

## Climate Justice Ministries Task Force

Number on Agency: 15

Number voting when adopted: 9

Number voting for: 9

Number voting against: 0

Number abstaining: 0

Number of meetings held: 5

Date of first meeting: January 17, 2024

Date adopted: April 14, 2025

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The Climate Justice Ministries Task mission slogan is “Climate Justice through faith-inspired **connection, education, advocacy and action**” and our work is organized around those four categories.

In mid-April 2025, we launched our **new website**: [climate-cnumc.org](http://climate-cnumc.org).

We have continued to communicate with you all via our **monthly newsletter**, offering ways each month for connection, education, advocacy and action. You can sign up at our [website](http://climate-cnumc.org) to receive these directly as soon as they are published. They also appear in Instant Connection.

What climate justice work is your church doing? We'd love to hear and celebrate your story.

### Our hopes and dreams for 2025-26

- That all congregations are aware of, and take the time to study, the creation care and climate justice legislation passed at General Conference in 2024.
- That all local churches create a local church Green Team and offer some practical ways to care for creation and justice in the four areas of connection, education, advocacy and action.
- That local churches begin implementing actions in their settings that bring their church land back in harmony with God's intentions and systems and reduce the church's greenhouse gas emissions.
- That church activities avoid the use of single use plastics.

You can find information on these topics on our website at [climate-cnumc.org/resources](http://climate-cnumc.org/resources).

Below are some of the things that we have achieved in 2024-25.

### Connection

- connection with God through worship and prayer
- connection with creation through being outside
- connection with others that are doing similar work and telling our stories

We have been encouraging everyone this year to spend at least ten minutes of every day outside in mindful connection with Creation to improve our own wellbeing and empower our work for the wellbeing of the planet.

On April 26, we held an *Earth Connect* retreat at Windsor UMC making space for participants to connect with God and creation as a daily first step toward works of love and justice. This retreat aimed to help us to “Thrive in Community” with one another and with God's Creation. Participants gathered for meditation, conversation, and the sharing of action and advocacy ideas. In 2025-26, we hope to hold more of these retreats in other locations around the conference.

Sacred Ground, a project by Earthkeeper Rev. Laurie Bayen, continues to add new sites, connecting visitors via the free Otocast app to about 50 beautiful scenic vistas, parks, and trails in the Bay area and beyond. Each location on the audio tour includes information on local challenges related to climate change, a land acknowledgment, an invitation to a faithful action we all can take to preserve and restore fragile ecosystems, and a mindful spiritual practice.

We have made connections and publicized some of the work of other UM and interfaith groups such as UM Creation Justice Ministries, Global Ministries Earthkeepers, United Women in Faith, Church & Society, Fossil Free UMC, Interfaith Power and Light, Creation Justice Ministries, Greenfaith, Third Act Faith, Blessed Tomorrow, and the Council for Ecological Discipleship at St. Columba's Inverness.

## Education

- education through books, websites, podcasts, articles, conferences, retreats, speakers etc.

During the year we have highlighted some recommended books and studies for Advent and Lent. Joan Pell's updated Lent study *Rising to the Call: 7 Big Questions* was made available to freely download and offered on Zoom. Study guides and opportunities from other UM and ecumenical groups have also been publicized.

We had a display table at the "Afternoon with Brian McLaren" event at San Ramon Valley UMC in March where Brian McLaren spoke about his book *Life After Doom: Wisdom and Courage for a World Falling Apart*.

## Advocacy

- advocacy through petitions, phone calls, letters, visits, boycotts, marches, protests etc.

One of our goals continues to be divestment from fossil fuels. At ACS in June 2024, a Recommendation was passed to hold a summit on fossil fuel divestment. Organized by the Conference Council on Finance & Administration with help from our task force, the summit was held in March 2024 for the conference financial officials and agencies. A separate report and a further recommendation will be considered at ACS.

Our task force has also joined with the Palestine Task Force to endorse the Chevron Boycott.

We wrote a newsletter article on advocacy resources for churches in December 2024; and each month we have publicized advocacy opportunities.

We have four recommendations coming to ACS (10 minutes outside, Chevron boycott, green teams and divestment).

## Action

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

General Conference made a number of changes to the *Book of Discipline* in 2024, especially around Green Teams, Church Land Use, the Use of Plastic and a Commitment to Net Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions. As we have considered how best to communicate these changes and encourage individuals and local churches to take some action, we are bringing a recommendation about Green Teams to ACS and have added lots of resources to our [website](#).

We have worked with the Committee on the Annual Conference Session to try to ensure that ACS is as ecologically sustainable as possible. You will notice that no bottled water is being handed out at ACS this year, with participants encouraged to bring their own refillable bottles, and refillable hot cups. Attendees are encouraged to use public transport or rideshare where possible; and display tables will not be giving away items that are not good for the environment and/or will quickly be thrown away.