



March 2014

Dear Fellowship Presbyterian Church,

Congratulations on certification as an Earth Care Congregation! The steps your congregation has taken to care for God's earth (and your commitment to future earth care) are inspiring!

The Environmental Ministries program has been in the habit of sending out, to each new Earth Care Congregation, a copy of *50 Ways to Help Save the Earth: How You and Your Church Can Make a Difference* (a book I wrote, a number of years back, inspired by congregations like yours). I want to note the fact that it's somewhat awkward to continue this tradition of giving this book as a gift, now that I (the author) am the Environmental Ministries Associate. I send it still, hoping and trusting that the things I've come across and compiled from other inspirational sources can be useful for your work, including practical ideas for earth care, stories of churches that are making a difference, and some of the spiritual grounding for this meaningful work.

Also enclosed is a certificate affirming your status as an Earth Care Congregation until March 2015. In order to remain an Earth Care Congregation your church should send in your application for recertification by this date (which can be found online at www.pcusa.org/earth-care-congregations).

As an Earth Care Congregation your church may use the Earth Care Congregations seal to promote your commitment to earth care on your website, the church newsletter, t-shirts, etc. until the date that the certification expires. The Earth Care Congregation seal will be sent via email.

A press release has been prepared for your church to send to local media if you would like to publicize your Earth Care Congregation certification. This press release will be sent via email and your church can fill in contact information before sending it to local media. Environmental Ministries will notify your presbytery of your certification as an Earth Care Congregation.

If anyone active in earth care in your church would like to sign up for the Environmental Ministries Action Network (EMAN), we would welcome your participation. The goal of EMAN is to inspire and equip Presbyterians to care for God's earth and to increase the channels of communication between PC(USA) Environmental Ministries and congregations and presbyteries with environmental stewardship programs. Participants in EMAN are provided with regular updates from Environmental Ministries, are eligible to apply for grant funds for earth care projects in their church or presbytery, and are asked to stay in touch with other EMAN participants in their presbytery and with this office. You can sign up join EMAN at www.pcusa.org/eman.

Please do not hesitate to contact Environmental Ministries at any time. We are here to help churches along their earth care journey. If you would ever like to share a story about earth care from your congregation, we'd love to post this on our blog or website.

Thank you for your commitment to caring for God's earth. I look forward to working with your church in the future.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Barnes", is written over a horizontal line.

Rebecca Barnes
Associate for Environmental Ministries