

# RESOURCES FOR USE WITH VIRGINIA CONFERENCE GREEN CHURCH INITIATIVE 2.0



## **INTRODUCTION**

These resources can be used in conjunction with the Virginia Conference Green Church Initiative 2.0. Hopefully they will help you to implement the Green Church Initiative in your congregation.

We basically follow the same format as the GCI. It made sense with some of the sections, to organize the resources in a more general format and for other sections we formatted them more specifically to each piece of the GCI. We hope this will not be too confusing to you, the user.

Please note that these resources change almost daily. Some will no doubt already be obsolete. Use them as a guide with which to get started or to continue your work; they are in no way exhaustive and we're sure you can add to them based on your own experience and expertise.

# WORSHIP

## I. National Council of Churches of Christ Eco-Justice Programs

[www.nccecojustice.org](http://www.nccecojustice.org)

This site has a wealth of resources. They are categorized according to issues and provide resources for worship and group study. Also there are lots of stories of what other churches are doing. There is a list of denominational statements on God's creation. This is one of the best sources for mainline protestant theology.

Following is the Resource Index that will take you directly to those resources:

### RESOURCE INDEX:

- [NCC Eco-Justice Program Resources](#)
  - [Climate and Energy Resources](#)
  - [Biodiversity Resources](#)
  - [Earth Day Sunday Resources](#)
  - [Environmental Health Resources](#)
  - [Environmental Justice Resources](#)
  - [Food and Farming Resources](#)
  - [General Eco-Justice Resources](#)
  - [Green Building Resources](#)
  - [Land and Wilderness Resources](#)
  - [Water Resources](#)
- [Anthology of Environmental Statements](#)
- [Capsules Newsletter](#)
- [Congregational Resources](#)
- [Sermons](#)
- [Hymns](#)
- [Ecumenical Statements and Sign-On Letters](#)
- [Stories from the Pews](#)
- [Links](#)

# WORSHIP (cont'd)

## II. EARTH MINISTRY

**[www.earthministry.org](http://www.earthministry.org)**

Earth Ministry is a very well-established ministry, founded in 1992 in the northwest. Their mission is "To inspire and mobilize the Christian community to play a leadership role in building a just and sustainable future."

Following is their resource index:

### [Earth Ministry Publications](#)

Earth Ministry's publications provide a wealth of resources for individuals and congregations interested in taking their efforts to the next level. All of these publications are for sale on our [secure, online store](#).

### [Suggested Books, Curricula, and Videos](#)

Environmental education materials for [congregations](#), [adults](#), and [children and youth](#). Includes secular, Christian and interfaith resources.

### [Worship Aids](#)

Everything you need to build a creation-honoring worship service including [scripture](#), [sermon ideas](#), [hymns](#), and [prayers](#).

### [Creation Devotions](#)

Incorporate creation care into your personal or corporate, daily or seasonal study. Includes resources for [Advent](#), [Lent](#) and [creating your own devotional](#).

### [Ecumenical and Interfaith](#)

Programs and events for ecumenical and interfaith audiences including [denominational statements on creation care](#), [denominational contact information](#), creation-care initiatives, and [religious environmental organizations](#).

### [Success Stories](#)

Profiles of successful Earth Ministry member [congregations](#) and [individuals](#) from around the country.

### [Links](#)

A plethora of useful resources for every aspect of caring for God's creation.

# WORSHIP (cont'd)

## III. EVANGELICAL ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK

[www.creationcare.org](http://www.creationcare.org)

The Evangelical Environmental Network was founded by Rev. Jim Ball. Their mission is to:

“**Declare** the Lordship of Christ over all creation. He is the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created. All things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (Colossians 1:15b; 16a, c; 17)

These believers. . .

**Deepen** their walk with the Lord and the life of their churches through joy-filled worship, Bible study on the topics of creation's care, and prayer that God's will "be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10).

**Show** the compassion of Christ for people who suffer from creation's destruction (Proverbs 14:31).

**Demolish** strongholds of sin that tarnish the glory and integrity of God's good creation (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

**Build** our Lord's kingdom by active service to restore and renew the works of his hands (Matthew 6:33; Ephesians 2:10).

**Share** the Gospel with those who do not know that Jesus Christ is the ultimate Hope for creation groaning under our sin and the only Hope for our own souls (Romans 8:19-21; Colossians 1:20, 27).”

## IV. ECO-JUSTICE MINISTRIES

[www.eco-justice.org](http://www.eco-justice.org)

“Eco-Justice Ministries is an independent, ecumenical agency that helps churches answer the call to care for all of God's creation, and develop ministries that are faithful, relevant and effective in working toward social justice and environmental sustainability.”

The great gift of this website is they not only list curriculum resources, but they provide reviews of lots of curriculum so you can more easily make decisions about what may be more appropriate for your particular needs. Currently there are 66 titles reviewed and they can be categorized according to age appropriateness of the curriculum.

[Eco-Curriculum  
Reviews](#)

# WORSHIP (cont'd)

## V. SEASON OF CREATION

[www.seasonofcreation.com](http://www.seasonofcreation.com)

### “What Is the Season of Creation?”

In the seasons of Advent, Epiphany, Lent and Easter we celebrate the life of Christ. In the season of Pentecost we celebrate the Holy Spirit. Now, in the season of Creation, we have an opportunity to celebrate God, the Creator.

For four Sundays in September, prior to St Francis of Assisi Day, we join in celebrating with Christ the wonders of creation.

In the liturgy, we follow the lead of the psalm writers and celebrate with creation — with the forests, the rivers and the fields, which praise the Creator in their own way.

Bible readings focus especially on the story of Earth, which complements the story of God and the story of humanity in the Scriptures.

We commit ourselves to a ministry of healing Earth, with Christ and creation as our partners.”

For those of you who follow the lectionary, these resources are categorized for years A, B, and C and include lots of scriptures, liturgies, prayers, hymns, children’s message ideas, sermon ideas and even sample sermons. It is designed to add a new season to the Christian year, a Season of Creation.

## VI. WEB OF CREATION

The Web of Creation site is created and maintained by The Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. Their mission is a “dedication to providing ecological and theological resources for faith communities in our common efforts to care for creation.” This site has great liturgies, particularly a Blessing of the Animals service and a Rogation Day service. It is a bit hard to navigate so go directly to the Worship Resources page,

[www.webofcreation.org/Worship/resources.htm](http://www.webofcreation.org/Worship/resources.htm)

# DISCIPLESHIP

## BOOKS FOR STUDY (FAITH BASED)

- Super, Natural Christians. Sally McFague  
 Life Abundant. Sally McFague  
 The Body of God. Sally McFague  
 \*For the Beauty of the Earth. Steven Bouma-Prediger  
 Nature in Grace: A Study in the Theology of Nature. Claude Y. Stewart, Jr.  
 Stepping Lightly: Simplicity for People and the Planet. Mark. A. Burch  
 \*The New Creation – John Wesley’s Theology Today. Theodore Runyon  
 \*The Earth Story in Genesis. Norman Habel and Shirley Wurst  
 \*The Land is Mine. Norman Habel  
 \*God and World in the Old Testament – A Relational Theology of Creation. Terence Fretheim  
 \*Serve God, Save the Planet by Matthew Sleeth  
 \*Scripture, Culture, and Agriculture by Ellen Davis  
 Food and Faith: Justice, Joy, and Daily Bread by Wendell Berry  
 \*The Green Bible  
 Making Nature Sacred by John Gatta  
 A Greener Faith by Roger Gottlieb  
 Two Great Truths by David Griffin  
 Theology for Earth Community by Dieter Hessel  
 Cherishing the Earth by Martin Hodson and Margot Hodson  
 \*Green Revolution by Ben Lowe  
 Passion for the Earth by Sean McDonagh  
 The Book of Creation by Phillip Newell  
 One Foot in Eden by Phillip Newell  
 The Travail of Nature by Paul Santmire  
 \*The Paradise of God by Norma Wirzba  
 \*The Yahwist’s Landscape by Theodore Heibert  
 Reinventing Eden by Carolyn Merchant  
 Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor by Leonard Boff  
 \*Jesus and the Earth by James Jones  
 \*Freedom of Simplicity by Richard Foster  
 Radical Simplicity by Jim Merkel
- \*Highly recommended

# DISCIPLESHIP (cont'd)

## CURRICULUM/EDUCATION/TEACHING RESOURCES

Hope for Creation/Hope for Humanity by Matthew Sleeth <http://www.blessedearth.org/>  
 Green Church:Burst for Youth Series by Tim Gossett (Cokesbury) <http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/home.aspx>  
 Seven Simple Steps to Green Your Church by Rebekah Simon-Peter (Cokesbury)  
 Green Church: Caretakers of God Creation (6 week study for children from Cokesbury)  
 Green Church: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rejoice! by Rebekah Simon-Peter (for adults) (Cokesbury)  
 Caring for God's Earth. J. Richard Peck (Cokesbury)  
 Greening Congregations Handbook. Earth Ministry <http://earthministry.org/>  
 Caring for All Creation in the Home. Earth Ministry  
 Caring for All Creation on the Road. Earth Ministry  
 Caring for All Creation at the Table. Earth Ministry  
 God's Renewed Creation: A Call to Hope and Action <http://hopeandaction.org/main/> (United Methodist Bishops' document)  
 United Methodist Social Principles on the Natural World [http://www.umc-gbcs.org/site/c.frLJK2PKLqF/b.3712925/k.28DD/182160\\_I\\_The\\_Natural\\_World/apps/nl/newsletter.asp](http://www.umc-gbcs.org/site/c.frLJK2PKLqF/b.3712925/k.28DD/182160_I_The_Natural_World/apps/nl/newsletter.asp)

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We believe (Presbyterian) <http://www.pcusa.org/webelieve/faithquestions/creation32.htm>  
 Step Up and Go Green for Jesus (Urban Ministries Inc. ) (Cokesbury)

## BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

The Lorax. Dr. Seuss  
 Dear Children of the Earth. Schim Shimmel  
 Old Turtle. Douglas Wood  
 Old Turtle and the Broken Truth. Douglas Wood  
 The Beautiful World that God Made. Rhonda Growler-Greene and Anne Wilson

## CREATION CENTERED SPIRITUALITY

Earth's Echo. Robert Hamma  
 Earth and All the Stars. Anne Rowthorn  
 Earth Gospel by Sam Hamilton Poore  
 The Green Bible Devotional

## CLASSICS

Silent Spring. Rachel Carson  
 A Sand County Almanac. Aldo Leopold

# DISCIPLESHIP (cont'd)

## BIOLOGY/SCIENCE RELATED

Consilience: The Unity of Knowledge. Edward O. Wilson  
 Life Stories: World-renowned Scientist Reflect on their Lives and the Future of  
 Life on Earth  
 Biology and Christian Ethics. Stephen Clark  
 Earth's Insights. Baird Callicott  
 Gene's, Genesis, and God. Holmes Rolston III  
 Discordant Harmonies. Daniel Botkin  
 Ribbon of Sand: The Amazing Convergence of the Ocean and the Outer Banks. John  
 Alexander and James Lazell

## BOOKS FOR STUDY (ISSUES BASED)

The Omnivore's Dilemma by Michael Pollan  
 Our Choice by Al Gore  
 Plan B 3.0 by Lester Brown  
 The Ecology of Commerce by Paul Hawken  
 Blessed Unrest by Paul Hawken  
 Global Warming by John Houghton  
 Animal, Vegetable, Miracle by Barbara Kingsolver  
 Deep Economy by Bill McKibben  
 Last Child in the Woods by Richard Louv

## GLOBALIZATION

Globalization. Malcolm Waters  
 The Lexus and the Olive Tree. Thomas. L. Friedman  
 Globalization at What Price? Pamela K. Brubaker  
 The World is Flat by Thomas Friedman

# DISCIPLESHIP (cont'd)

## MOVIES

A Civil Action (1999) with John Travolta; water pollution  
 China Syndrome (1979) with Jane Fonda, Michael Douglas, Jack Lemmon; problems in a nuclear power plant  
 Erin Brokovich (2000) with Julia Roberts; suit against electric company for polluting  
 Fire Down Below (1997) with Steven Seagal; toxic waste dumping in Appalachia  
 Gorillas in the Mist (1988) with Sigourney Weaver; Dian Fossey & Mountain Gorillas  
 Silkwood (1983) with Cher, Meryl Streep, Kurt Russell; radiation contamination  
 Danger Zone ((1996) with Ron Silver; hazardous waste  
 Free Willy (1993) about a whale  
 Hackers (1995); plot to dump oil in oceans  
 On Deadly Ground (1994) with Steven Seagal; possible Alaska oil spills  
 The Day After Tomorrow (2004); global warming  
 \*Hoot (2006) based on the novel by Carl Hiaasen; threat to endangered owls  
 \*An Inconvenient Truth  
 \*Happy Feet  
 \*Kilowatt Ours  
 Lighten Up  
 The Great Warming  
 Home  
 \*Fresh  
 \*Food Inc.  
 Poisoned Waters (PBS)  
 \*Renewal  
 \*Sisters on the Planet (Oxfam America)  
 Planet in Peril (CNN)  
 Global Warming (PBS)  
 Keeping the Earth (Union of Concerned Scientists)

\*Highly recommended

## SPEAKERS

For possible speakers, email Pat Watkins, [CaretakersOfCreation@me.com](mailto:CaretakersOfCreation@me.com)

## FIELD TRIPS

Landfill	Factory farm
Power plant	Feedlot
Recycling facility	Mountain top removal mining site
Sewage treatment plant	Superfund site
Water works	Local body of water
Organic farm	Development projects
Hazardous waste facility	

# DISCIPLESHIP (cont'd)

## OTHER DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCES

Local county extension service (master gardener)

Local schools and universities

VA Department of Environmental Quality

VA Department of Fish and Game

Project Learning Tree

Forestry people

Utility and energy industry people

Secular environmental organizations

See websites listed under the WORSHIP section of these resources

# STEWARDSHIP

## RECYCLING/WASTE/PAPER/TRASH

Consult the Central VA Waste Management Authority <http://www.cvwma.com/> or your local municipality for good information on recycling of all kinds (including e-waste, CFL's, etc.) and waste disposal (including hazardous household waste) in your area.

Good article on Zero Waste planning <http://ezinearticles.com/?Zero-Waste-Event-Planning-Tips&id=1889515>

The VA Conference Paper Purchasing Program with sources of 100% Post Consumer Waste, Certified Processed Chlorine Free paper products <http://www.vaumc.org/Page.aspx?pid=950>

Sources of compostable plates, cups, etc.

<http://www.greenhome.com/>

<http://greenearthofficesupply.stores.yahoo.net/index.html>

or google "compostable cups"

## ENERGY

Refer to Dominion Virginia Power website (or your local utility) for energy saving tips, efficiency programs, and green power options <http://dom.com/>

For LEED information, go to U.S. Green Building Council <http://www.usgbc.org/>

EPA's Energy Star Department has a section on Energy Star for Congregations. Investigate their Portfolio Manager Program that will help you track your energy usage.

[http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=small\\_business.sb\\_congregations](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=small_business.sb_congregations)

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has lots of resources on a wide variety of topics

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/>

To measure your congregation's carbon footprint go to Cool Congregations <http://www.coolcongregations.com/>

## WATER

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation has resources available on water quality as well as how to appropriately landscape your yard to protect the Bay <http://www.cbf.org/Page.aspx?pid=923>

## FOOD

To find Community Supported Agriculture programs, Farmers' Markets, local farms, etc. go to

<http://www.localharvest.org/>

Contact your local Agricultural Extension office for information on how to create a garden on your church property and/or identify a Master Gardener in your area to help you.

# EVANGELISM

## **K-1. Give each guest at worship services, or each new member, a “green” gift (examples: CFL bulb, LED bulb, reusable shopping bag), publicizing Caretakers of God’s Creation.**

These items are often available in bulk from big-box hardware stores like Home Depot and Lowe’s. More information on energy-efficient light bulbs and other consumer lighting products is available from the EPA Energy Star Web page at [http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr\\_find\\_es\\_products](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr_find_es_products). An example of a Web site that sells reusable bags in bulk is <http://www.ecobags.com/>. Concepteco.com for tote bags made of 100% recycled plastic bottles made in USA.

## **K-2. Install rain barrels to collect and distribute rain water.**

Rain barrels (and instructions for assembling and using them) are often available from gardener’s supply stores and from local Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

## **K-3. Install waterless urinals and/or dual flush toilets.**

For an introduction to dual-flush toilets, see <http://home.howstuffworks.com/dual-flush-toilet.htm>.

## **K-4. Plant a vegetable garden on church property which can attract the attention of travelers on roads or streets around your church.**

Local Master Gardeners programs, located through your local Extension Office, can be good sources of information on siting and planting a vegetable garden.

## **K-5. Install solar panels or a wind turbine which provide alternative power to your church and which are clearly visible from nearby highways.**

## **K-6. Host and publicize a weekly farmer’s market in your church parking lot.**

The U. S. Department of Agriculture promotes farmer’s markets; see their Web site at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/FarmersMarkets>.

## **K-7. Invite secular environmental community groups to meet in your church.**

## **K-8. Offer classes and other study opportunities which provide people in your community an opportunity to connect their faith with the environment.**

## **K-9. Become a recycling drop-off point for e-waste (techno trash).**

For an example of a company which processes techno trash (GreenDisk), and for a description of what items qualify as techno trash, see <http://www.greendisk.com/>. The EPA has information about recycling e-waste at <http://www.epa.gov/osw/conserva/materials/ecycling/pubs.htm>. An example of a regional waste management authority’s e-waste services is at [http://www.cvwma.com/recycling\\_programs/electronics.wbp](http://www.cvwma.com/recycling_programs/electronics.wbp).

## **K-10. Invite a secular environmental expert to do a presentation at your church to which your community is invited.**

## EVANGELISM (cont'd)

**K-11. Document that at least one family or individual has joined your church because you have demonstrated a concern for God's creation.**

**K-12. Publicize your efforts to care for God's creation on Facebook or other social networking Web site, your church's Web site, the Virginia United Methodist Conference or other denominational Web site, your local newspaper, or other media.**

**K-13. Qualify to become a Certified Wildlife Habitat through the National Wildlife Federation, and conduct tours of your facility for members of your community.**

The process of developing and certifying a Certified Wildlife Habitat is described at <http://www.nwf.org/Get-Outside/Outdoor-Activities/Garden-for-Wildlife/Create-a-Habitat.aspx?CFID=25429582&CFTOKEN=eea96f2dd6611abd-C2FA45F4-5056-A868-A0FF0436EAF6E3F6>.

**K-14. Commit your church to become a drop-off site for a local community-supported agriculture (CSA) cooperative, and publicize its availability in the community.**

The U. S. Department of Agriculture promotes CSA; see its Web site at <http://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/pubs/csa/csa.shtml>.

# MISSION

## **L-1. Give energy-saving devices to the poor (insulation, programmable thermostats, CFL's, etc.), and install them.**

Partner with local agencies that give grants to families who qualify for weatherization dollars. Already identified families would be a good place to start.

The U.S. Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program website will link you to local agencies. <http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/weatherization/>

Contact other local agencies and charities that are in contact with persons needing energy-saving devices. Does your church have a list of persons with limited incomes?

## **L-2. Plant a church garden, with the produce going to a local food bank or those in need.**

Contact your local University Extension Service for information on vegetable gardening in your area. Classes and assistance from Master Gardeners may be available for a your church garden. Your local Extension Office can be located through the USDA website listed here. <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/Extension/>

It's important to know and understand the soils of your location. Tests for ph as well as complete nutrient analysis is available at the Extension Service as well as some garden centers.

Visit community gardens to see how they are managed.

## **L-3. Organize a local Community Supported Agriculture program to provide good, local, organic food for those in need.**

Community Supported Agriculture programs are available in many areas. Interested persons subscribe to the farm and pay a fee. In return they receive a share of produce as it become available. To find out more about CSA's go to: <http://www.localharvest.org/csa/>

Set up your church as a pick-up point for your CSA members.

Buy shares in a local CSA and make food available to families in need.

Support an organization such as Appalachian Sustainable Development which asks churches to donate so that food can be purchased from local farmers and given to food banks for distribution to persons in need. The program supports families as well as local farmers. <http://www.asdevelop.org/Healthyfamilies.html>

## MISSION (cont'd)

### **L-4. If your church houses a free medical clinic or facilities for the homeless, give away local or organic food to patients/guests, along with education about healthy food choices.**

Contact local growers and explain what you are doing. Ask them for donations of extra produce which you will pick up following a phone call from them and give out at your clinic.

If your church participates in a Hospitality Program that gives shelter to homeless women and children, serve healthy organic food for meals. If volunteers prepare the meals, training might be provided on the importance of healthy food and the value of buying locally.

Evening entertainment could include videos such as Veggie Tales which emphasizes the value of eating healthy vegetables.

Nutrition information including games and coloring sheets are available through your local Extension 4-H Office. A staff person may be available to give regular classes to your guests through the Expanded Nutrition Education Program also sponsored by the Extension Office.

<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/food/efnep/efnep.html>

Good resources for teaching nutrition to children can be found from the USDA Food and Nutrition Service.

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns/nutrition.htm>

### **L-5. Calculate the carbon footprint of your Volunteer in Mission trips for the year and offset them.**

Information on what makes a good calculator can be found at:

<http://www.tufts.edu/tie/carbonoffsets/aircalculator.htm>

A simple straightforward calculator for air travel can be found at:

<http://bie.berkeley.edu/aircalculator>

Tricorona Green has a calculator which gives the amounts in Euros

[http://www.tricoronagreen.com/app/individuals\\_airtravel.php](http://www.tricoronagreen.com/app/individuals_airtravel.php)

### **L-6. Train your mission volunteers on environmental issues specific to the places to which they will be going.**

Environmental Concerns for Hunger Organization (ECHO) works to provide missionaries with information about systems and food crops suitable for developing countries. <http://www.echonet.org/> ECHO is a non-profit organization whose vision is "to bring glory to God and a blessing to humankind by using science and technology to help the poor."

## MISSION (cont'd)

### **L-7. Provide at least two direct service opportunities per year for your congregation to be in service to God's creation.**

Direct service opportunities are all around us. To see what other congregations are doing in service to God's creation the following websites might be helpful:

<http://www.greenfaith.org> GreenFaith lists projects of their member churches.

National Council of Churches, Map link to local area where you can find initiatives of churches near you.

<http://ncecojustice.org/stories/EarthDayEvents.php>

Catholic Climate Covenant, Real Stories <http://ncecojustice.org/stories/EarthDayEvents.php>

### **L-8. Advocate in the VA General Assembly and in the U. S. Congress policy shifts that will reflect better care for the planet.**

Does your denomination have a public policy agenda? Check to see what environmental initiatives are included, find out more about them, and advocated by writing and visiting your representatives.

United Methodist General Board of Church and Society

<http://www.umc->

[gbcs.org/site/c.frLJK2PKLqF/b.2794211/k.C908/Welcome\\_to\\_The\\_General\\_Board\\_of\\_Church\\_and\\_Society.htm](http://www.umc-gbcs.org/site/c.frLJK2PKLqF/b.2794211/k.C908/Welcome_to_The_General_Board_of_Church_and_Society.htm)

Virginia Interfaith Power and Light advocates for environmental justice issues.

<http://www.vipl.org/PublicPolicy/OurWork/tabid/889/Default.aspx>

Keep track of how your elected officials vote on issues affecting God's creation. The Virginia League of Conservation Voters (<http://www.valcv.org>) keeps records for Virginia. Then take part in legislative and administrative processes involving natural resource agencies, such as The Department of Environmental Quality (<http://www.deq.state.va.us>), The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (<http://www.dgif.Virginia.gov>), The Department of Conservation and Recreation (<http://www.state.va.us/dcr>), The Department of Historical Resources ([www.dhr.Virginia.gov](http://www.dhr.Virginia.gov)), and The Marine Resources Commission (<http://www.mrc.va.us>). Inform yourself about current and pending legislation. Speak out on behalf of God's creation because it cannot speak for itself. It depends on you.

## MISSION (cont'd)

**L-9. Use fair-traded and shade-grown, organic coffee, tea.**

**L-10. Sell fair-traded coffee, chocolate, cocoa, tea, etc.**

Visit a local 10,000 Villages Store

Sources of fair-traded items to sell or purchase:

UMCOR United Methodist Committee on Relief <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/work/hunger/fair-trade/> works in conjunction with Equal Exchange for Fair Trade products <http://interfaith.equalexchange.com/>

Global Exchange, <http://www.globalexchangestore.org/>  
<http://twohandsworldshop.com/>  
<http://www.greenamericatoday.org/proGrams/fairtrade/products/index.cfm>  
<http://www.transfairusa.org/>  
<http://www.equalexchange.coop/>

**L-11. Encourage United Methodist Women to study “Sisters on the Planet,” with its associated Biblical study guide. This study makes the connection between our lifestyles and the hardships faced by many women in third world nations trying to provide food for their children.**

The Women’s Division developed “Sisters on the Planet” with Oxfam America. Visit <http://www.oxfamamerica.org/campaigns/climate-change/sisters-on-the-planet/?searchterm=sisters%20on%20the%20planet> for more information.

**L-12. Financially support Caretakers of God’s Creation on an annual basis.**

Visit the following site to find out how you can financially support Caretakers:  
<http://www.vaumc.org/Page.aspx?pid=951>

**L-13. Enter into a covenant relationship with a United Methodist missionary assigned to your area.**

Visit the following to find out how you can enter into a covenant relationship with a United Methodist missionary assigned to your area.  
<http://www.vaumc.org/Page.aspx?pid=418>

**L-14. Partner with other area organizations to work together to care for creation.**

Check local events in your newspaper to find what other groups are in existence that may be working on events that you have and interest in. Contact information should be available for each group. Local networks are broad and attending a “green event” or program will connect you to many other organizations with which you may want to partner.

## MISSION (cont'd)

### **L-15. Participate with the Society of St. Andrew in a gleaning project.**

The Society of St. Andrew is a grassroots, faith-based, hunger relief nonprofit working with all denominations to bridge the hunger gap between 96 billion pounds of food wasted every year in this country and the nearly 40 million Americans who live in poverty. To find out more about the Society visit: <http://www.endhunger.org/>

### **L-16. Participate in an international GBGM mission project that includes caring for God's creation.**

“Being faithful, according to the Bible, requires just and right relationships with God, other human beings and with the rest of creation. Likewise, The United Methodist Church's Social Principles calls for sound stewardship of the earth and environmentally friendly lifestyles that preserve creation for the benefit of present and future generations.” To find out more about the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries projects visit:

<http://new.gb-gm-umc.org/work/environment/?search=environment>

### **L-17. Provide scholarships for elementary age children to attend a summer camp. Encourage local congregation to send kids to summer camp.**

Children today spend much of their time indoors and do not develop an appreciation or an experience of the natural environment. Offering scholarships for children to attend summer camp is one way to give them that opportunity. <http://www.childrenandnature.org/>

### **L-18. Partner with a local Native American tribe to do a project that benefits God's creation.**

U.S. Department of Energy Tribal Programs <http://www.em.doe.gov/tribalpages/initiatives.aspx>

American Indian Tribal Portal <http://www.epa.gov/tribal/relatedlinks.htm>

### **L-19. Volunteer a group in your church to monitor a local stream.**

To find out more about how to monitor a local stream and view a list of groups in your area visit: <http://www.epa.gov/volunteer/>