

A SAMPLE BLUEPRINT to a CREATION JUSTICE TASK FORCE

Our UMC conferences are diverse. Each is unique in population, geography and demographics. The Mountain Sky Creation Justice Task force was created from a conference that is wide and varied within itself. Here is an outline of our genesis.

Based on the advice from the UMC Movement documents

BluePrint to form an Annual Conference Creation Justice Task Force.

- 1.) Find allies. All you need are a few churches with known green teams .
- 2.) Meet together and draft a letter as a basis for meeting with your Bishop.
- 3.) Meet with other conferences who have Creation Justice Task Forces and learn their process and ask for permission to copy their documents. Great source is creationjustice@umc.org Knowing that we didn't need to recreate the wheel was a huge help.
- 4.) Gather momentum by asking people to sign on to the Bishop's letter in support before the meeting with the Bishop. Gather clergy and laity supporters. Get their email addresses.
- 5.) Meet with the Bishop. Listen to the Bishop and their perspective on the conference. Ask for staff support and a small budget. Ask for a presence on the website and in newsletters.
- 6.) Call a meeting of people who supported the creation of the Task Force. Hope for 40 people to RSVP, 25 will show up.
- 7.) Gather on Zoom and meet each other. Share who we are and why we are pulled to this work. Propose six working groups within the task force as a way to organize efforts and different interests. Our six working groups included: Local Church Engagement, Annual Conference, Communications, Legislative advocacy, UMW/UWF Collaboration (We called ours Just energy), and a UMC Movement group to network with the larger denominational efforts.
- 8.) Hope for four or five people in each group and recruit a willing leader. Two or three people can get the work done if they are committed. Ask them to meet and write a mission statement so they can articulate their own goals and energy focus. Ask that the working group create a webpage that expresses their mission .
- 9.) Have the larger group meet regularly , initially once a month but later every other month . Focus is on working groups with the larger group meeting (open to all but with working group reports from leadership). Each group needs to know the work of the other groups. Take time to listen to the challenges each group faces. Build capacity by supporting the work as it builds the infrastructure of larger work.

Our biggest challenge? Getting the word out that we exist and want to support climate/creation work. Mountain Sky Conference covers Wyoming, Utah, Montana and Colorado. We know that in every church there is someone who believes that creation/climate action is imperative. The challenge is to find and connect with them so we can build the local church and individual Methodist's voices .