

RECOMMENDATIONS



Faith Formation

1. Offer Intergenerational Opportunities to Explore Creation Care

“Creation and climate work presents a spiritually rich opportunity for all generations to work together to make changes and support one another as well as honor the contributions all can make.”

—The Rev. Gail Wheatley, Olympia Diocese

Recommendation: Create opportunities for people of all ages to learn about and work together to care and advocate for the planet.

Background: We have, within our church family, a unique opportunity to do the cross-generational work of Creation Care. As faith formation moves away from the traditional mode of Christian education where everyone is grouped by age toward an intergenerational model, we can set the stage for youth to be inspired by elders and,

conversely, for elders to be inspired by youth. As we face climate crisis, the greatest challenge of our time, we need the solidarity and creativity that comes with collaboration across all ages.

Taking Action: When intergenerational ministry is done with intention, people from different generations develop relationships and make connections that would likely not ever occur outside church. To create this kind of inclusive culture at your church and to capture the collaborative power of all ages together, think about how to shape your Creation Care efforts so they can be more inclusive of age difference.

Ideas can be as simple as the following:

- **Cooking sessions.** Grandparents help children and youth bake communion bread with natural ingredients found locally.
- **A church movie night or matinée.** Choose films that speak to climate crisis issues. [Youth v. Gov., 2040](#), and [The Biggest Little Farm](#) are films that will inspire all ages.
- **Monthly whole church gatherings** involve all ages in fun, food, and worship. Use themes and scripture that highlight God's Creation, use repurposed materials for crafts, and emphasize composting and recycling practices.
- **Group hikes, pilgrimages, and retreats** offer a way for everyone to come together in the outdoors and reflect on the beauty of the natural world, which is so immediate here in the Pacific Northwest. Creation Care Pilgrimages can be supported and staffed by parishes and adults of all ages, whether by driving the "sag wagon" of supplies or cooking a meal at an overnight stop.
- **Letter-Writing.** Together determine the issues that matter the most to your congregation, especially in the surrounding community. Start a letter-writing campaign (after the Sunday service). All of us can write to a city council member, and even the youngest can draw picture to illustrate the issue.
- **Making signs and march** or stand on a street corner together to protest for the issues that matter the most to you—locally and globally.

Results: Intergenerational activities capitalize on and combine the experience of age and the energy of youth to tackle seemingly insurmountable issues like climate change in ways that are life-giving for all.

Resources: Following are just two examples. Go to the [Diocesan Resource Center](#) for more ideas):

- [Just Eating? Practicing Our Faith at the Table](#) is a seven-session curriculum for congregations that explores the relationship between the way we eat and the way we live. The study uses scripture, prayer, and stories from the local and global community to explore five key aspects of our relationship with food.
- [Faith and Nature: The Divine Adventure of Life on Earth](#) is an eight-session, downloadable, intergenerational faith-formation resource focused on appreciating and living in harmony with God's Creation. The study includes photos and illustrations to use in activities and discussions.