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Cal-NeV Climate Justice Ministries October 2025 Newsletter

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

Check out our website: climate-cnumc.org



In the [Community of All Creation](#), a new section in our updated Social Principles in the 2020/2024 Book of Discipline, are some words of affirmation calling us to be stewards of the earth:

We affirm our sacred calling to be responsible stewards and to lovingly tend all that God has wrought. We recognize the inherent worth of God’s creation, celebrate earth’s abundance and diversity, and, along with the entirety of the cosmos, give praise to its Creator. We recognize we are interconnected members of complex ecosystems, intricate webs of life, all of which have their origins in God’s gracious act of creation.

It then continues to say this about the destruction of ecosystems:

Overconsumption, shortsighted policies, poor management of natural resources, and other unsustainable practices have severely impacted the fragile, natural ecosystems on which all of life depends. Too often, humankind has treated the rest of the created world as if it were disposable and allowed the destruction of other living organisms

and their natural habitats to go unchecked. Further, the experiences and voices of people most at risk have largely been ignored.

Fall is often the season when churches have Stewardship drives and ask their members to pledge their financial support for the local church for the upcoming year. Sometimes, leaders talk about this in terms of time, talent and treasure. **What pledge might you also make this year as a responsible steward for the earth and the whole of Creation? How will you use your time, your talents and your treasure as a steward of the earth, to bring healing and justice to the world? What priorities is your local church setting so that the earth can thrive?**

In this issue of our newsletter are some opportunities and reflections on ways to **educate** ourselves, take **action**, **advocate** for change, and **connect** with God, Creation and others.

[Education](#) - New Book - Preaching Black Earth

[Action](#) - Green Teams

[Advocacy](#) - Support Organic Agriculture

[Connection](#) - Reflections on the East Bay Earth Connect Retreat

Blessings,

Rev. Joan Pell

Chair, California-Nevada Climate Justice Ministries Task Force

Conference Caretakers of God's Creation Coordinator

Education



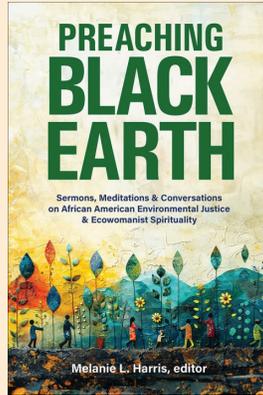
California-Nevada Climate Justice Ministries Task Force

Climate Justice
through faith-inspired
education



Education through books, websites, podcasts,
webinars, conferences, retreats, speakers

Preaching Black Earth



At ACS this year, there was a Panel Discussion speaking on the intersections of the justice work being done in our Conference. (You can watch it [here](#).) As you ponder those intersections, consider purchasing this new book, ***Preaching Black Earth***, edited by Melanie Harris, and released in September 2025, which is a groundbreaking collection of sermons, meditations, poems, and interviews illuminating the powerful intersections of environmental justice, racial justice, and faith. With contributions from Bible scholars, pastors, ecowomanist thinkers, and political activists, this volume offers a profound exploration of how Black and ally communities can craft new theologies to confront the urgent challenges of climate change.

This book highlights the disproportionate impact of environmental degradation on communities of color, where landfills, toxic waste sites, and other forms of pollution often encroach on Black and Indigenous neighborhoods. It showcases the historic connection between Black preaching traditions, activism, and stewardship of the land, as well as the ecowomanist focus on the interrelatedness of injustices. By centering the voices, wisdom, and methods of women of African descent, ***Preaching Black Earth: Sermons, Meditations, and Conversations on African American Environmental Justice and Ecowomanist Spirituality*** offers readers an interdisciplinary, intersectional framework for understanding environmental ethics and promoting social and environmental justice.

It can be ordered from your local bookstore, or online from the publisher [Westminster John Knox Press](#) using the link below, or from other online stores.

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Action



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action



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

climate-cnumc.org/action

Green Teams



One of our 2025-26 priorities as a Climate Justice Ministries task force is to encourage all local churches to create green teams and then to tell their stories.

Your church green team maybe a dedicated team at your church, but in smaller churches, it might form part of the work of another team, or your Church Council or Board of Trustees. In every church, creation care and climate justice should live

somewhere. However you choose to organize this work, we have resources to help you.

Whether you are just creating a team or already have a team, please [contact us](#) with the name and contact details for the leader of your green team.

If your church does not have a green team, we encourage you to talk to your pastor and church leaders to advocate for the creation of a team at your church. Below is some helpful information for starting green teams.

Begin by reading our [Green Teams Resources page](#):

Green Teams Resources

Then, take action in each of these four areas each year — **Connection**, **Education**, **Action**, and **Advocacy**.

Every person and every local church will be at a different place in this journey. For some this will mean doing some of the easy steps. For others, it will mean tackling some larger projects.

Here is an example of where to begin with some easy steps for a church that has not yet begun this work:

Connection with God, Creation & others:

- Ask your pastor or Worship Team to lead a Creation focused worship service or series. You'll find [worship ideas here](#).
- Encourage each member of your congregation to [spend 10 minutes each day outside](#).

Education:

- Offer a book study using a book from our [book list](#).
- Attend (or watch later) the monthly [Movement Cafés](#) led by the United Methodist Creation Justice Movement.

Action:

- Reduce the use of plastics and Styrofoam at church events. We have lots of ideas on our [Use of Plastics page](#).
- Replace some/all light bulbs with energy-efficient alternatives like LEDs.

Advocacy:

- Write letters or make phone calls to policymakers advocating for environmental protections.
- Become familiar with where to find the campaigns (action alerts) of other groups doing similar work - we have an [advocacy resources page](#).

Then, [contact us](#) and tell us your story!

Green Teams Resources

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Advocacy

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Climate Justice
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advocacy



**Advocacy through petitions, phone calls,
letters, visits, boycotts, marches, protests**

climate-cnumc.org/advocacy

Support Organic Agriculture

Agriculture contributes about 18% of the global warming gases that contribute to climate change. That is not as much as driving automobiles or heating and cooling buildings, but it enough to make a huge difference if we change how we raise crops

and livestock. Imagine a future where the way we grow and produce food ensures that the food on our plates is not only delicious, but also healthy for us and the planet. Every 5 years, we have a powerful opportunity to vote for a healthier food future for our families & communities through the US Farm Bill – and that time has come again – join with the Center for Food Safety in taking action!

Make your voice heard and help transform the US Farm Bill by urging your US Senators and US Representative to prioritize organic agriculture. Show Congress that there is massive public support for legislation that promotes a food system that is organic, climate-friendly, equitable, and environmentally conscious.

Find out more in this article by Jaydee Hanson, member of the UM Creation Justice Movement and policy director for the Center for Food Safety.

Support Organic Agriculture

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Connection



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connection



Connection with God, creation and others;
and telling our stories

climate-cnumc.org/connection

**East Bay Earth Connect Retreat: Beautiful Place,
Meaningful Connections**



The second Earth Connect Retreat was marked by perfect weather on September 6 in a lovely, peaceful setting: Hillside Sanctuary, a Frank Lloyd Wright-designed building nestled in El Cerrito with a stunning view of the San Francisco Bay. About 25 participants came from the East and South Bay to connect with fellow earth-lovers and to be renewed for the challenging work of these times.



A well-planned, flowing balance of outdoor activities in nature, conversation time in small groups, poetry, music and presentations on Creation Spirituality made for a restful, yet purposeful day together that left many participants hungering for more. The prospect of follow-up activities in East Bay -- "Sacred Ground field trips" and/or outdoor worship experiences -- is being considered by the leadership team, as those who attended come from a variety of faith communities, and many expressed a desire to continue to develop the supportive connections that were begun on this day.



The Earth Connect Team (part of our Climate Justice Ministries Task Force) plans to offer at least two more Earth Connect Retreats in other locations in the Annual

Conference in 2026. If your church building is located on a property with some nice outdoor meeting space, and you and your congregation or United Women in Faith group might consider hosting the next retreat, please contact [Rev. Laurie Bayen](#).

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