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Cal-Nev Climate Justice Ministries

October 2024 Newsletter

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

Our 2024-25 Priorities



The devastation and damage from Hurricane Helene this week is a reminder once again of the changing weather patterns that we are seeing from global warming, and the urgency of our work. We hold all those who have been impacted by the storm and flooding in our prayers, and lift those who are helping in any way. May God's all embracing love bring hope and courage to all.

Our Climate Justice Ministries task force has set some specific priorities for this year. Four of these goals are to:

1. Encourage every church member to spend 10 minutes outside each day
2. Share inspirational stories of work being done by our local churches and individuals
3. Assist our conference in divesting from Fossil Fuels as per the recommendation from our task force that was passed at ACS 2023
4. Provide support for local churches including around Land Use, Green Teams and Plastic

You will find articles in this newsletter about

- Spending time outside to nurture our love for God's creation

- Learning more about Fossil Fuel divestment
- Support for local churches around the election and creation justice

We would like to be able to share your inspirational stories about your church's climate justice work, but **we need your help** to do so. Please [email us](#) with your articles about what is happening in your life, your church or your city. Or ask us to call you and we can talk about it.

Blessings,

Rev. Joan Pell

Chair, California-Nevada Climate Justice Ministries Task Force

Action

A Call to Action: Get Outdoors!



One of the goals set by the Climate Justice Task Force for this year is to **encourage every church member of the the California-Nevada Annual Conference to spend 10 minutes outside each day.**

We firmly believe that our actions --and our energy -- for earth justice work must be fed and empowered by nurturing our love for God's creation, and this simple practice is an important step in that direction.

One way you might focus your 10-minute daily practice could be dedicating your attention to just one of your senses, for example:

“Seeing Sunday”

Notice the many colors and variations of patterns in your special place.

“Melodic Monday”

Pay attention to the sounds. Listen for the songs, harmony, symphony.

“Tasting Tuesday”

Are there (safely) edible things growing near you? Savor their taste.

“Weather Wednesday”

Enjoy the sun, wind, clouds. Notice the change in seasons.

“Thirsty Thursday”

Connect with the forms of water in your setting -- a puddle, creek, pool, mist, rain, fog, dew, or the water in your own body.

“Feeling Friday”

Notice the temperature of the air, touch leaves or flower petals or tree bark.

“Smelling Saturday”

Inhale deeply, notice the scents, and allow yourself to be transported into memories.

You might choose the same place each time -- a walking path, or your own backyard - so that you might get to know your “more than human” neighbors better with every passing day. Or you might vary your routine and delight in the endless variety of gifts God has placed all around you, and reflect on their interconnectedness.

Our prayer is that all may be enriched and blessed by taking on this simple practice. We, in turn, would be blessed to hear your stories about how this discipline impacts your well-being and outlook over the coming months!

Submitted by task force member Rev. Laurie Bayen

Sacred Ground

[Sacred Ground](#) is an audio tour of scenic vistas, parks and trails available on a free smartphone app called Otocast. This educational resource connects visitors with knowledge about local ecosystems and climate justice issues, offers guidance in a mindful spiritual practice, and issues a faithful call to action. Begun by Rev. Laurie Bayen in Sonoma County a year ago as a form of hospitality and a kind of “church without walls,” the material on the tour has been accessed over 3,600 times to date.

This project is a great way to engage the outdoors enthusiasts in your community in learning and telling stories about how climate change has impacted the places they love. It encourages people (locals and tourists, church and non-church folk alike) to get outside to enjoy the gifts of God's good creation, to engage their senses and practice mindfulness, and to do their part to help restore and preserve these good gifts.

Click on the buttons for a full update and to find out how to access the app.

Sacred Ground Update

Submitted by task force member Rev. Laurie Bayen

Education

Fossil Fuel Divestment as Climate Change Strategy



Tuesday October 15 @ 10 am – Noon on Zoom

Rev. Sharon Delgado, is the guest speak at the John Cobb & Friends Gathering on October 15. This gathering is a ministry of the [Cobb Institute](#) whose mission promotes process and relational ways of understanding and living in the world, seeking to cultivate ecological civilizations through just and compassionate communities.

In this presentation, Sharon, as both a member and the former chair of this task force and as the Convener of Fossil Free UMC, will take us through the steps of awakening to what is at stake as the impacts of climate change multiply. She will explore the

forces that perpetuate this crisis and the limitations of the dominant paradigm for climate rescue. She will point to fossil fuel divestment as a faithful response: as both a practical and symbolic way to challenge the power of the fossil fuel industry and to strengthen the global movement for climate justice.

Click the button for more information and to register and receive the Zoom link.

Register

Advocacy



Our Task Force Election Special Issue

Did you read our Election Special Issue that was emailed out on September 24?

Election Day on November 5th is drawing near. Those of us who are eligible to vote in US elections have the opportunity now to express our faithful values through voting.

This special issue featured information about casting our votes with creation justice in mind and how Christians and Churches can engage in the electoral process faithfully and effectively, plus other ideas, prayers and worship resources.

Together, let us support democracy and get out the vote.

Election Special Issue

Vote Climate and Divest from Fossil Fuels

On September 26, UM Insight published an article in their *perspectives* section written by Rev. Sharon Delgado on the upcoming election and on calling for the United Methodist Church to screen out fossil fuels from our investment portfolios on the grounds that they are driving climate change and the desecration of creation.

UM Insight Article

Connection

UM Creation Justice Movement Newsletter



Have you subscribed to the [UM Creation Justice Movement](#) mailings? Their October newsletter was **packed with helpful information about the election including quotes from the two major party platforms and the candidates on issues of creation justice**. It also includes Upcoming Events, Featured Stories, and Creation Justice tips.

Here are two of their **October tips**:

Halloween looks scary stuff in the eye and laughs at it, taking away its power. As a fun family project take away some of the scariness by creating costumes out of clothing and accessories you already own or that you can purchase inexpensively

from a thrift shop or swap with friends. Trash the scary one-and-done syndrome, keep cheap costumes out of the landfill, and have a good laugh!

Don't throw away that pumpkin! Cut it into smaller pieces for deer, rabbits, mice, squirrels, and chipmunks to munch on—non-painted pumpkins only. Or harvest the seeds, dry them, and put them in a bird feeder. Or feed the microbes in your soil because you composted instead of trashing it.

UMCJM October Newsletter

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

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