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Cal-Nev Climate Justice Ministries May 2025 Newsletter

"Climate justice through faith-inspired connection, education, advocacy, and action"



Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

It was with sadness that I learned of the death of Pope Francis on Easter Monday. As the [Vatican News said on the day of his death](#), *"Of the many encyclicals, Apostolic Exhortations, and open letters that Pope Francis produced during his twelve-year pontificate, it's probably fair to say that none made as much of an impact as [Laudato si'](#). Published in 2015, this encyclical letter was the first ever written by a Pope on the subject of the environment—and it went on to make waves both inside and outside the Church. ... Laudato si' also had an impact on policy. ... What we need, he says, is "a new way of thinking about human beings, life, society and our relationship with nature".*

At the conclusion of his letter, Pope Francis shared two prayers. Below is one of them: **A Prayer for our Earth.**

*All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.*

*You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace.*

Let us join with God in the holy work of loving, protecting, healing, restoring, and renewing all things.

You can also read a longer tribute to Pope Francis written by Rev. Judith Stone, a member of our task force.

Pope Francis Tribute - A Wesleyan Pope?

In this issue we share some examples of how to connect with God, creation, and others, and how to educate ourselves, take action, and advocate for change.

[Connection](#)

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- Sacred Ground Endorsement

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- Resilience Café recording
- An Electrifying Event

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- Annual Advocacy Day
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Wishing you all a blessed Easter season,

Rev. Joan Pell

Chair, California-Nevada Climate Justice Ministries Task Force

Conference Caretakers of God's Creation Coordinator

Connection



We have a new website!



Check out new website and bookmark it in your favorite browser

climate-cnumc.org

Discover more about our work and find lots of resources for connection, education, advocacy and action. Read the “Start Here” page first and then explore the whole website.

climate-cnumc.org

Brian McLaren endorses Sacred Ground



Global Ministries Earthkeeper and task force member Rev. Laurie Bayen is pleased to announce that her Sacred Ground project has received an enthusiastic endorsement from author/speaker/activist Brian McLaren:

Human beings have been relentlessly turning the Earth's God-given beauty into filth, Pope Francis said in Laudato Si in 2015. I am so grateful for creative projects like Sacred Ground that are working to turn people's hearts toward loving and honoring creation, not exploiting it. Sacred Ground connects those who love the outdoors with the Creator -- and with the calling to care for that creation. It provides a meaningful centering moment which can deepen the experience of renewal most of us feel when in the presence of nature's beauty. But Sacred Ground doesn't stop there. It inspires visitors to return to human civilization to engage in concrete acts of care, compassion and solidarity -- for our imperiled planet, and for those most impacted by the harms wrought by resource extraction and climate change. Keep up the good work, Sacred Ground!

More about Sacred Ground

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Education



California-Nevada Climate Justice Ministries Task Force

**Climate Justice
through faith-inspired
education**



Education through books, websites, podcasts,
webinars, conferences, retreats, speakers

Divestment Summit Recording



On March 25 and 26th, 2025, the California-Nevada Conference of the United Methodist Church held a Fossil Fuel Divestment Summit, geared specifically toward Conference financial officials and agencies.

The recording of the two day summit is now available on the conference YouTube channel.

This Summit was the outcome of a Recommendation on fossil fuel divestment as a response to climate change that was passed in June 2024, at the California-Nevada Annual Conference Session. The purpose of the Summit was to: 1) to “uphold best practices for investment management,” 2) to “identify sound financial strategies to screen out fossil fuels from our conference investment portfolios,” and 3) to “make a report, including recommendations, to the 2025 Annual Conference.”

Topics covered included fossil fuel divestment as a moral and spiritual challenge, how other churches and annual conferences have divested from fossil fuels, how divestment from fossil fuels contributes to climate justice, comparative risks and returns of low carbon funds vs. investments in fossil fuel corporations, financial reasons to divest from fossil fuels, and how to divest from fossil fuels and reinvest in a fiscally and socially responsible way.

[Watch the Video](#)

[More information about the summit & presenters](#)

Climate Ambassadors



The United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society partners with *Blessed Tomorrow*. They are offering a free, self-paced, online Climate Ambassadors training course to empower and equip you to inspire your community, colleagues, the public, and policymakers to take action on climate change that makes a difference. Make sure you select the UM training. This course includes 5 engaging video chapters, approximately 2 hours of content, 3 short quizzes, and 1 writing exercise.

This course is provided in partnership by The United Methodist Church, United Women in Faith, United Method Creation Justice Movement, and Blessed Tomorrow.

Ambassador Training info

UM Ambassador Training enrolment

Global Ministries Earthkeepers



Global Ministries EarthKeepers is a training and incubator program that provides a collaborative space for United Methodists to develop and grow environmental projects in their communities. Topics include eco-theology, antiracism, community organizing and project planning. All participants plan a project during the training.

Training is usually offered twice each year, once online and once in-person. The next training is an in-person training:

Fall In-Person Training October 2-5, 2025 in the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area.

Action



California-Nevada Climate Justice Ministries Task Force

Climate Justice
through faith-inspired
action



Action to care for the earth through changed
individual habits and church green teams

Resilience Hubs



Resilience to climate change means preparing for the impacts of climate change and building capacity to bounce back from those impacts. Some conferences and churches are building Resilience Hubs. Some call them Community Lighthouses.

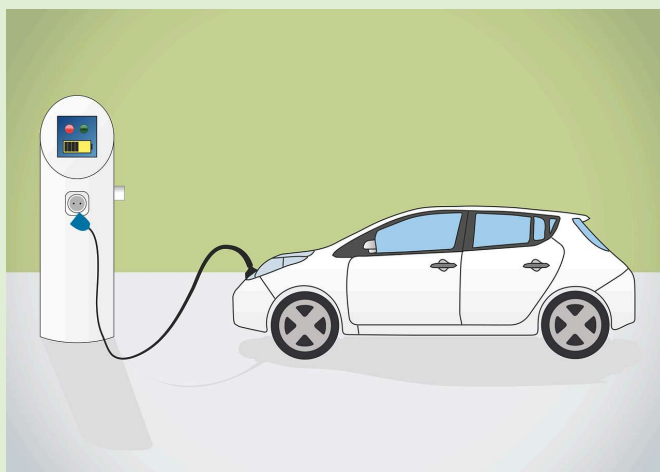
What is a Resilience Hub? United Methodist Creation Justice Movement describes an emerging vision of a network of churches serving as hubs of resilience and refuge, based on “refugia” which is a biological concept describing places in nature that survive and even thrive amid severe disturbance. Resilience Hubs are *“energy efficient, community-serving places that have the resources and connections needed to support community members both in moments of crisis and in the everyday.”* These hubs can make us more resilient and responsive in times of disruption, while also offering connection, belonging, support, and love to our neighbors at all times.

The [April 2025 Café](#) was on the topic of resilience hubs. It featured stories of congregations and Annual Conferences working to build Resilience Hubs for their communities. The speakers were Scott Parrish, North Georgia Conference Disaster Response Coordinator, Shawn Anglim, FirstGrace UMC New Orleans, [Community Lighthouse initiative](#) and Cara Fleischer, Florida Annual Conference Creation Care Task Team.

Watch the Video

Learn more about Resilience Hubs

Electrifying Event



Saturday May 3

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Walnut Creek UMC

Interested in EVs or hybrids? Wondering how you can move from gas to electric in your home? If you would like information with no sales pitch, this is the place to come. A number of EV and hybrid owners will be at Walnut Creek UMC on Saturday May 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with their vehicle to talk about their experiences. There will also be folks who have electrified various elements of their home – from small to large – to share what they know. There will also be print information and videos. Please drop by to learn how to lessen your reliance on fossil fuels.

Sponsored by the Climate Justice Team of Walnut Creek UMC.

[More Info](#)

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Advocacy



California-Nevada **Climate Justice Ministries Task Force**

Climate Justice
through faith-inspired
advocacy



**Advocacy through petitions, phone calls,
letters, visits, boycotts, marches, protests**

California IPL's Annual Advocacy Day



California Interfaith Power & Light's (CIPL) Annual Advocacy Day is June 11 at the California State Capitol in Sacramento. At this in-person lobby day with California state legislators, CIPL is calling on lawmakers to pass bold, justice-centered climate legislation and speed up the shift to clean, renewable energy. All voices are needed and no experience is necessary. There are important bills pending before the legislature on rooftop solar, EV battery recycling, creating a climate superfund for disasters, and more. Your support could help push these bills across the finish line!

[Sign up](#)

Cap and Trade



A situation to keep watching:

The White House said in an executive order on April 8th that it would target state environmental regulations for “threatening national security.” Gov. Gavin Newsom and legislative leaders said on April 15th that they will try to extend cap-and-trade, California’s flagship environmental regulation program.

The Cap-and-Trade Regulation establishes a declining limit on major sources of green house gas emissions throughout California, and it creates a powerful economic incentive for significant investment in cleaner, more efficient technologies. The Program applies to emissions that cover approximately 80 percent of the State's green house gas emissions.

[Sacramento Bee Article](#)

[Cap & Trade Program](#)

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