

Restoring Creation for Communities Today and Tomorrow



BY CAROLYNN RACE

What better way to build community than to work to restore God's creation for one another and for future generations? The air we breathe, the water we drink, the earth from which food is reaped—all are integral to individual and societal survival.

General Assemblies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) have called for environmental justice. The 202nd General Assembly (1990) approved Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice and asserted, "Earth-keeping today means insisting on sustainability—the ongoing capacity of natural and social systems to thrive together—which requires human beings to practice wise, humble, responsible stewardship." What can Presbyterians do to ensure that God's creation is safe and healthy for our communities and for our future?

Advocating for justice is an essential element in working to restore creation, but advocacy must be partnered with other actions—lifestyle integrity, study and community participation. At the right you'll find several suggestions of ways you and your congregation can restore God's creation for today and for future generations.

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What You Can Do

- Learn more about how federal laws can be strengthened to ensure that our environment is protected. Visit www.pcusa.org/washington/issuenet/enviro.htm.
- Join the Presby Legislative Action Center at <http://capwiz.com/pcusa/mlm/> and become an environmental justice advocate.
- Join Presbyterians for Restoring Creation, a network of Presbyterians concerned about the environment. Learn more at www.prcweb.org.

What Your Congregation Can Do

- Learn more about electric stewardship and become an Electric Stewardship Congregation at www.pcusa.org/energy.
- Share your concerns about God's creation with members of Congress. Form a church group to go to the Presbyterian Washington Office. On the second Tuesday of each month that Congress is in session, Washington Office staff brief Presbyterians about issues facing Presbyterians and Congress, including environmental issues. After the briefing, Presbyterians are encouraged to have meetings with their Senators and Representatives. Call the Presbyterian Washington Office 202/543-1126 for more information.
- Celebrate Earth Day Sunday on April 25, 2004. For resources, visit the PC(USA) Environmental Justice Web site, www.pcusa.org/environment.

For more information, contact the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Washington Office, 110 Maryland Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20002; 202/543-1126; FAX 202/543-7755; www.pcusa.org.