

Creation Justice CONGREGATIONS

Creation Justice Congregations is an environmental stewardship program sponsored by the American Baptist Creation Justice Network, a Taskforce of American Baptist Churches USA. This program grants certificates of achievement for implementing eco-friendly measures in your building and within your congregations. Creation Justice Congregations has three levels, each with a checklist of sixteen items.

To complete a level, your congregation checks off at least twelve items from the checklist for that level (see inside of brochure for checklist). Upon completion of each level, mail the completed checklist to Marsha Scipio at American Baptist Churches USA. After receipt of the completed paperwork, your congregation will be given a certificate of achievement for you to display. Creation Justice Congregations is done on the honor system and the program is retroactive—you can receive a certificate for work completed in the past, such as energy efficiency measures or a tree planting. It is our hope that the Creation Justice Congregations program will make each community feel proud about the work that they have done, while inspiring them to take further action.

To raise awareness about the Creation Justice Congregations program, we are asking interested congregations to host informational sessions and invite other churches and religious communities from their area to attend. However, this is not required to participate in the Creation Justice Congregations program.

If you have any questions or would like to host an informational session, please contact us through the Creation Justice Network website.

"The Earth is God's and everything in it, the world and those who live in it."

- Psalm 24:1

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Creation Justice CONGREGATIONS

OUR MISSION

To build a movement of American Baptists that seek peace, justice, and reconciliation with all of God's creation.



*American Baptist
Creation Justice Network*

Complete any 12 of the steps in a column to receive recognition at that level (1, 2 or 3 green globes)

LEVEL 1 

- Devote at least two worship services annually to environmental stewardship
- Develop a course in Biblical and theological studies that highlights the importance of stewardship of the Earth and all living beings
- Form a "green team" in your congregation
- Show environmental films (e.g. *Chasing Ice*)
- Add "green" elements to children and youth curriculums - www.creationjusticeministry.org
- Include a "green" column in your newsletters, bulletins, etc.
- Invite environmentally focused speakers to your congregation
- Run a weatherization campaign for individual homes through your state, county and/or community program
- Keep radiators/heating ducts/refrigerator coils clean
- Make environmental/conservation resources available to members
- Recycle paper/bottles/cans
- Put office machines on power strips and unplug rarely used appliances
- Reduce hot water heater temperature to 120 degrees
- Use low impact paper products
- Flexible item: _____
- Flexible Item: _____

LEVEL 2 

- Install and use programmable thermostats
- Replace incandescent bulbs with LEDs
- Insulate/weatherstrip pipes/walls/ceilings/doors/water heaters
- Shift communications from paper to electronic media
- Shift to reusable dishes/utensils
- Shift to locally grown food as much as possible for church events
- Ban styrofoam from use
- Install energy efficient fluorescent lights/ballasts
- Institute "walk/bike/carpool to services" days
- Shift to organic lawn/landscape care
- Shift to environmentally sensitive cleaning products
- Develop a carpool system for activities conducted by your congregation
- Run a weatherization campaign for individual homes through your state, county and/or community program
- Purchase "clean" electric energy for your buildings
- Install a bee, bat or butterfly garden
- Flexible Item: _____
- Flexible item: _____

LEVEL 3 

- Establish a community garden
- Complete an energy audit for your church building (your state chapter of Interfaith Power & Light may provide a way to do this economically). Implement recommended energy-saving measures.
- Buy "Energy Star" appliances
- Install low-flow water fixtures or tankless heaters
- Install solar hot water heaters
- Replace inefficient windows/doors
- Shift to low water or organic lawns/landscaping
- Advocate for local/state/national energy efficiency policies
- Assist/encourage members to adopt green steps in their homes and businesses (www.safeclimate.net)
- Join with other sustainability groups to facilitate community action/advocacy
- Plant trees to capture carbon and reduce carbon dioxide in the air
- Conduct an adult education program to examine all aspects of transportation and energy use
- Review your investments for environmental impact
- Install photo-voltaic panels for electricity and/or sponsor a solarize event
- Flexible item: _____
- Flexible item: _____

For a flexible item, you can describe an activity not listed or substitute an item from another level.

Flexible items can also include a regional American Baptist and/or ecumenical or interfaith activity/program. You may wish to adopt a congregational Creation Justice Covenant. See the website for additional suggestions.

**For more information and resources, go to our website:
www.creationjusticenetworkabc.org**