

A Rich Legacy

UCC Environmental Justice

THE UCC'S ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MINISTRY HAS A CELEBRATED HISTORY



CHAVIS

and a rich legacy that continues to this day. In the 1980s, UCC leaders such as Benjamin Chavis and Buck Jones worked with communities suffering from the effects of pollution to give birth to the environmental justice movement. The movement generated new insights and coined the phrase "environmental racism."



MCKIBBEN

In recent years, the UCC has provided important faith leadership in addressing climate change. In 2013, the UCC became the first mainline denomination to pass a resolution calling for divestment from fossil fuel companies. In 2016, the UCC partnered with the bestselling environmental author Bill McKibben in a campaign highlighting the need to keep fossil fuels in the ground.

Today, the UCC continues to highlight how factors such as race, class, and global inequality are intertwined with environmental injustices ranging from the effects of global warming to the lead poisoning of children in towns and cities across the United States.

Ministries focused on caring
for God's creation
— our common home —
could not have
a higher purpose or calling
than they do now.

THE UCC'S ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MINISTERS

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God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



ARE YOU A CREATION JUSTICE ADVOCATE?



If you care about children suffering from
lead poisoning, cancer patients suffering
from the effects of pollution, or island
nations drowning from rising sea levels ...



then you have the heart
of a creation justice advocate.

Your Church's DNA

IS CARE FOR CREATION PART OF YOUR CHURCH'S DNA?



If the followers of Jesus today care about the air we breathe, the water we drink, or the world in which we live, then such ministries should be an integral strand in any church's

DNA. The UCC's Creation Justice Church program aims to help churches put these ministries at their core.

In the past, efforts to "green a congregation" often focused on matters pertaining to the operation of the church such as recycling, energy audits, and changing light bulbs. Those are all good and vital activities. Ultimately, however, we are called as Christians to go beyond the walls of our church. We are called to care for our neighbors, whether they are neighbors in our city or neighbors in our interconnected, global world.

The Creation Justice Church program assists churches in expanding their circle of awareness and advocacy. At the same time, it realizes that reaching out requires reaching in. To do the work of creation justice, we need to be spiritually and theologically grounded, so that we can engage in effective, long-term ministry.

To learn more, visit
www.ucc.org/cjchurch

The Pollinator

WHAT HAPPENS TO A FRUIT TREE THAT IS NEVER VISITED BY A POLLINATOR?

It bears no fruit. Likewise, the fruitfulness of churches in the UCC depends upon pollinators — those means by which we share everything from theological wisdom and practical knowledge to spirit-filled passion and faith-inspired visions.



For this reason, the name given to the UCC's communication platform for creation justice is **The Pollinator**. Through a blog and an e-newsletter sent out every two weeks, The Pollinator serves as our means of sharing and connecting among our growing group of creation justice churches and advocates. Without the sacred ministry and buzz of pollinators, there will be no promised land flowing with milk and honey.

Sign up to receive
The Pollinator e-newsletter at
www.ucc.org/pollinator_sign_up

Support and Training

SOLIDARITY SUPPORT

Is there a local environmental injustice that your church is actively addressing? If so, contact our Environmental Justice Minister to explore ways that our national offices could offer support. This could involve creating an online petition to be signed by people of faith in your area or finding ways to shine light on an injustice that has not received the exposure it deserves.

Send an email to
berndtb@ucc.org

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TRAINING

The UCC offers environmental justice trainings that give people direct exposure to environmental justice issues specific to the setting of the training. Additionally, our trainings provide resources for fostering environmental justice education and advocacy within congregations.

To learn more, visit
www.ucc.org/ejevents

