

# Peace Lutheran Church 2023 Creation Care Action Plan

## *Sixth Arena of Ministry: Caring For Creation*<sup>1</sup>

From the beginning God has entrusted the human community with tending and caring for Earth—our common home. In this time of unprecedented threats to the planetary systems that sustain life, we commit ourselves to the vocation of creation care once more. We recognize the interconnectivity and worth of all of God’s glorious creation and commit ourselves to care for the land, the air, the water, and the fellow creatures with whom we share this home. In and through our worship life, policy decisions, education offerings, actions, and ecumenical relationships (Earth Ministry) we commit ourselves to sustaining Earth and seeking justice and compassion for all that God has made.



## Worship

- Celebrate Creation *in all seasons* – propose to the Worship Committee an Earth-tending emphasis during the Baptism of Christ Sunday in January and in October on St. Francis of Assisi Day (Jan.)
- The Seasons of Creation Tree – using a durable wall decal or mural, add a Tree to the narthex as an old-fashioned interactive bulletin board, changing leaves according to seasons and Creation Care initiatives at Peace (June)
- Supply *All Creation Waits* by Gayle Boss as our Advent devotional text (Dec.)

## Education

- Add and maintain a Creation Care page to our PLC website to share information, progress reports and volunteer and engagement opportunities (launch by Earth Day)
- Help plan Earth-centered youth and adult education activities during Earth Month (April) such as screening Paul Hawken’s *Regeneration: Ending the Climate Crisis in one generation* YouTube film for discussion
- Support planning and development for Sunday School, Youth activities and Adult Education 2023-2024 programs to encourage creation-centered curricula additions (summer)

---

<sup>1</sup> Caring for Creation became one of PLC’s core arenas for ministry in 2020. This description of our commitments was approved by the congregation in January that year.

- Share the stories of Peace’s Creation Care projects with our congregation and community widely through our website, Peace Notes, social media and our narthex “tree” (ongoing)
- Continue weekly Acts for Creation and Prayers for Creation in Sunday bulletins (ongoing)

## Buildings and Grounds

- Create Earth-friendly purchasing guidelines to contribute to a Council-driven set of purchasing guidelines for Peace (deliver to Council in March)
- Offer recommendations on how to determine if gatherings need to be in person or could be virtual, thus reducing transportation, building heating and lighting emissions (Feb.)
- Support Community Engagement’s *Peace Pollinators Program* by helping organize grounds care volunteers (Jan./Feb.)
- Continue to improve our waste management at Peace by
  - Tracking all the single-use plastics used at Peace through 2023 as foundation for full 2024 *Replacing Plastics* campaign (Feb.-Dec.)
  - Creating fun “Where does it go?” events for adults and children to help us all properly sort what we throw out (Schedule events for May)
  - Stenciling the City of Seattle’s “No Dumping” notice by all 3 storm drains adjacent to our property (requires applying to City program) (July)
  - Buying and installing occupancy sensors for restrooms’ and storage areas’ lights (Aug.)

## Community Engagement

- Launch the *Peace Pollinators Program* – intended to build toward rallying community support for a pollinator pathway including PLC; we’d launch this multi-year program in 2023 with an early spring Native Pollinator Plants seminar at Peace (March) followed by select native plantings on Peace grounds and a follow-up event in the fall (Sept./Oct.)
- Highlight *Earth-friendly Eating* with a series of events:
  - Volunteer demonstrations as part of Earth Month program (April)
  - Eco-friendly potluck (May)
  - Eco-friendly eating Thanksgiving recipe swap event among members and friends (Nov.)
- Continue supporting the Duwamish River Community Coalition (DRCC) and Delridge Neighborhood Development Association (DNDA) with Pass The Hat offerings and God’s Work, Our Hands work days (Sept.)
- Encourage participation in UCC Fauntleroy’s Recycle Roundup event (Sept.)

## Faithful Advocacy

- Invite Earth Ministry to teach a Faithful Advocacy workshop at Peace (TBD pending Earth Ministry availability)
- Organize volunteers for Faith Action Network’s Interfaith Lobby Day in Olympia (Feb. 9th)
- Kick off quarterly “Inform & Invite” postings in *Peace Notes*, social media and the Peace website on policy, political and corporate issues (Jan.)
- Hold our first annual *eARTH Advocacy Day* featuring advocacy letter writing, art projects and other creative activities for adults, youth and children (June)

## 2023 Budget Request

Line items:	Cost Estimates:
PLC Event Speaker Fund	\$500
2022 Carbon Offset Investment Fund	\$300
EnviroStar improvement investments (e.g. signage & equipment to support waste reduction & recycling; 8 motion sensors for offices, classrooms, nursery, restrooms and storage area lights)	\$300
Multi-purpose narthex tree graphic + materials	\$100
All Creation Waits Advent devotional	\$500
<b>2023 CCT Budget Request:</b>	<b>\$1,700</b>

### *Submitted by the Creation Care Team Members*

Marian Christjaener, Janet Cruse, Larry Cruse, John Fueger, Kathleen Fueger, Deb Hagen-Lukens, Barbara Hillier, Pastor Erik Kindem, Marcia Olson, Dana Rice