



### OUR VISION

A just and sustainable future for all of God's creation.

### OUR MISSION

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

### STEERING COMMITTEE

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We are living in a time of unprecedented destruction of our natural environment. Never before has humanity faced such a crisis that threatens the extinction of millions of species and the collapse of civilization. As people of faith, we are rising up to the challenges of our time; we're speaking God's word by calling people together to restore God's creation and bring justice to our society. We invite you and your church to join us on this journey.

In the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., this is a time in which *"We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In the unfolding conundrum of life and history, there is such a thing as being too late. This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action."*



# BECOME A CREATION JUSTICE CONGREGATION



To sign up to become a Creation Justice Congregation or to find educational resources for your congregation please visit our website at:  
[www.abc-usa.org/creation-justice/](http://www.abc-usa.org/creation-justice/)

American Baptist Creation Justice Network  
P.O. Box 851  
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851  
[www.creationjusticenetworkabc.org](http://www.creationjusticenetworkabc.org)

### MORE CONTACT INFO:

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or call 610-768-2328.



# Creation Justice CONGREGATIONS

*"The Earth is God's and everything in it,  
the world and those who live in it."  
Psalm 24:1*

Creation Justice Congregations is an environmental education, stewardship, and justice program sponsored by the Creation Justice Network of the American Baptist Churches USA. Through this program your congregation can earn certificates of achievement for implementing eco-justice measures in your building, within your congregations, and in your ministries of outreach and justice.

Creation Justice Congregations has **three stages**, each with a checklist of suggested education, worship, and other action items that can help bring Baptist churches into the wider movement for peace, justice, and reconciliation with all of God's creation.

The beauty of the Creation Justice Network is that it unites Baptist believers who are active in the work of environmental justice, weaving a web of relationships that makes us all stronger. The Creation Justice Congregations program is designed to recognize and celebrate the many ways our churches seek environmental justice and protect God's creation, and to inspire and equip our churches to take further action.



## **STAGE 1** **Commit**

1. Board or Congregation votes to join the program.
2. Clergy and/or lay leaders submit application.

## **Educate**

1. Study what the Bible and other theological sources say about creation care.
2. Raise awareness about local and global aspects of the ecological crisis, like climate change, food insecurity, and clean air/water.

## **Take Action**

1. Increase the energy efficiency of your church buildings and homes.
2. Plant trees or gardens.
3. Test your tap water for lead and other toxins.

## **Share Your Story**

Visit [www.abc-usa.org/how-we-serve/all-abc-ministries/creation-justice/](http://www.abc-usa.org/how-we-serve/all-abc-ministries/creation-justice/) to submit your narrative and photos. You'll receive feedback and support as you discern where to focus in the next stage.

## **STAGE 2**

### **Worship**

1. Clergy preaches at least two creation justice-themed sermons.
2. Consider worshipping outdoors.

### **Build Capacity**

1. Form a Creation Justice Team of at least 3 people.
2. Reach out for support within and beyond the congregation.
3. Invite local environmental justice activists to speak.

### **Take Action**

1. Adopt green technologies; recycle, reduce, reuse; eat lower on the food chain, etc.
2. Engage in a local environmental advocacy issue like healthy air, soil, water; partner with other sustainability and justice groups.
3. Build on all earlier efforts of education, worship, etc.

### **Share Your Story**

Once again, visit our website to submit your story and get support for the next stage.



## **STAGE 3**

### **Network**

1. Strengthen relationships with other local faith communities and eco-justice groups; be in touch with other leaders around the country and the world.
2. Become active in the ABC Creation Justice Network and related ecumenical and interfaith organizations.

### **Develop a Local Vision**

1. Develop a vision among your creation justice team, congregation, and local allies.
2. How can you care for and protect creation in your local context?

### **Take Action**

1. Take an action that relates specifically to your local vision.
2. For example, protect an endangered species; advocate for clean, affordable water; work to protect our climate for future generations; provide your community with access to nature for education and recreation.

### **Share Your Story**

At this stage your story will be shared on ABCUSA's website and your congregation will receive recognition at your region's Annual Gathering and at the next Biennial.