

## The Creation Care Ministry Report for Diocesan Convention 2022

The Episcopal Church has made a commitment to practice loving formation, liberating advocacy, and life-giving conversation surrounding the care of creation. The Diocese of Missouri enjoins and supports this mission with our time, talents, and treasure.

In the past 12 months, we have continued to create a clearinghouse of best practices, formation materials, to enable congregations to make concrete their commitment to the care of God's creation. This is particularly challenging during the time of covid, but we still managed to:

- Kicked off the 2021-2022 year with a Creation Care workshop during the 2021 Convention.
- Create a movie discussion group based on movies about the issues facing our planet
- Make available liturgies that help celebrate God's creation and form congregants in the theology of creation care.
- Created a speaker's program via Zoom of professionals and activists in the creation care field that anyone in the diocese could attend, hearing such people such as Brian Sellers Peterson of Good News Gardens, Nurya Love Parish of Plainsong Farm, Margaret Bullit Jonas of the Diocese of Mass., and one of the founders of creation care spirituality in TEC.
- Introduced the diocese to educational resources such as the Center for Religion and Environment at Sewanee, where anyone could take courses in their Deep Green Faith certification program.
- Kicked off the Climate Emergency Declaration, signed by a number of bishops here in "The Great Middle" of the country, which was eclipsed by the declaration by the House of Bishops.
- We organized our first Holy Hike in the diocese, taking a hike in Tower Grove Park organized around readings from Scripture and meditations on the same. A second was planned in the Cape Girardeau area, but it was shut down due to triple digit temperatures. We hope to reschedule more in the cool of autumn, or help parishes organize their own.

Goals for the year ahead are exciting. We want to concentrate on two items at this time.

One is to create pollinator gardens across the diocese. As many here may know, pollinator populations are in decline across North America. They serve an important role in the maintenance of habitat for many species of plants and are a major natural force in agriculture. Without healthy pollinator populations such as insects and birds to help grow habitats and crops, the climate emergency we find ourselves in deepens. The single biggest problem stressing pollinator populations is their own loss of habitat. We can help restore pollinator populations by creating an archipelago of gardens up and down the Diocese of Missouri that will support pollinator populations. The CCM team is creating a program that will teach parishes and individuals how to create these pollinator gardens on church ground and homes.

The second goal is to help the parishes of the diocese install solar power systems on parish grounds, supplementing and supplanting our reliance on fossil fuel. This will be accomplished with a not-for-profit organization called the Episcopal Renewable Energy Nonprofit, an organization out of Northern

California and a partner with the Diocese of San Joaquin that provides the technical expertise in engineering, finance, and maintenance of solar systems to parishes that do not possess these skills, the very things that have prevented many of us from pursuing solar systems for our parishes. Offered on a voluntary basis, the program will help us model a practice of decreasing fossil fuel use in a state where 70% of our electricity is produced by coal, and we can also save money with a longer-term investment in solar power.

Please stay tuned for these upcoming programs over the next 12 months. They will be featured on our web page on the diocesan website. If you want to know more about them specifically or would like to get involved in the Creation Care mission here in the diocese, please go to our web page under Ministries on the diocesan website where you can find our contact info. We look forward to an exciting 2023 and pray that you will join us.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Kevin McGrane Sr.

Interim Missioner - Creation Care