

## Climate Justice Ministries Task Force

Number on Agency: 15      Number voting when adopted: 12  
Number voting for: 12      Number voting against: 0      Number abstaining: 0  
Number of meetings held: 9      Date of first meeting: 1/9/2025  
Date adopted: 4/14/2025  
Submitted by: Joan Pell, Chair ([climatejustice@cnmc.org](mailto:climatejustice@cnmc.org))

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 methodologies.

We have lots of information and resources on our **website**: [climate-cnumc.org](http://climate-cnumc.org) with frequent additions of new material. 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](#) to receive these directly as soon as they are published, and they also appear in the *News from the California-Nevada Conference* email or you can read them at [climate-cnumc.org/newsletter](http://climate-cnumc.org/newsletter).

What climate justice work is your church doing to heal the world? We’d love to hear and celebrate your story; send an email to [climatejustice@cnmc.org](mailto:climatejustice@cnmc.org).

Our task force chair, Joan Pell, is willing to speak or preach at local church or district events around the conference either in-person or virtually.

### Our hopes and dreams for 2027

- 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.
- That local churches tell us their ‘Healing the World’ stories.

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 highlights of 2025-26.

### Green Teams

At ACS in 2025, we introduced a resolution about Green Teams encouraging churches to create green teams as per the BOD ¶254 and BOR 5112, and for the District Superintendents to ask about those teams at annual church/charge conferences. For churches to tell us about their green teams, we have created a form which is now available to complete at [climate-cnumc.org/form](http://climate-cnumc.org/form). We have a page of green team resources at [climate-cnumc.org/greenteams](http://climate-cnumc.org/greenteams) and monthly ideas for green teams in our newsletter.

### Earth Connect Retreats

We have now held three one-day Earth Connect Retreats ([climate-cnumc.org/retreat](http://climate-cnumc.org/retreat)). The first was in April 2025 at Windsor UMC in Los Rios District; the second was in September 2025 at Hillside Sanctuary in El Cerrito on the border of the Los Rios and Bay Area Districts; and the third in April 2026 at Loomis First UMC in Great Northern District. These retreats have provided space to connect with God and creation, to be spiritually grounded, and as a daily first step toward works of love and justice. It is our intent to continue to hold two retreats each year rotating them around the five Districts so that as many people as possible have an opportunity to attend a retreat. A big thank you to Laurie Bayen, Liza Klein and Judith Preuss-Mellow for their time and planning of these retreats.

## Divestment

After helping CFA to hold a Fossil Fuel Divestment summit in Spring 2025 ([climate-cnumc.org/divestment](https://climate-cnumc.org/divestment)), we brought legislation to ACS 2025 to have our Conferences Boards and Agencies divest from fossil fuels. See 2025 Journal page 278 or [climate-cnumc.org/acs-2025](https://climate-cnumc.org/acs-2025). The legislation passed, and you can read CFA's report to learn about the encouraging progress that the Board of Pensions and the Foundation have made this year.

## Sustainable ACS

The BOD, ¶603.4, says that annual conference sessions shall, *when possible, have sustainable practices for energy, waste, and consumption*. At ACS 2025, members of ACS were asked to bring reusable water bottles and groups were asked to not distribute any single-use plastic water bottles. The Oasis team provided signage to help people locate the water fountains. Groups with display tables were also asked to make a conscious effort to avoid giving away items that are not good for the environment and/or will quickly be thrown away. And people were encouraged to use public transport or rideshare.

Members of ACS were also asked to bring reusable coffee cups to use at coffee vendors, although in practice, we saw less of that happening. We hope to see more reusable coffee cups at ACS 2026.

## Council of Bishop's Support for Creation Justice and Climate Action

In September 2025, the United Methodist Creation Justice Movement wrote an open letter to the Council of Bishops. We were pleased that in return, in November 2025, the Council of Bishops wrote an open letter with a strong statement in support of creation justice and climate action ([climate-cnumc.org/bishops-support-climate-action](https://climate-cnumc.org/bishops-support-climate-action)). The bishops affirmed their commitment to implementing the decisions made at the 2024 General Conference, including creating Green Teams in local churches. They also encouraged local churches to engage with partners in the *Ecumenical Decade for Climate Justice Action* launched by the World Council of Churches ([climate-cnumc.org/ecumenical-decade-for-climate-action](https://climate-cnumc.org/ecumenical-decade-for-climate-action)).

## Publications

Our task force was asked by the Core Team to write 6 devotions for Week 5 of the Core Teams Lenten Devotionals for Lent 2026 on the theme *Restoring God's Good Earth - Healing Creation* ([cnumc.org/healing-the-world-week-5](https://cnumc.org/healing-the-world-week-5)).

Two members of our task force, Laurie Bayen and Kristina Sinks participated in the team writing the United Methodist Creation Justice Movement worship materials for the 2025 Season of Creation ([climate-cnumc.org/worship](https://climate-cnumc.org/worship)). (*The Season of Creation occurs annually from September 1<sup>st</sup> to October 4<sup>th</sup>*).

We have continued to maintain a list of recommended books on our website ([climate-cnumc.org/books](https://climate-cnumc.org/books)). Recently added to the list is the revised and updated edition of *Love in a Time of Climate Change: Honoring Creation, Establishing Justice* by Sharon Delgado, Convenor of Fossil Free UMC and task force member. The book challenges readers to develop a loving response to climate change, which disproportionately harms the poor, threatens future generations, and damages God's creation. This book creatively adapts John Wesley's theological method by using scripture, tradition, reason, and experience to explore the themes of creation and justice in the context of the earth's changing climate.

## Sacred Ground

Global Ministries Earthkeeper and task force member, Laurie Bayen, continues to develop her Sacred Ground project ([climate-cnumc.org/sacredground](https://climate-cnumc.org/sacredground)) expanding now to connect visitors to over 84 beautiful scenic vistas, parks, and trails in California. 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, along with a mindful spiritual practice.