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# Cal-Nev Climate Justice Ministries June 2025 Newsletter

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



The 177th Session of the California-Nevada Annual Conference will take place from June 27 - 30, 2025 at the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center in Sacramento, California. We have four pieces of climate justice legislation that will be voted upon during the session and you can find more information about them in this newsletter. Please be an **advocate** and speak to those who you know who can vote at the session (active and retired clergy and lay delegates) and ask them for their support. In this issue we also share some examples of how to **connect** with God, creation, and others, and how to **educate** ourselves and take some **action**.

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Blessings,

Rev. Joan Pell

*Chair, California-Nevada Climate Justice Ministries Task Force*

*Conference Caretakers of God's Creation Coordinator*

# Advocacy



## ACS Legislation



Our Task Force has submitted [four pieces of legislation](#) to this year's Annual Conference Session (ACS). Please follow the links to read them and encourage your pastor and lay delegates to support this legislation.

- **Resolution for Conference Fossil Fuel Divestment** asks the California-Nevada conference to transition all investment portfolios to low carbon and eventually fossil free funds and to report on progress in 2026.

#### Divestment Resolution

- **Recommendation to Spend 10 Minutes a Day in Nature** encourages all congregants to spend time daily outside in mindful connection with Creation.

#### 10-Minutes Recommendation

- **Recommendation on Green Teams** encourages all congregations to establish green teams or equivalent for action in the four areas of connection, education, action and advocacy.

#### Green Teams Recommendation

- **Resolution to Boycott Chevron to Defend God's Creation and Human Rights** adds the California-Nevada Conference to the list of groups that are joining the global boycott of Chevron Corporation by signing the boycott statement of United Methodists for Kairos Response and encouraging congregations to mobilize boycott activities in their area.

#### Boycott Chevron Resolution

The full details of all ACS legislation with the final text will be published on the [ACS page of the conference website](#) two weeks before ACS. In the meantime, the legislation that was submitted can be found using the buttons above.

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# House passes budget bill cutting clean energy tax credits

On May 22, the House of Representatives passed its version of the budget reconciliation bill, which dramatically slashes America's clean energy tax credits. The bill is now headed for the Senate. There is still time to contact your senator to ask them to preserve the tax credits, and their benefits, in their bill. See [this article](#) from Citizens' Climate Lobby, a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy climate change organization.

Citizen's Climate Lobby Article

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## Connection



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## The "Sample Sacred Ground" Contest



The summer travel season is upon us ... are you ready for a road trip? Why not take the opportunity to learn more about God's beautiful creation and the stories that the rocks and trees might tell us about how to care for the planet -- and then bring that awareness into a refreshing moment of meditation?

**By entering the “Sample Sacred Ground” Contest, you will also have a chance to win a \$150 gift certificate from REI !**

To participate:

1. Download the free Otocast smartphone app and search “Sacred Ground” to explore!
2. Visit six Sacred Ground locations between now and the end of July
3. Take one “selfie” at each location and one (or more) photo(s) of something that particularly caught your attention while you were there -- especially something that struck you as unique about the place and/or made you feel more connected to the Creator (the idea is to prove that you visited each place)
4. Send an email to [pastorlaurieumc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlaurieumc@gmail.com) with your name, a list of the six locations visited, and the 12 (or more) photos you took

DEADLINE: July 31

Winner will be announced in our August Climate Justice Ministries newsletter.

Tell your friends by sharing this [climate-cnumc.org/sg-contest](http://climate-cnumc.org/sg-contest) link.

The “Sample Sacred Ground” Contest

More about Sacred Ground



## First Earth Connect Retreat: A Meaningful Gathering



In spite of cool and sometimes rainy weather which kept the group indoors far more than was planned, the April 26 Earth Connect retreat, held at Windsor Community UMC, was a great first of what are hoped to be several such events to be held in different locations around the Annual Conference.



The day began with a gathering circle outside and a land acknowledgement presentation by Joe Salinas, a local artist and activist who leads the Sonoma County Pomo Dancers. He spoke about his efforts to instill a sense of pride, self-worth and

connection with the Earth among young people, and expressed his appreciation for allies who have come alongside to support an endeavor to change an offensively worded plaque at a local park, honor the first inhabitants there, and place educational markers at former tribal village sites. He ended by singing a prayer of blessing. Many participants said his presentation was a highlight of the day.



The participants were then invited to explore the church grounds and find one or two objects that struck them as “sacred.” They collected a variety -- leaves, stones, feathers, flowers etc. -- and arranged them to create an altar for the day. People introduced themselves by sharing what each object signified to them.



Presentations by retired clergy Liza Klein and Judith Preuss-Mellow introduced concepts of Creation Spirituality. Joan Pell shared about the work of the Climate Justice Ministries Task Force. Debbie Weatherspoon, Marylee Shaffer, Pamela Abbey and Glo Wellman facilitated small breakout groups. Laurie Bayen gave an orientation to the Sacred Ground smartphone app project. A delicious vegan lunch from a local Himalayan restaurant was enjoyed by all.

The group learned a song by Bret Hesla reminding us of our connection both to the Earth and to others:

*Put your hand on the ground.  
Touch it like a prayer...  
Somebody somewhere  
is touching it too.*

The Earth Connect Team plans to hold a fall retreat somewhere in the East Bay. [Contact Us](#) for updates on the date and location.

*Submitted by Rev. Laurie Bayen.*

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# Education



## David Attenborough's new film "Ocean"

Sir David Attenborough turned 99 years old on the day his latest film premiered in England. The film documents how the state of the world's oceans, and our understanding of how they function, have changed in the course of his lifetime. Sir David explores the planet's undersea habitats, revealing the greatest age of ocean discovery and emphasizing the ocean's vital importance while exposing its problems and highlighting opportunities for marine life recovery.

The film will premiere on National Geographic on Saturday, June 7 and be available to stream globally the following day Sunday June 8 which is **World Oceans Day**, on Disney+ and Hulu.

[Read the BBC article](#)

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# Action



California-Nevada Climate Justice Ministries Task Force

## Climate Justice through faith-inspired action



Action to care for the earth through changed  
individual habits and church green teams

# Mental Health Resources for Churches



As our changing climate causes more frequent and severe weather events, the physical and mental health impacts are following, weighing heavily on communities, congregations, and especially children.

*One Home, One Future* has produced some resources about mental health and climate change. Note, “*One Home, One Future*” is supported by “*Blessed Tomorrow*” and the *United Methodist Creation Justice Movement* is a partner organization.

What action can your congregation take to support mental health, youth, and climate solutions?

Mental Health Resources

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