

Creation Care Social Action Team

Why (Mission):

The Creation Care Social Action Team of the Baltimore-Washington Conference advocates for the care of the earth. We were formed from the earth and created for relationship with God and all God's creation. If we do not change our ways, creation is in jeopardy and our brothers and sisters around the world who are most vulnerable will be the first to suffer. Paragraph 254 in the Discipline lists "Earth Advocacy" (among other roles) as a named ministry to "fulfill the mission of the local church." There is a whole section in the Social Principles on *The Natural World* (2016) and *The Community of All Creation* (2024 proposed) that guides and informs our work.

What:

This team is responsible for

- Meeting regularly, monthly but at least four times a year.
- Using the BWCUMC Creation Care Facebook page and Basecamp to communicate.
- Submitting regularly to the e-connection.
- Advocating for legislative solutions in Maryland, DC, WV, and at the Federal Level.
- Staying in relationship with the National UM Creation Justice Movement.
- Collaborating with the United Women in Faith (formerly UMW) who have a Climate Justice mission emphasis.
- Collaborating with Camping and Retreat Ministries.
- Collaborating with conference and local church trustees to achieve net-zero climate goals.

How:

Churches within the Baltimore/Washington Conference will address creation care through one or more of the suggested actions or others of their choosing:

- Do a study of creation care, using *Climate Justice: A Call to Hope and Action*, edited by Pat Watkins, or other Climate/Environmental Book with consultation with and input from the BWC Creation Care Action & Advocacy Team.
- Support and encourage one or more members to do the Earthkeeper online training (<https://umcmmission.org/EarthKeepers>).
- Create a Green Team that will organize to educate and activate their church in creation care. These teams are encouraged to create relationships with Interfaith Power & Light (ipldmv.org) and Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake (interfaithchesapeake.org), both of which are important regional partners in creation care.

When:

The Creation Care_board meets **on the third Friday of the Month at 12:30 via Zoom** . Dates are subject to change.

Team Chairperson:

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