

What is our Vision and Mission for Creation Care?

*Rev. Laura Kigweba James,
Director of Organizing*



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living **FAITH** Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**

Overview

- Better understanding of the role that vision and mission play in our commitment for creation justice
- Questions to help you discern what God's vision and mission for creation justice looks like in your annual conference
- Tools to share your vision and mission.

INDIGENOUS LAND AND TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS FOR CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

I am located on the unceded land of the Nacotchtank Anacostan and Piscataway peoples. I ask you to join me in acknowledging the Nacotchtank Anacostan and Piscataway communities, their elders both past and present, as well as future generations. I also acknowledge that the space myself/ and my institution occupies was founded upon exclusions and erasures of many Indigenous and -enslaved peoples including those on whose land that I am located on. This acknowledgement demonstrates a commitment to beginning the process of working to dismantle the ongoing legacies of settler colonialism.

-Felicia Garcia (Chumash)

Define:

Vision: Where are we going?

Mission: How are we going to get there

As people of faith, we- “are not completely free to determine our own values, boundaries and identity. Faith traditions and communities must continually examine our natural values in light of the ideals of scripture.”

- co- author Rev. Alexia Salvatierra, *Faith Rooted Organizing: Mobilizing the Church in Service to the World***

Habakkuk 2:1-5

Common English Bible

1 I will take my post; I will position myself on the fortress. I will keep watch to see what the Lord says to me and how he will respond to my complaint. The Lord responds 2 Then the Lord answered me and said, ***“Write a vision, and make it plain upon a tablet so that a runner can read it. There is still a vision for the appointed time; it testifies to the end; it does not deceive. If it delays, wait for it; for it is surely coming; it will not be late. Some people’s desires are truly audacious; they don’t do the right thing. But the righteous person will live honestly. 5 Moreover, wine betrays an arrogant man. He doesn’t rest. He opens his jaws like the grave; like death, he is never satisfied. He gathers all nations to himself and collects all peoples for himself.”***

Habakkuk 2:1-5

1. Clarity of Vision
2. Holders of the Vision
3. God's Vision is our Collective Vision
4. Engaging God's Vision through Mission

Clarity of Vision

“Write a vision, and make it plain upon a tablet”

1. **“IMAGINATION COMES BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION.” - Theologian Walter Brueggemann, Prophetic Imagination**
2. **Visualization activity-** is a mindfulness practice that helps folks discern where they want to go. The key to these activities is that there is a timeframe, specific context and focuses on the solution over the problem
 - a. Two years from now, how do you see your annual conference engaged in a thriving ministry for creation care?
 - b. Is every community in my annual conference included in this vision? Who is missing?

Holders of the Vision

“...so that a runner can read it.”

1. Who are the runners in your context?
2. Who else can hold this vision with us or inform the vision so that it is reflective of the whole community?

Ex. Local Church Members, Annual Conference Leadership, Community partners

Name in the chat one or two runners that you are connected to?

God's vision is our collective vision

“There is still a vision for the appointed time”

1. God's vision of justice includes the whole community, our visions must do the same. How does our vision of creating justice speak to reality, of poverty and injustice in our communities?
2. “When we are tempted to make decisions on the basis of narrow self-interest. the Scriptures call us to a collective worldview rooted in the love of neighbor and a flame with passion to build a beloved community.”-Rev. Alexia Salvatierra, *Faith Rooted Organizing: Mobilizing the Church in Service to the World*

Engaging God's vision through mission

“...the righteous person will live honestly”

1. **The Hebrew word for righteous is *Sadiqah*, to do what is right or putting our vision of justice into practice.**
 - a. “Sadiqah intentionally works for the establishment of right relations within the community.” - Rev. Alexia Salvatierra
2. **How will you tangibly put that into practice?**
3. **Will you advocate for specific policies, raise awareness?**
4. **What is the one specific thing that you and your team have the resources and capacity to engage to make your vision come alive?**

United Methodist Creation Justice Movement

Vision: We seek first God's new creation of the world in which all creatures, places, and earth systems are fully alive through loving, sustaining, and just relationships.

Mission: The mission of the UMC Creation Justice Movement is to participate with the Spirit of God in connecting and supporting groups within the United Methodist Church and beyond for the work of creation care, justice, and regeneration.

Claiming our Story



Claiming our Story

Public Story

Self: Why are you called to engage in the ministry of Creation Justice?

Us: Who is engaging in this ministry with you? What are your shared values?

Now: What specific action are you taking to addressing Creation Justice in your context right now?

Resources

Land Acknowledgement

<https://native-land.ca/>

Books

Emergent Strategy Adrienne Marie Brown

Faith Rooted Organizing: Mobilizing the Church in Service to the World

GBCS

Civic Engagement Toolkit

Stay Connected

Email: lkjames@umcjustice.org