

RECOMMENDATIONS



Resources and Staffing

1. Hire a Canon for Creation Justice

"Don't ask yourself what the world needs; ask yourself what makes you come alive. And then go and do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."

—Howard Thurman

Recommendation: Create a Creation Care & Climate Justice Department at the Office of the Bishop with a Canon to oversee its operations.

Background: We need someone on diocesan staff who will lead and guide this work, pull together in some cohesive way all this information, and disperse the information, make links to other programs, and coordinate with other departments and people. To

fully realize a Diocesan movement for the care of Creation calls for centralized leadership. Comparable Episcopal positions do exist:

- In The Episcopal Church, the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers is Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Evangelism, Reconciliation & Creation Care.
- The Rev. Melanie Mullen serves as the Director of Reconciliation, Justice & Creation Care.
- At the Diocesan level, the Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas is Missioner for Creation Care in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts and the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ. This suggests the possibility of a job-share arrangement with a nearby Diocese or denomination.

Taking Action: If systemic change and coordinated effort are truly the goal, then an investment in a staff person dedicated to this effort is necessary. This staff member would do the following:

- Coordinate a speakers' bureau of traveling homilists and guest preachers who can speak to the issues and help congregations connect with solutions.
- Maintain a webpage with a calendar of events to promote Creation Care programs.
- Serve as a clearinghouse for ideas/curriculum.
- Collaborate with existing entities like Earth Ministry: Interfaith Power & Light; Drawdown Seattle; and The Episcopal Church's Creation Care office.
- Integrate Creation Care leadership training into existing education venues: Iona School, the College for Congregational Development, the Bishop's Leadership Conference, Diocesan Convention workshops, and Better Together Faith Formation Conference.
- Convene Creation Care leaders from local parishes to confer about plans and ways to support one another. Convene meetings for any in the Diocese to share best practices in Creation Care. Maintain a database and mailing list of people

who are engaged with climate justice and Creation Care to more efficiently connect events/programs and participants. Note the need for a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system to automate and track the interest and activity of church members across the Diocese. Interfaith Power and Light effectively uses EveryAction CRM systems to keep down staffing costs and enhance organizing.

- Survey individual congregations on the status of their Creation Care efforts to determine what is actually going on at the local level.

The Canon would require a volunteer support committee or advisory board.