



EARTH CARE NETWORK

This is a network of members of churches of Blackhawk Presbytery who have a passion for celebrating God's grace and glory in creation and recognize God's call to cherish, protect and restore this earth.

How does this network address the vision and values of Blackhawk Presbytery?

The values of Blackhawk Presbytery are intrinsic to the earth care endeavors of this network. While we act in accordance with the principles established in the vision of the Presbytery--trust, open communication, and genuine relationships, we seek to fulfill the values.

We have answered the PC(USA) "Call to Restore the Creation".

We strive to "till and keep" the garden in Genesis 2:15. We focus on this mission and attempt to be faithful stewards. We recognize that "the least of these" in God's creation often are affected soonest and most seriously when the environment is degraded. We are accountable in the sense of bearing responsibility for our impact on the Earth.

How is this network organized?

The network currently has members from four Blackhawk churches:

- Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church (RCLPC)
- Oswego Presbyterian Church
- SecondFirst Church of Rockford
- Woodstock First Presbyterian Church

We are eager to have other churches join us in this "caring for God's good earth" ministry.

We do not have a regular meeting schedule. We communicate by email and occasionally meet in person.

Ken Mozingo is the current network convener and primary contact. He can be reached by email at mozingoken@gmail.com and by phone at 630-518-1136.

Current projects/activities

Confronting Climate Change

Most of our networking activities have been in confronting climate change. We jointly believe that:

- climate change is real and is mostly caused by humans' burning of fossil fuels
- climate change is a very serious moral issue as it portends great human suffering with the poor and future generations being most vulnerable

- as Christians, we are called to stop the denying and delaying, stop profiting from fossil fuels, stop causing the suffering and be advocates for rapid transition to renewable energy.

Several members have also been very active in Citizens' Climate Lobby, an international non-profit organization whose sole focus is advocating for federal carbon fee and dividend legislation. We were very pleased to see in late 2018 two important statements from PC(USA). In October 2018, Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, stated clerk of PC(USA) released his "[Statement on Climate Change](#)". In December 2018, PC(USA) Presbyterian Missions released a statement "[In Support of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2018](#)". These are a call for urgent action to confront climate change by supporting the [Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend bill](#).

We as members of the Earth Care Network are working to educate our congregations on climate change and for taking action to get this bipartisan bill passed. It calls for annually increasing fees on fossil fuels to strongly motivate free-market choices necessary to transition to renewable energy. The fees will be returned to all Americans as monthly dividends to spend as they choose. We are urging everyone to write or call their representatives in Congress to ask for support of this bill. An easy way to do this by going to go to citizensclimatelobby.org, click "Take Action" and then "Write Congress".

Other projects/activities

Other projects at Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian have included an annual Green Living Fair where congregation members host exhibits, establishing a Monarch garden, becoming a member of Illinois-based Faith in Place, replacing a water fountain with an energy-efficient bottle-filling station, recycling household batteries, and informing the congregation of community events and green living tips on the church website.

Other projects at Oswego Presbyterian have included Styrofoam® recycling, Christmas lights recycling, establishing a Monarch garden, updating church lighting to save energy and including earth care items in worship services.

Other projects at SecondFirst Church (in addition to climate change education) are updating church facilities for energy savings and hosting an Environmental Fair.

Presbyterians For Earth Care

Presbyterians For Earth Care (PEC) is a national eco-justice network that cares for God's creation by connecting, equipping, and inspiring Presbyterians to make creation care a central concern of the church. To sign up for their e-newsletter as well as Advent and Lenten devotions, visit presbyearthcare.org and click on Sign-up at the bottom of the page.