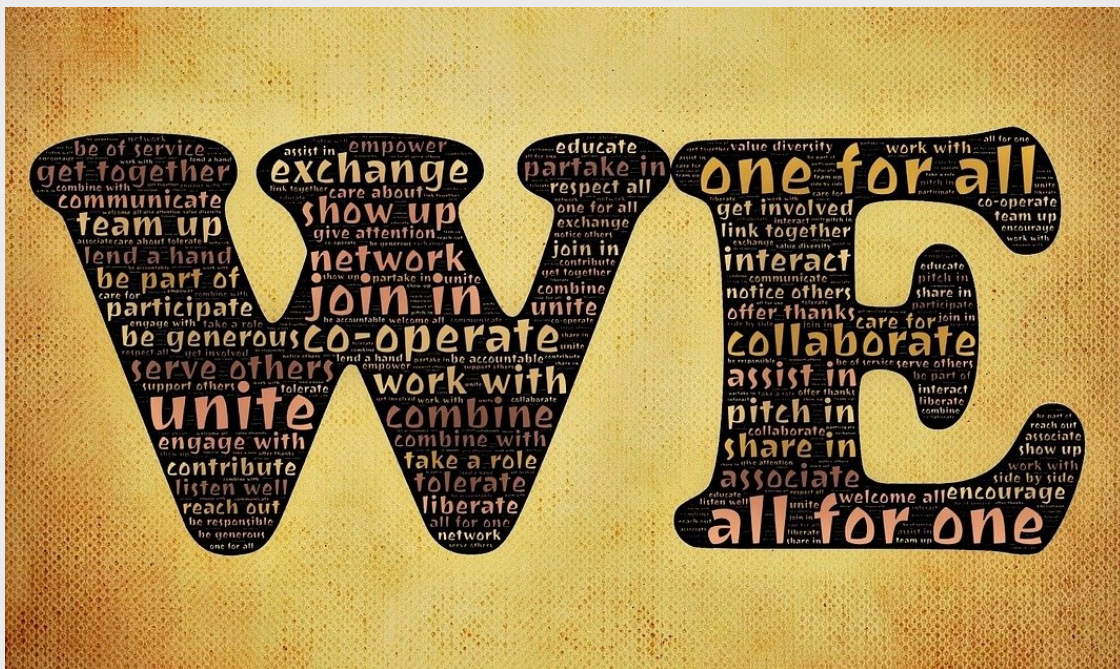
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# Cal-Nev Climate Justice Ministries

## February 2025 Newsletter

*"Climate justice through faith-inspired connection, education, advocacy, and action"*

### Together



The news has been coming at us thick and fast in the past two weeks, but we are not alone. Paraphrasing Paul (Phil 4:13), **together, we** can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. Let us love one another in all of our diversity including the earth and all of God's creatures, by uniting, networking, showing up, working with, collaborating, sharing, pitching in, listening well, and encouraging each other.

In this issue we share some examples of how to take action, educate ourselves, advocate for change, and connect with God and each other.

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Blessings,

Rev. Joan Pell

Chair, California-Nevada Climate Justice Ministries Task Force

## *Action*

### Online & Downloadable Lent Study



In our [special Climate Justice Studies for Lent issue](#) were four ideas for climate justice studies during Lent. One of those ideas was the **free** downloadable climate study [Rising to the Call: 7 Big Questions](#). **This study is now also being offered online.**

[Rising to the Call: 7 Big Questions](#) is a study about the challenges and joy of discipleship with a focus on Climate Justice. Each week during Lent, the study group is invited to explore a big question whose foundation is in that week's gospel reading from the Year C lectionary. The study was originally co-authored in 2022 by the chair of this Task Force, Rev. Joan Pell, while she was working for the British Methodist Church and it has been updated for 2025.

- You can freely download the study and **lead it in your church**.
- **Alternatively, Rev. Joan Pell is leading this as an online study on eight Wednesdays at 1 p.m. (PT) from March 5 (Ash Wednesday) to April 23.**

Click the link below to register and receive the Zoom link.

Download Rising to the Call

Register for the Online Study

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## Creation Justice Tips



Find these tips and more in the February Tips from [UM Creation Justice Movement](#).

Individual actions won't be enough to stop the environmental crises, but your actions can be a catalyst for change.

**Invest in the future**—not the past. Choose what you can: solar and wind, energy-efficient appliances, hybrid or electric vehicles, voting for electric public transit, quality and long-lasting fashion made of natural textiles, insurance companies and banks that do not support fossil fuels, lawmakers who work for the environment and justice.

As a Christian charged to “Love our neighbors,” you can **understand and speak up**

**for environmental justice**, which means that everyone—regardless of race, color, national origin, or income—has the right to the same environmental protections and benefits, as well as the right to meaningful involvement in the policies that shape their communities. Do the research, hold law and policy makers accountable, and tell the stories of injustice.

Businesses have a greater impact toward a more sustainable future than individuals. But each of us can have an impact on businesses. When you need to make a purchase, shop for the company not just the product. **Support businesses that practice sustainability** with their products and production. Purchase from ones that care and give back. When you shop online, read the “About” tab and look also for B Corp certification or 1% for the Planet designations on the site.

**Write to law and policy makers.** In your letter state why this environmental issue is important to you—and to others. Tell your story; speak up for justice. Indicate you are a constituent and a person of faith. Policy makers pay more attention to letters from individuals, and they need a broader religious perspective than they often assume.

UMCJM February Tips

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## *Education*

### EarthKeeper Training





Global Ministries EarthKeepers Spring Online Training is being offered virtually from May 2 - May 17. The application deadline is March 14.

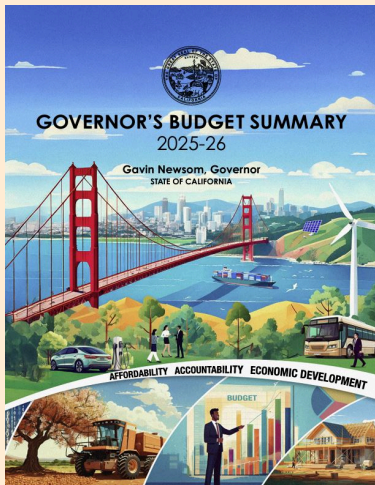
Global Ministries EarthKeepers is a training and incubator program that provides a collaborative space for United Methodists to develop and grow environmental projects in their communities that are action-oriented, antiracist, bold and entrepreneurial.

Do you have ideas for action with your church or your community, but want to explore how you can make that happen? Bring your idea to the Spring 2025 Global Ministries EarthKeepers Training!

[Learn More & Apply](#)

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## California Governor's Budget Summary



The Governor's Budget Summary was released on January 10, 2025. **Pages 35 - 46 talk about *Climate Change and Environment*.** The Governor's Budget proposes \$2.7 billion for the first year of a multi-year expenditure plan to implement the \$10 billion Climate Bond (Proposition 4) authorized by voters in November. This plan will accelerate projects and programs that build water and wildfire resilience, with up to two-thirds of these investments delivering on California's nature-based solution climate targets, increasing the health of natural systems and their ability to absorb more carbon than they release.

[Budget Summary Document](#)

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## Ocean Report



The ocean absorbs around 90% of the surplus heat from the global greenhouse effect and the ocean is warming. Changes in the ocean have the potential to affect weather patterns, sea ice melting, marine organisms and human health and livelihoods.

Learn about those changes from new data published in the eighth EU Copernicus Ocean State Report, a global reference report, funded by the European Commission and produced by Mercator Ocean International for the Copernicus Marine Service.

[BBC Article](#)

[Ocean Report](#)

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## ***Advocacy***

### **Divestment from Fossil Fuels**



Our special issue published last week on divestment included some upcoming events and useful resources to make a difference through divesting from fossil fuels.

Divesting involves shifting investments away from polluting coal, oil, and gas and instead investing in just and sustainable forms of renewable power.

In that issue were the following articles:

[Fossil Fuel Divestment Summit](#) - upcoming summit organized by our conference CFA

[Divestment Movement Café](#) - a conversation about fossil fuel divestment

[Divestment Resources](#) - links to 7 informational articles

[Fossil Free UMC](#) - resources and support for acting for a just clean energy future

[Boycott Chevron](#) - join UMR and climate groups boycotting Chevron

Special Issue on Divestment

## Who will pay to rebuild Los Angeles?



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Sign the California petition sponsored by a number of climate groups (including GreenFaith, Interfaith Power & Light, GreenPeace, and 350) asking Governor Newsom and public officials to establish a climate superfund that polluting companies must pay into.

New York and Vermont have already passed Climate Superfund legislation that fines the worst polluting companies and will generate tens of billions of dollars for restoration, resiliency, and just transition. California will be considering a similar law this year.

[Sign the Petition](#)

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## Connection

### Creation-Centered Post Easter Worship Series



A new Eastertide Worship Series “Believing into Christ” has been developed by the UM Creation Justice Movement Worship Team in partnership with UMC Discipleship Ministries. Kristina Sinks, a member of our own task force, has contributed to this series.

The 6-week series, from April 27 to June 1, uses themes from Revelation and the Gospel of John about what is possible when we believe. It explores more about the power of our belief in Christ, how belief is not only an intellectual endeavor and assent to the power of God to transform, but also a process that helps us use our hands and feet in ways similar to how Jesus used his hands and feet to seek out and address the hurting ones, including our planet and its most vulnerable people and beyond-human creatures.

[Believing into Christ Worship Series](#)

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### Some Good News

- Norway is on track to be first country to transition to all electric vehicles - reported by the [BBC](#) and [CNBC](#). Norway is the world leader when it comes to



the take up of electric cars, which last year accounted for nine out of 10 new vehicles (89.9%) sold in the country. The USA's figure is 8.1%.

- Every SFSU student will soon take a climate justice course under new graduation requirement - reported by the [SF Chronicle](#). The Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action (ESCA) graduation requirement makes SFSU the first major public university to require a course explicitly incorporating climate justice, according to the university.

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*“Climate Justice through faith-inspired connection, education, advocacy and action”*

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