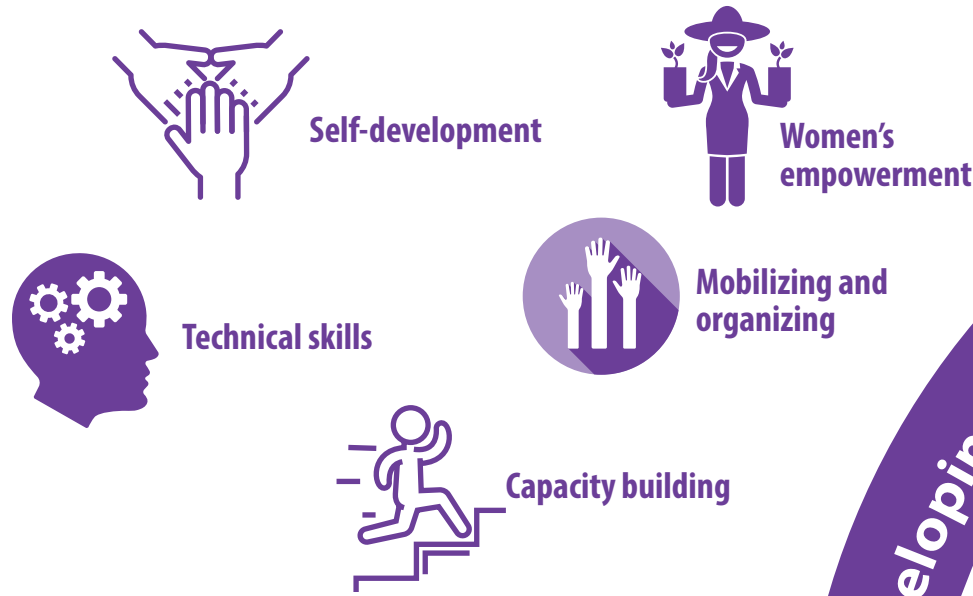




# International Development and Advocacy



## WHAT YOU CAN DO

Learn more about issues and/or give financial support at [pcusa.org/hunger](http://pcusa.org/hunger)

Sign up for the Together for Justice blog at [presbyterianmission.org/together-justice](http://presbyterianmission.org/together-justice)

Consider a reflection/action trip to a PHP partner: [pcusa.org/trips](http://pcusa.org/trips)

Respond to requests for action from our global partners — letter writing, engaging members of Congress, prayer vigils and more: [capwiz.com/pcusa](http://capwiz.com/pcusa)



## JOINING HANDS

The Joining Hands initiative of the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) is celebrating 20 years of connecting and mobilizing organizations and faith-based groups in the global South with each other and with Presbyterian congregations, presbyteries and other concerned people in the United States to study together how unjust global systems affect all of us and to work together to improve policies and corporate practices.

Much of PHP's work defending resource rights is done through Joining Hands. Some focus areas for our campaign work are: food sovereignty, land rights, transparency in resource extraction, preserving and protecting native seeds, defending public health, and advocating for socially and environmentally just trade policy.





# CLIMATE & DISASTERS



## Climate change intensifies floods, droughts, hurricanes and fires.

These disproportionately affect populations already made vulnerable by poverty and hunger. When we learn about and then work to address climate change and disasters, we stand with those who are poor and hungry.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- A warming world means that more precipitation falls as rain, snow melts earlier, and evaporation and transpiration increase; this causes both hydrologic and agricultural **drought**.
- Hurricane Harvey dumped a year's worth of rain on Texas and Louisiana in a few days, breaking all U.S. rain records. This summer in South Asia, 1,300 people died and more than 45 million people were affected by storms and **flooding**. Both are serious threats to food security.
- Since the 1970's, the number of category 4 and 5 **hurricanes** has doubled.
- As **sea levels rise** with increasing temperatures, the risks of storm-surge flooding from hurricanes increases. Warmer sea water leads to more rapid water evaporation which leads to more intense hurricanes.
- **Forest fires** have doubled in the western U.S. over the last 35 years due to the 2.5°F increase in temperature caused by climate change.
- Warmer winters lead to more pests that attack and kill trees, and dead trees are the perfect tinder for **wildfires**.

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Commit yourself to personal climate justice actions-- eating organic and local food, reducing energy use, investing in renewables, or getting an energy audit.
- Encourage your church to become an Earth Care Congregation or to go carbon neutral at [pcusa.org/climate](http://pcusa.org/climate).
- Examine environmental justice in your area at [scorecard.goodguide.com](http://scorecard.goodguide.com).
- Support Joining Hands partners in global work at [pcusa.org/joininghands](http://pcusa.org/joininghands).
- Learn about grassroots Presbyterian Fossil Free PC(USA), corporate engagement efforts with the elected MRTI committee, and environmental investment options with Presbyterian Foundation.
- Pray every week for people in areas of the world affected by climate change.
- Contribute to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for immediate relief and Presbyterian Hunger Program for long-term, root cause work for sustainability and resiliency.

### WHAT DOES THE PC(USA) SAY?

"Earth-keeping today means insisting on sustainability—the ongoing capacity of natural and social systems to thrive together—which requires human beings to practice wise, humble, responsible stewardship, after the model of servanthood that we have in Jesus." (1990 policy "Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice")



# CONFRONT THE “ISMS” AND TAKE ACTION!



While there is no “right way” to challenge all of the “isms” we face, here are a few suggestions to consider — both personal and congregational. Recognize the ways in which you may perpetuate — knowingly or unknowingly — the “isms.” Encourage your congregation to understand and confront racism, militarism and materialism. Advocate on behalf of those most impacted. Wherever you are on this journey, start there and take the next step! As Maya Angelou writes, “Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.”

## Racism

*“In following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others”* **The Belhar Confession**

### Personal

- Listen to those who report personal & systemic racism.
- Do the work of unpacking how racism manifests itself in you.
- Say something - it can be as simple as, “What you just said could be offensive.”

### Congregational

- Learn about racism where you live.
- Host an anti-racism training through groups like:
  - Showing Up for Racial Justice - [www.showingupforracialjustice.org](http://www.showingupforracialjustice.org)
  - Crossroads Antiracism Organizing & Training <http://crossroadsantiracism.org/>
- Attend advocacy training weekend to learn ways to address these issues. <http://bit.ly/2j0wQ6m>

### Advocacy

- Contact your elected officials to advocate for non-discriminatory and affirmative action policies in education, employment, policing, and prisons.
- Participate in anti-racist community events, protests, or rallies.
- Vote!

## Militarism

*“In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.”* **(Book of Confessions, A Brief Statement of Faith, 10.4, Lines 65–71)**

### Personal

- Defuse conflict, bridge divides, and reduce fear and alienation through the practice of respectful and non-violent communication (NVC). Learn about NVC at [bit.ly/non-violent-comm](http://bit.ly/non-violent-comm). This is a piece from [www.citizenshandbook.org](http://www.citizenshandbook.org) that explains how to do NVC based on the rules and methods from the founder of NVC, Marshall Rosenberg.

### Congregational

- Use Presbyterian Peacemaking Program studies, devotional resources, tips, and the film *Trigger*. Visit [www.pcusa.org/peacemaking](http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking).
- Learn about Presbyterian Peace Fellowship at [presbypeacefellowship.org](http://presbypeacefellowship.org).

### Advocacy

- Learn about police accountability and reform efforts to demilitarize law enforcement in the Vision for Black Lives policy platform at [policy.m4bl.org](http://policy.m4bl.org). Use the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness action page to ask your D.C. representatives to re-introduce the Stop Militarizing Law Enforcement Act at [bit.ly/demilitarize](http://bit.ly/demilitarize).

## Materialism

*“Justice today requires participation, the inclusion of all members of the human family in obtaining and enjoying the Creator’s gifts for sustenance. Justice also means sufficiency, a standard upholding the claim of all to have enough — to be met through equitable sharing and organized efforts to achieve that end.”* **Restoring Creation, 202nd General Assembly**

### Personal

- Buy conscientiously. Understand the environmental, economic, and social impact of your consumer choice. Visit [www.pcusa.org/enough](http://www.pcusa.org/enough)
- Visit [www.41pounds.org](http://www.41pounds.org) to stop unwanted junk mail today!

### Congregational

- Reduce overall consumption in your building.
- Use reusable napkins, towels and cups at your fellowship meals and events.
- Return waste naturally to the earth through recycling and composting.

### Advocacy

- Support efforts to limit corporate and materialistic advertising to children. Take action at [www.commercialfreechildhood.org/actions](http://www.commercialfreechildhood.org/actions)

### Sources:

- Lent 4.5: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus
- How to Fight Racism: A Sociological Guide to Being an Anti-Racist Activist by Nicki Lisa Cole
- [citizenshandbook.org](http://citizenshandbook.org)

\* Adopted by PC(USA) General Assembly in 2016, the Belhar Confession was written by non-white Christians in South Africa in 1982 to challenge the theological support that undergirded Apartheid. It is applicable today wherever the church is divided for any reason.

“WE AS A NATION MUST UNDERGO A RADICAL REVOLUTION OF VALUES. WHEN MACHINES AND COMPUTERS, PROFIT MOTIVES AND PROPERTY RIGHTS, ARE CONSIDERED MORE IMPORTANT THAN PEOPLE, THE GIANT TRIPLETS OF RACISM, MATERIALISM AND MILITARISM ARE INCAPABLE OF BEING CONQUERED.”

— Martin Luther King, Jr., April 4, 1967





# PC(USA) CERTIFIED EARTH CARE CONGREGATIONS

A project of the Presbyterian Hunger Program

In spring 2018, the Presbyterian Hunger Program certified 206 Earth Care Congregations, including 27 churches with first year certificates and 20 churches with five years certificates!

The Presbyterian Church (USA) “Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice,” policy was approved by the 1990 General Assembly and reaffirmed by the 2010 General Assembly. The PC(USA) recognizes that restoring creation is not a short-term concern to be handled in a few years, but a continuing task to which the nation and the world must give attention and commitment.

In 2010, a dozen pilot PC(USA) congregations were certified as Earth Care Congregations. The goal of the program is to celebrate and inspire churches to care for God’s earth in a holistic way, through integrating earth care into all of church life.



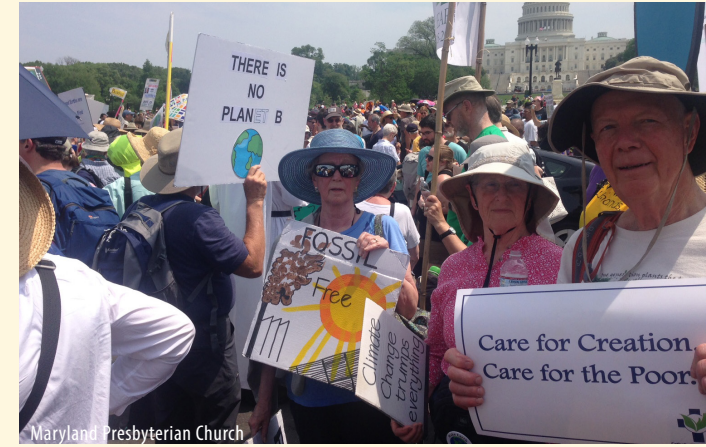
**FACILITIES:** *Newport Presbyterian Church, Bellevue, WA.* The Green Team’s mission is to “weave creation-care into the fabric of Newport’s church life.” The ways in which their facilities factor into that is a source of pride for the congregation. They have a city-certified wetlands, a nature trail, a chapel in the woods, and a Mission Garden with an attractive wooden deer fence built as an Eagle Scout project. Their lawns have native plants and their preschool also has a barked play area. In addition to that, in 2017 their Property Committee also took on the “lofty” task of installing new LED lights in their sanctuary.

THE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN AND THEIR CHILDREN AND ALL WHO COME AFTER IS AT STAKE.

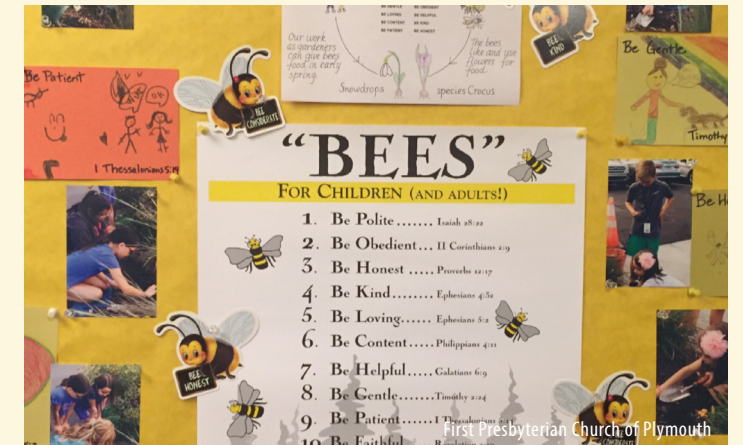
- The Call to Restore the Creation, 1990



**WORSHIP:** *Central Presbyterian Church, Waxahachie, TX.* Susan Cravens with her German Shepherd, Allie, who is being blessed by Rev. Matt Curry during the church’s animal blessing. Allie passed away the next Saturday on due to kidney failure. Susan said, “I’ll always remember Matt’s service fondly. I was a basket case but it was very moving and touching for me to be surrounded by so much love and others who care for their animal partners as much as myself.”



**OUTREACH:** *Maryland Presbyterian Church, Towson, MD.* One of the first Earth Care Congregations, piloting the program in 2009 for certification in 2010. They have grown and deepened in their ministry and witness ever since, tackling storm water management, energy efficiency, creating a congregational covenant, educating area children, and more. For the outreach portion of their earth care ministry, members of the church participated in the 2017 Washington D.C. Climate March.



**EDUCATION:** *First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, MI.* The Partners in Earth Care team worked with the children in the congregation’s mid-week program, “The Bridge,” to educate them on the importance of bees in the world. The children then planted flower bulbs in the church garden that will attract bees. This information was used to create a poster for the Earth Care bulletin board for the rest of the congregation to view.

## HOW TO BECOME AN EARTH CARE CONGREGATION

The Earth Care Congregation certification recognizes in a tangible way the churches that make the commitment to take seriously God’s charge to “till and keep” the garden. To learn more about the Earth Care Congregation Program, to download an application, or to view the complete list of churches please visit [www.pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations](http://www.pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations).

**1. Get started by talking with others at your church,** the pastor(s), and the session. Form an “Earth care team” or assign this function to a current committee, so there is a dedicated group to track earth care ministry.

**2. Explore together Earth Care Congregation materials,** including the certification application which has the church “audit” and Earth Care Pledge [www.pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations](http://www.pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations).

**3. Take the Earth Care Pledge** to integrate environmental practices and thinking into all facets of church life. Using the “audit” in the application, track your completed activities in the fields of:

- Facilities
- Worship
- Outreach
- Education

**4. Submit the Earth Care Pledge** and commitments to earth care between January 1—February 15, by email to [jessica.maudlin@pcusa.org](mailto:jessica.maudlin@pcusa.org).



# Environmental Racism

Environmental racism, a form of systemic racism, refers to the greater impact of environmental hazards on (and fewer environmental benefits for) people of color. It is no accident that communities of color experience more environmental harm and fewer environmental benefits. These outcomes are the direct result of policies and decisions by governments and corporations that have targeted certain communities, forcing them to live in proximity to sources of toxic waste such as sewage works, mines, landfills, power stations and more, while protecting other communities from such impacts.

People of color are **3X** more likely than whites to live in areas with restricted access to nature. For example, **70%** percent of low-income communities live in areas lacking green spaces.

**61%** of drinking water systems on Native American reservations had health violations, compared with **27%** of all public systems in the United States.

The Environmental Protection Agency has denied **95%** of the civil-rights claims brought by communities of color against polluters.

Black Americans breathe **56%** more pollution than they produce, and Latinos breathe **63%** more — while whites breathe **17%** less.



**The Environmental Justice** movement resists environmental racism and works to ensure that all people live in safe, healthy and prosperous communities.

As people of faith, we are called to seek well-being for all communities on a thriving, bountiful earth. We can do this by:

- Learning about environmental racism in your local context and globally
- Doing your own research to understand how environmental racism is a part of systemic racism
- Listening to and learning from people with firsthand experiences
- Connecting with organizations that advocate for environmental justice.

Learn more at [www.pcusa.org/environmentaljustice](http://www.pcusa.org/environmentaljustice)

#### SOURCES:

- [www.thenation.com/article/archive/race-best-predicts-whether-you-live-near-pollution](http://www.thenation.com/article/archive/race-best-predicts-whether-you-live-near-pollution)
- [www.pacinst.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/water\\_and\\_environmental\\_justice\\_ch3.pdf](http://www.pacinst.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/water_and_environmental_justice_ch3.pdf)
- [www.discovermagazine.com/health/green-spaces-are-a-necessity-not-an-amenity-how-can-cities-make-them](http://www.discovermagazine.com/health/green-spaces-are-a-necessity-not-an-amenity-how-can-cities-make-them)
- [www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/07/what-is-environmental-racism-pollution-covid-systemic/](http://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/07/what-is-environmental-racism-pollution-covid-systemic/)



# Food and the Climate Crisis

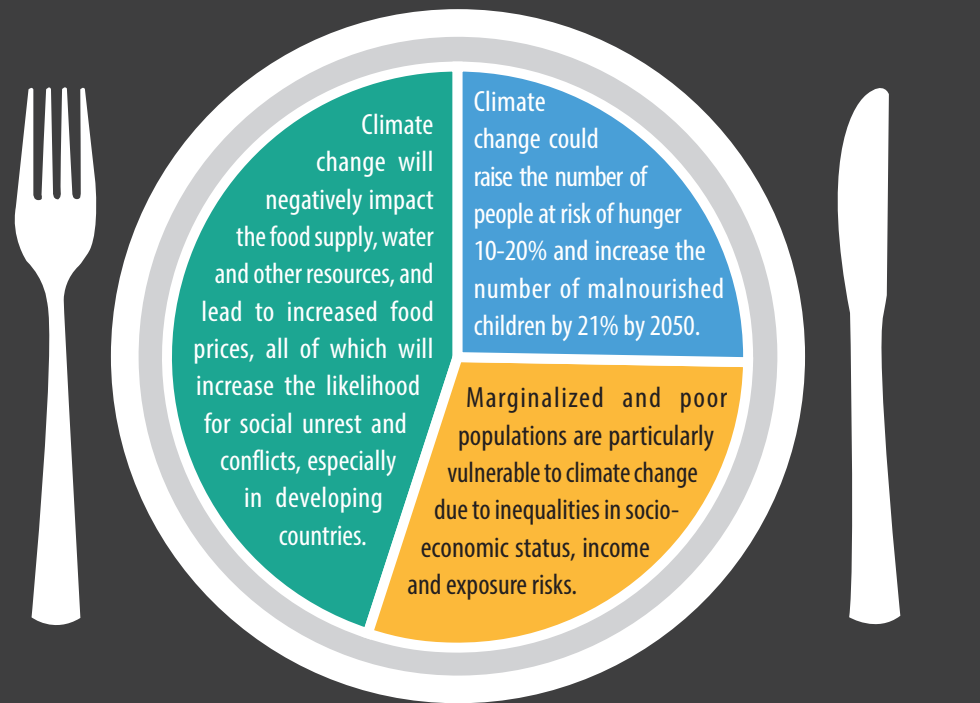
Sources: ActionAid, Center for Food Safety, FAO, GRAIN, IFPRI, IPCC, Rodale Institute, World Food Programme and World Watch

"With our Lord, we stand with the 'least of these' and advocate for the poor and oppressed in present and future generations who are often... least able to mitigate the impact of global warming that [is falling] disproportionately on them..." - *The Power to Change: U.S. Energy Policy and Global Warming*, approved by the 218th General Assembly of the PC(USA)

## Take Action

1. Eat organic food.
2. Eat food that is grown close to where you live.
3. Do not waste food.
4. Grow some of your own food.
5. Support your denomination's hunger programs.
6. Advocate for environmentally-friendly agricultural practices.
7. Learn about Food Week of Action and more at [pcusa.org/food](http://pcusa.org/food)
8. Attend a PHP webinar or reflection-action trip at [pcusa.org/hunger](http://pcusa.org/hunger)
9. Incorporate food and climate concerns in an Earth Day Sunday worship: [pcusa.org/earthday](http://pcusa.org/earthday)

## How Climate Change impacts Hunger and Poverty

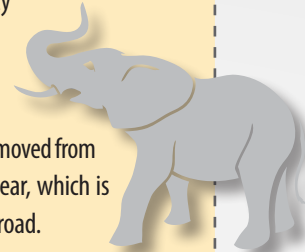


## How Organic Agriculture and Agroecology impacts Climate Change

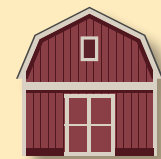
Organic and agroecological farms do not use synthetic pesticides and fertilizers, resulting in 50% less fossil fuel energy usage and 30% greater biodiversity than that of industrial farms.



For every two acres of organic farmland, 14,000 pounds of carbon dioxide can be removed from the air and absorbed into the soil each year, which is equivalent to removing one car from the road.



14,000 lb. Male African Elephant



Small-scale farmers produce the majority of the world's food, but occupy less than 25% of the world's farmland. Giving land back to small-scale farmers, coupled with policies which support local markets and reduce chemical inputs, could reduce GHG emissions by half in a couple of decades.

## False Solutions to Climate Change



Biofuels result in greater GHG emissions than fossil fuels when considering the deforestation and land-use change necessary for its industrial production. Biofuels are also a major driver of global land grabs and pose a threat to global food security as its production displaces food production for fuel.



Genetically modified crops are advertised as climate-resistant, but typically require more water, destroy biodiversity and increase toxins in the environment.



Wealthy governments, corporations and international financial institutions are promoting solutions to climate change that permit polluters to pollute and place the burden of good environmental practices on poor communities.

GHG: green house gasses

## The PC (USA) Response

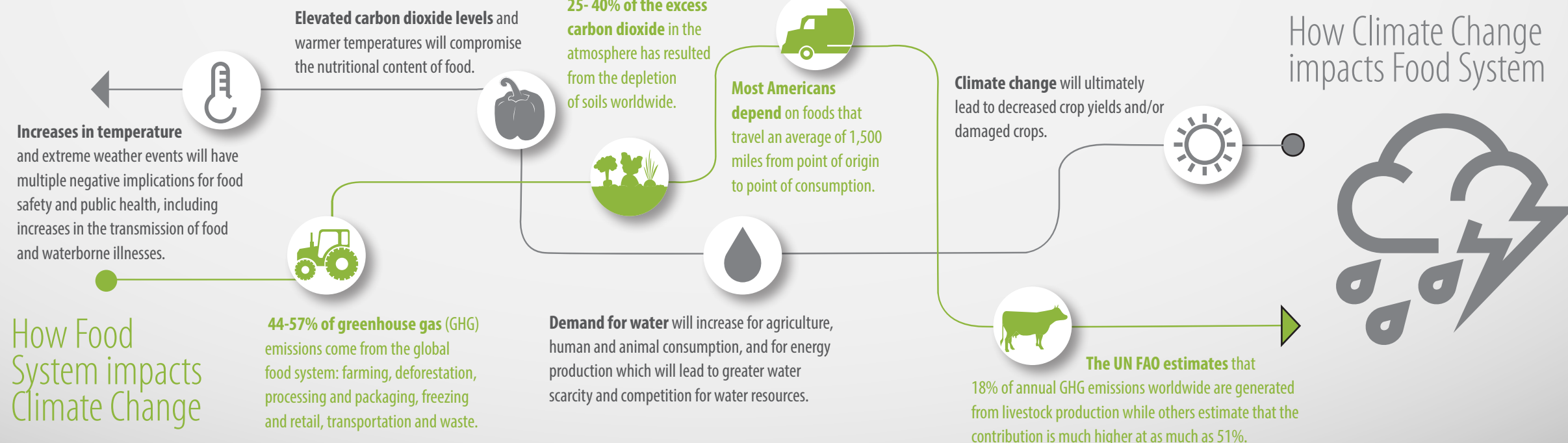
The Presbyterian Church (USA) encourages Presbyterians to live "carbon neutral lives" while simultaneously calling for a "just" climate solution which would mitigate the worst impacts of increased food prices for people living in poverty, and provide ample adaptation support for the poorest and most affected communities around the globe. Additionally, many PC(USA) congregations at the national level participate in the Earth Care Congregation program, making commitments to care for God's earth, as well as taking actions for justice for the earth and all in it.

## PHP Empowers Resilient Communities

PHP is working in many countries around the world with small farmers and local organizations to address environmental degradation, land grabbing, economic dislocation, food insecurity and other factors that contribute to the vulnerability of communities in the face of the worsening impacts of climate change. Together we are learning different methods to protect the environment and natural resources, addressing climate change, and advocating for people-centered solutions and alternatives which contribute to ensuring food sovereignty and resiliency.

## Joining Hands Addresses Systemic Causes

The Joining Hands (JH) Initiative of PHP analyzes how free trade agreements, the extractive industries, land grabs, and the corporatization of seeds are increasing poverty and hunger while also contributing to climate change. JH mobilizes people in focused campaigns to tackle these systemic issues both in the United States and abroad as a witness to the wholeness of God's creation. [pcusa.org/joininghands](http://pcusa.org/joininghands)





# Become A Hunger Action Congregation

## 1. What's Required

Be active in at least one area of hunger action to become a Hunger Action Congregation! If your church is active in all six areas, you can become a Certified Hunger Action Congregation.

## 2. How to Join

Visit [www.pcusa.org/hac](http://www.pcusa.org/hac) to download a copy of the covenant to complete for your records and then submit the online covenant application.

## 3. What to Expect

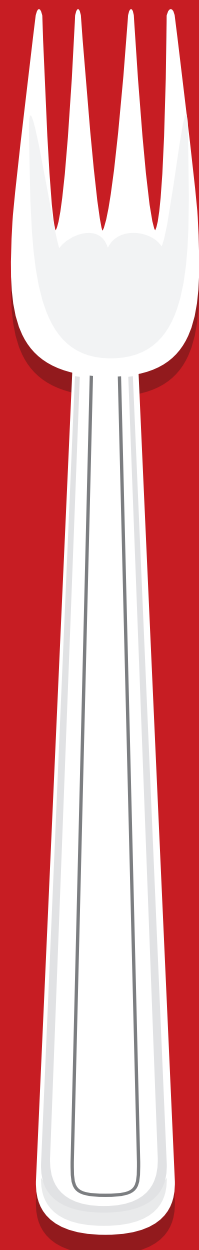
Complete the online covenant by September 15th to be included with those celebrated on World Food Day. Covenant every three years to remain in the network.

## 4. Why Become A Hunger Action Congregation

To continue to help alleviate hunger in your community, to share stories and best practices, and to make connections with other congregations for mutual inspiration for broader, deeper hunger ministries.

## 5. Questions?

Email [php@pcusa.org](mailto:php@pcusa.org) or call (502) 569-5832. Go to [www.pcusa.org/hunger](http://www.pcusa.org/hunger) and [www.facebook.com/presbyhunger](http://www.facebook.com/presbyhunger) to connect with PHP and get inspired!



## Six Areas of Hunger Action

Congregations around the nation are working in many ways to follow Christ's example of feeding the hungry and caring for those in need. Churches who become Hunger Action Congregations are acknowledged for their work, invited to share their stories, and celebrated by the Presbyterian Hunger Program each year on World Food Day — October 16th. We invite you to covenant with us to help end hunger!

### 1. Hunger Alleviation (providing and/or sharing food)

"We partner with other churches in their Empty-to-Full anti-hunger ministry. Twice a year, we provide recipes and 6-8 dozen large foil pans to the members. They bring them back the next week full of hearty casseroles, which are frozen and used in future months at a local homeless shelter. The youth group dedicates a meeting to preparing some of these frozen meals." — Memorial Presbyterian Church, Appleton, WI

### 2. Development Assistance (equitable and sustainable development)

"We have volunteers who teach English as a Second Language on a weekly basis to immigrants so they are more able to deal with schools, the job market and society in general." — Pleasantville Presbyterian Church, Pleasantville, NY

### 3. Hunger Education (including systemic, underlying causes of hunger)

"Our congregation hosted a Mission Luncheon with personnel from the county food bank, whose presentation included a showing of the film *A Place at the Table*, about hunger in America." — First Presbyterian Church, Matawan, NJ

### 4. Lifestyle Integrity (personal and corporate practices to care for all people and creation)

"We have had several Minute for Mission presentations on fair trade; we provide water from pitchers for many of our social activities; we recycle; and we use solar panels on our roof." — Covenant Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, MO

### 5. Corporate & Public Policy Witness (advocating for changes in policies and practices)

"On the second Sunday of each month, our Faith Builders Sunday School class worships through service by either writing letters to our local and national elected officials or serving in the homeless shelter in Asheville." — Black Mountain Presbyterian Church, Black Mountain, NC

### 6. Worship (scripture, prayer, story-telling, and singing)

"... our VBS children worshiped with the 'Cheerful Chicken' and watched skits that taught them about the importance of sharing the gift of food." — Northminster Presbyterian Church, Sacramento, CA





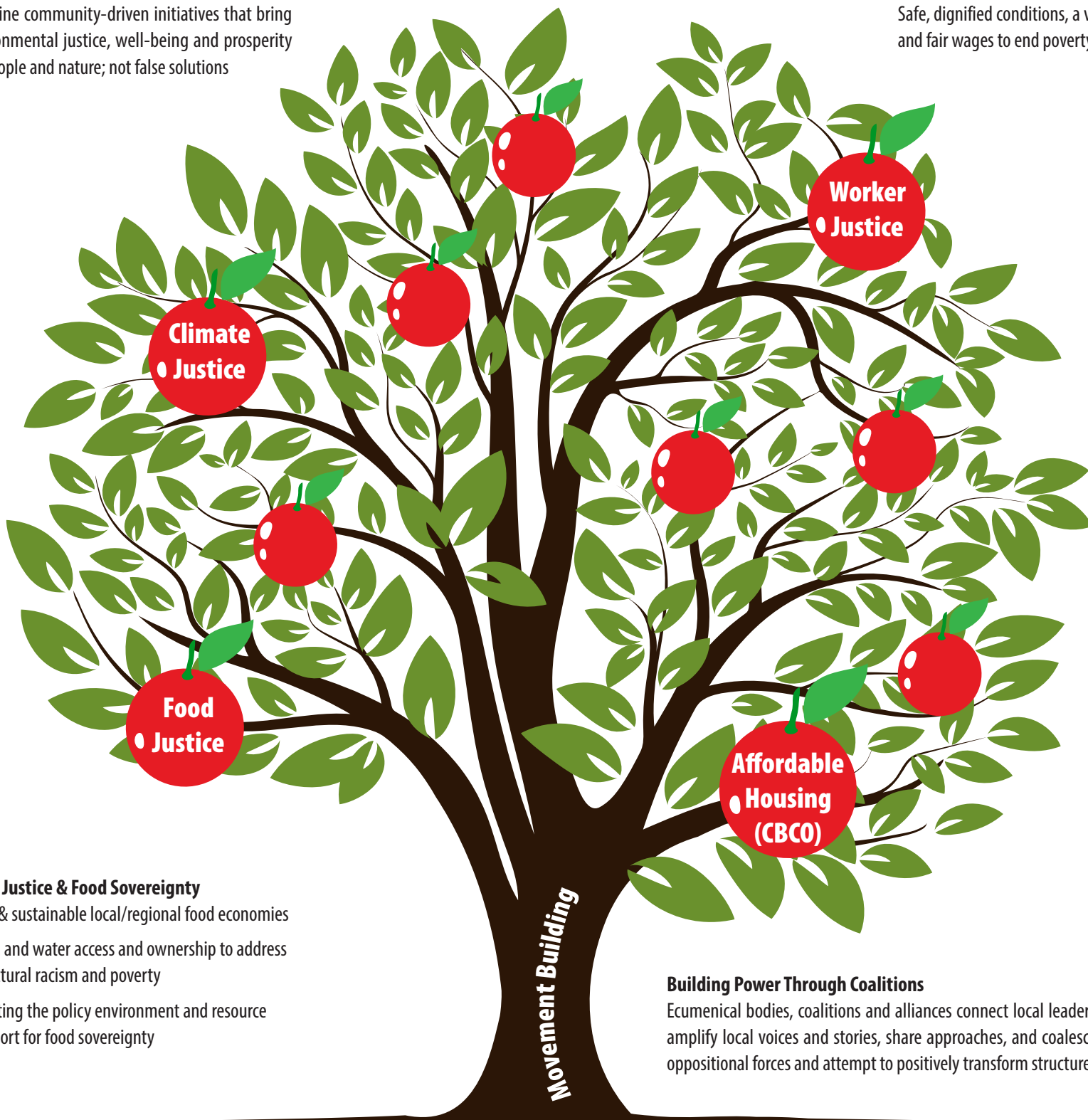
# PC(USA) National Hunger Concerns

## Eco- & Climate Justice

Frontline community-driven initiatives that bring environmental justice, well-being and prosperity for people and nature; not false solutions

## Worker Justice

Safe, dignified conditions, a voice in the workplace, and fair wages to end poverty & hunger



## Food Justice & Food Sovereignty

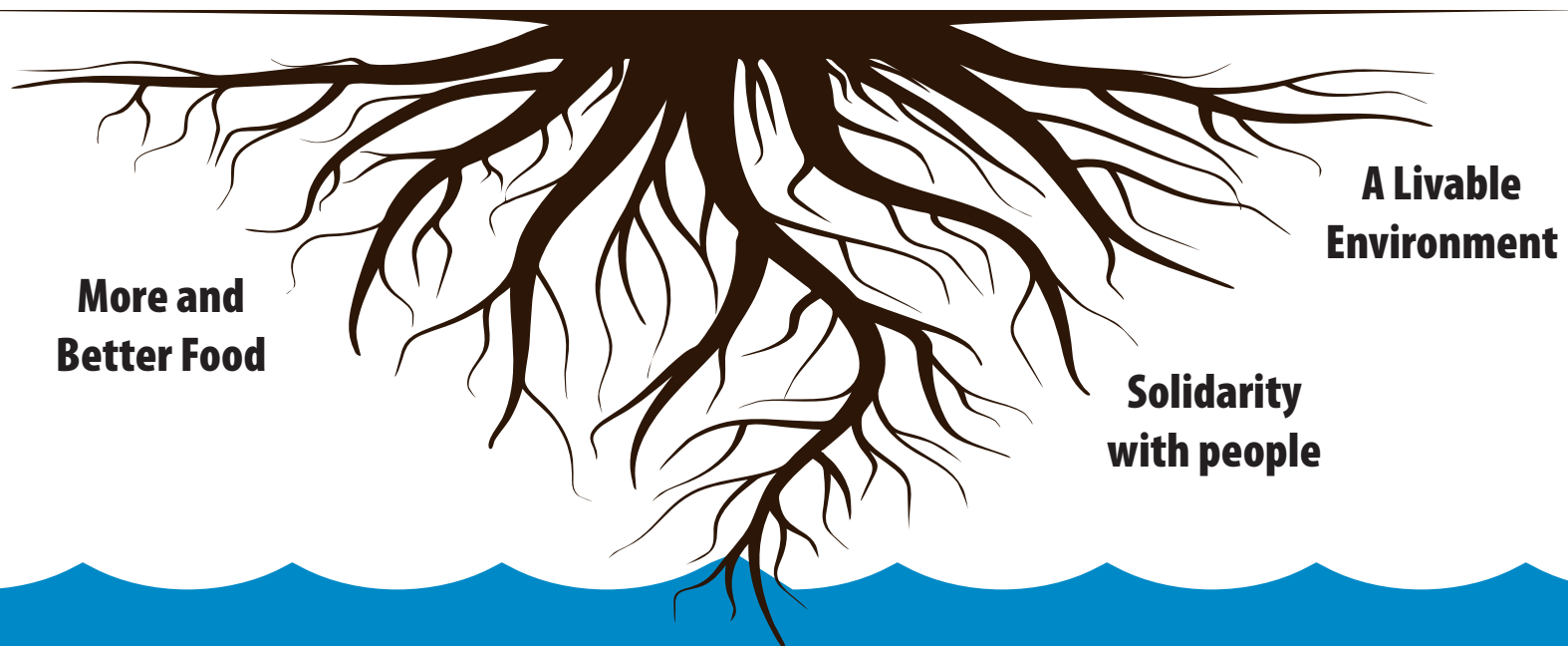
- Just & sustainable local/regional food economies
- Land and water access and ownership to address structural racism and poverty
- Creating the policy environment and resource support for food sovereignty

## Building Power Through Coalitions

Ecumenical bodies, coalitions and alliances connect local leaders to one another, amplify local voices and stories, share approaches, and coalesce power to resist oppositional forces and attempt to positively transform structures and systems.

PHP's three priorities are the foundational roots, people power is built in the trunk to provide nutrition, and the fruits are food, worker, housing and climate justice.

Together with congregations and partner groups around the United States, we work for food justice, worker justice, climate and eco-justice, affordable housing, and a movement powerful enough to realize these things.



## Our approach is faith-based and can be described with the acronym L.A.M.B.:

**LISTEN:** Listen to directly-affected, frontline communities and groups accountable to them to educate ourselves and Presbyterians around the country

**ACCOMPANY:** Encourage Presbyterians to accompany and contribute to strategies, campaigns and advocacy efforts based on those frontline perspectives and critiques

**MEND:** Return wealth and opportunities to marginalized communities and groups struggling to build a just and sustainable world free of hunger, poverty, oppression and environmental racism

**BUILD:** Invest in relationships and movement building to increase the capacity to effect change



# The Presbyterian Hunger Program and Congregational Vitality

## Serving one another with gifts we have received

Connecting with the programs of PHP can energize and enliven congregations and presbyteries as they serve local communities. Here are a few snapshots of the variety of ministries that help revitalize congregations as they engage the communities around them:

In Savannah, Georgia, First Presbyterian Church, Butler Memorial Presbyterian Church and Skidaway Community Church participate in a **Congregation-Based Community Organizing (CBCO)** group called Justice Unites Savannah Together (JUST). Forty percent of Savannah residents earn less than \$50,000 each year and are struggling to afford quality housing. JUST researched housing trust funds, which allow developers to keep rents affordable. Savannah had a housing trust fund, but the city had only been investing \$500,000 annually — not enough to make a substantial difference in the housing crisis. JUST organized and helped motivate people in their congregations. Together they advocated for the city to invest \$10 million of American Rescue Plan money into the fund. Thanks to their efforts, the mayor and city council allocated \$7 million of their 2022 budget for the Savannah Affordable Housing Fund. Mayor Van Johnson publicly credited JUST with pushing for this historic investment. This kind of organizing demonstrates the kind of vital and energizing work that people of faith can do when they work together with others for positive change in their community.

**Hunger Action Advocates (HAAs)**, serve in presbyteries to educate, motivate and facilitate hunger action. They encourage congregations and presbyteries to engage in hunger relief, development assistance, public policy advocacy, education, and interpretation about sustainable living and earth care concerns. Jessica Fitzgerald, HAA for the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia, shared that Suffolk Presbyterian Church has a long history of faithful hunger ministry. They help support seasonal agricultural workers through the Eastern Shore Migrant Farm Workers Ministry, provide dry beans to the Society of St. Andrew for food bags, and support the Suffolk Christian Fellowship ministry with food, clothing, hygiene products, diapers and more. In 2021, church educator Beth Lyon-Suhring offered “Come to the Table,” a six-week discipleship study to raise awareness, provide education, and inspire advocacy. The study focuses on scripture and people’s relationship to food. HAAs and Suffolk Presbyterian Church are inspiring servant leadership, demonstrating outward incarnational focus, and helping create lifelong disciples.

### How can your congregation get involved?

- Go to [pcusa.org/hunger](https://pcusa.org/hunger) to learn more about root causes of hunger and find a number of ways to advocate in solidarity with people.
- Take steps to become a Hunger Action Congregation ([pcusa.org/hac](https://pcusa.org/hac)) or an Earth Care Congregation ([pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations](https://pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations)).
- Start or participate in a Congregation-Based Community Organization ([pcusa.org/cbco](https://pcusa.org/cbco)) or engage with a Joining Hands Network (email Valery Nodem at [valery.nodem@pcusa.org](mailto:valery.nodem@pcusa.org)).
- Like and follow PHP at **Presbyhunger** on Facebook and Twitter.
- Support the work of PHP through One Great Hour of Sharing ([pcusa.org/donate/OG300000](https://pcusa.org/donate/OG300000)).

Prince of Peace, a Presbyterian church in Crofton, Maryland, is a new **Earth Care Congregation** that sees the value of caring for the earth in a holistic way. They incorporate caring for God’s creation in their worship, education programs, church facilities and grounds, and take their environmental ministry into the community. They are well-known for hosting an annual Used Book and Media Sale, which raises money for mission activities, and this year they added a kickoff event where community members donated used bicycles. The bikes went to Wheels of Hope, a program that provides refurbished bicycles to meet transportation needs for at-risk youth, the local sober living community and more. This event allows the church to live out its faith in the broader community, meeting needs for transportation and health, while also saving bicycles from the landfill.

Congregations, presbyteries and individuals are revitalized when they work to address hunger, poverty and their root causes through global relationships. For over 20 years, clergy and church members in the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy have acted in solidarity with Red Uniendo Manos Peru — PHP’s **Joining Hands** network in Peru. Together they have advocated for health care for people affected by lead contamination, helped shine light on the connections between corporate operations in Peru and those in Missouri, and supported the restoration of land damaged by mining activities. Participants have been part of a movement of people working to address local and global systems of economic, environmental, and racial injustice, and they share that it has been a life-changing experience. Study, prayer, planning, worship, leading workshops, travel and advocacy have brought people together in solidarity and mission and have helped bring vitality to congregations and the presbytery.

Ladson Presbyterian Church, a **Hunger Action Congregation (HAC)**, is the oldest African American congregation in downtown Columbia, South Carolina. Once a month, church members offer a hot breakfast for their unhoused neighbors in need, serving up grits, eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, juice and fruit. Twice yearly the church invites the guests to a community birthday party where food, clothing and toiletries are provided. During September’s Celebration of Life Birthday event, information about record expungement, job training and community resources is made available. Some guests who were served by the program now participate as members of the congregation and help serve others. While changes have been made during the pandemic, Ladson has continued to be a light, partnering with others to reach hundreds of neighbors each week. Ladson has been an HAC since 2019 and exemplifies outward incarnational focus, a mark of vital congregations.







# THE PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM AND MATTHEW 25

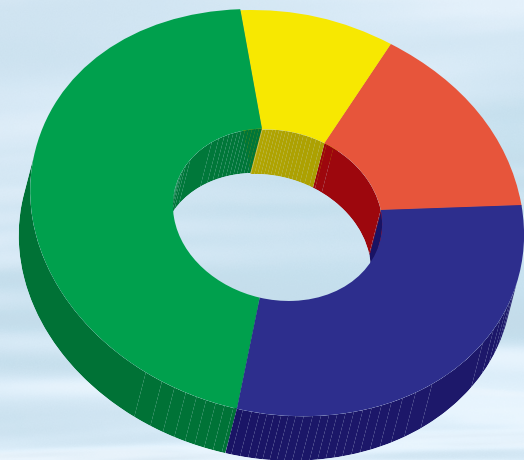


MATTHEW 25

Join PHP's efforts to eradicate systemic poverty, dismantle systemic racism and build congregational vitality!

- Visit our website:  
[www.pcusa.org/hunger](http://www.pcusa.org/hunger)
- Like us on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/presbyhunger](http://www.facebook.com/presbyhunger)
- Follow us on Twitter:  
[www.twitter.com/PresbyHunger](http://www.twitter.com/PresbyHunger)

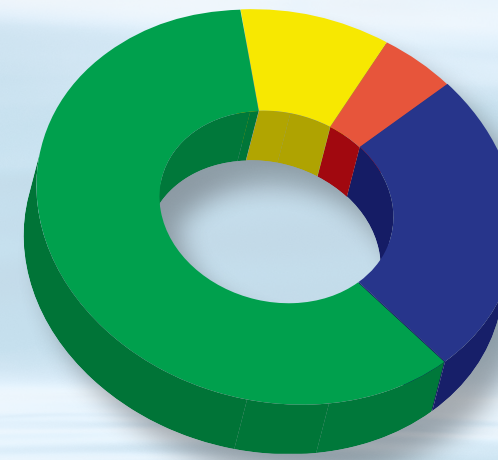
## Eradicating Systemic Poverty



- Grantee and Partner Relationships
- Education
- CBCOs
- Leadership Development

- Education on root causes of hunger and poverty (preaching, teaching, workshops, resources, writing)
- Grant relationships that partner with communities nationally and internationally to fight hunger and poverty
- Leadership Development (Hunger Action Congregations, Hunger Action Advocates, Earth Care Congregations, trainings of community leaders)
- Support for Congregation-Based Community Organizations (CBCOs), who work to improve communities; many focus on affordable housing

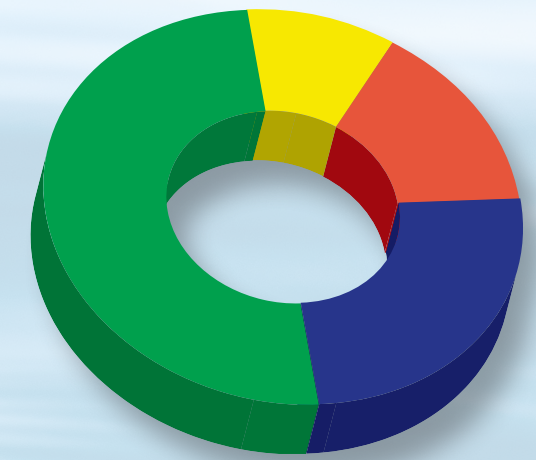
## Dismantling Structural Racism



- National Grants
- Education
- PMA Team
- International Grants

- Education on environmental racism, climate justice, racism in the food system, stolen and unequal access to land and natural resources
- National grants to BIPOC communities to return access to ancestral land and increase equitable access to land, training, food, development
- International grants for oppressed communities to achieve peace and prosperity
- PMA staff teams and projects on anti-racism, reparations and other collaborative PC(USA) projects

## Building Congregational Vitality



- Congregational Programs
- Preaching/Teaching
- Resourcing
- HAAAs

- Support congregations and Presbyterians who need assistance, resources, connections
- Administer congregational certification programs for Earth Care and Hunger Action Congregations
- Provide preaching and workshops for PC(USA) events, churches and presbyteries
- Support the network of Hunger Action Advocates to serve congregations in their presbyteries.





Photo: Nicole Bryant; background photo: Jessica Maudlin, PHIP

## Congregations join with farming families through Fair Trade

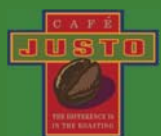
As you fellowship over fairly traded coffee, tea or chocolate, you support a partnership that helps farmers stay on their land, care for the environment, support their families, and plan for the future. The Presbyterian Coffee Project is a partnership between the Presbyterian Church (USA) and Fair Trade coffee organizations, including Equal Exchange and Café Justo.



Presbyterian Hunger Program  
888-728-7228 x5626  
[www.pcusa.org/coffee](http://www.pcusa.org/coffee)



Equal Exchange Interfaith Program  
774-776-7366  
[www.equalexchange.coop/pcusa](http://www.equalexchange.coop/pcusa)



Café Justo  
(520) 364-3532  
[www.justcoffee.org](http://www.justcoffee.org)



# Reclaiming the *Holidays*

## Decorations

Rather than purchasing a fresh Advent wreath, you can make one. The lower branches of a Christmas tree that were cut to fit into a stand make excellent wreath material. Use beeswax candles in your wreath. They are organic and biodegradable. If you have an artificial tree, it is best to use it as long as you can. If you purchase a live tree, go local.

## Holiday Activities

Volunteer at a local shelter, food bank, community center or church. Other forms of service and outreach you can embrace this Christmas include food donations, meal delivery, and opening your home to newcomers. Take up a collection at your meal to support local efforts to alleviate hunger, or have your guests bring nonperishable items to donate. Take a sabbath from electronic devices.

## Holiday Treats

Many baking items such as sugar, cocoa, vanilla, and spices are harvested under grueling conditions. Purchasing fair trade baking goods, as well as snacks, chocolate and beverages helps prevent child labor and oppressive working conditions and ensures workers a fair wage.

Attract wildlife outside with edible decorations. Coat pinecones with organic nut butter and roll them in seeds. Make garlands out of air-popped corn or chunks of stale bread.

If you feel called to celebrate differently this year, talk with loved ones and explain why you have made a switch. Be gentle in your explanations and invite others to journey with you through the process. For further ideas visit [www.presbyterianmission.org/justliving](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/justliving).

## Gifts

Knitted items, framed photos, handcrafted toys, works of art, and other personally made gifts show care and concern for the recipients because they require time and thought to create.

Minimize the impact your gifts have on local landfills by packaging them in reusable or biodegradable materials. Wrapping gifts in blankets or table linens creates practical and reusable packaging options.

If you are gifted with crafts, music, dance, or other talents, give the gift of knowledge, while passing on traditions and heritage.





# Rethinking Holiday Meals

Whether at church or home, consider putting faith in action regarding holiday meals and gatherings. Here we provide a variety of ways Presbyterians are using their purchases and gatherings to support low-income and marginalized producers around the world, alleviate hunger and poverty, and minimize the impact of our consumption on the planet.

## Keep it local

Vegetables, fruits, meats, breads, dairy products, and table decorations can be purchased from local farms, farmers markets, and local, independently-owned shops such as bakeries and groceries.

Perhaps you can feature items grown or crafted by neighbors or family members.

## Keep it based in faith

Share in ancient rituals of prayer, sharing and community building.

Allow as many parts of the meal as possible to reflect your faith in a God who provides for all.

Celebrate God's presence and the gifts of each other and community over "stuff."

## Keep it simple

Resist the urge to overdo, whether it be with food, decorating, or other forms of hospitality.

Consider a theology of enough and a refrain of simplicity when planning meals and events.

Consider increasing vegetarian options both as a form of hospitality to vegetarians who may attend your meal, and because eating lower on the food chain often uses fewer resources.

## Keep it healthy

Ingredients that are fresh, travel only short distances and are grown organically all have higher nutritional value, and are better for God's creation, too.

At mealtime, resist the temptation for seconds and thirds; instead, savor each bite and enjoy the moment. You'll thank yourself later when you don't feel overly full.

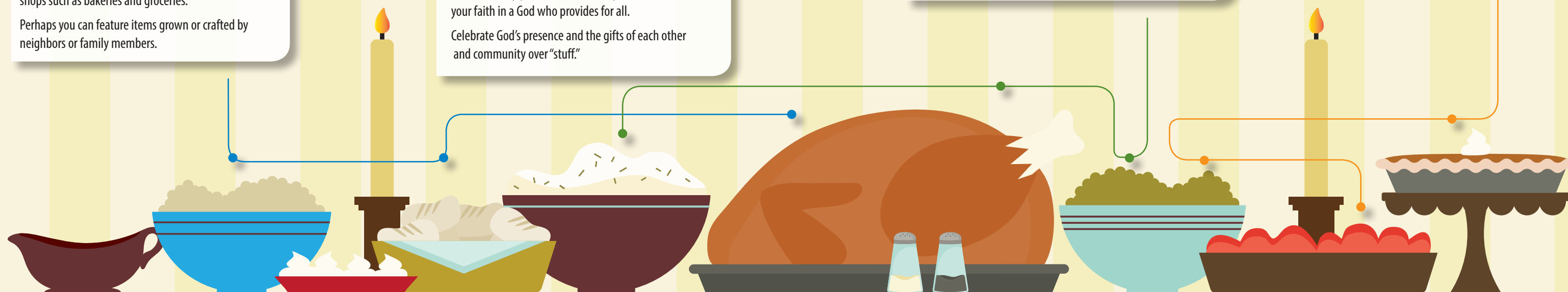
## Keep it fair and cooperative

Products purchased fair trade (such as coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, sugar, olive oil) support farmers around the world who struggle to get their products to market and are working to develop their farms, families, and communities.

Where possible choose cooperative-made products, where producers and workers own a share in the business and find that together they can not only survive but thrive.

Encourage members of your family to cooperate by setting the table together or preparing dishes as a team.

Consider setting aside old family conflicts and cultivating a harmonious environment.





# Sustainable Living & Earth Care Concerns

How we impact the earth, care for the earth, and hold our responsibility to steward the earth.

In 2002, Enough for Everyone was born of collaborative work across ministry areas to focus on the big picture of our economic lives and moving beyond what our dollars do in the offering plate, to considering what our dollars do in the marketplace. In 2012, the work of Environmental Ministries, which focused on inspiring and equipping congregations and presbyteries to work for eco-justice for all of God's Earth, became a part of the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

Since economy issues often lead to environmental issues, in 2017 Enough for Everyone and Environmental Ministries combined into what we call Sustainable Living & Earth Care Concerns. Sustainable Living & Earth Care Concerns accompanies Presbyterians reflecting on and living out economic and environmental decisions as an extension of their faith and values.



## How do we care for people and all Creation?

### We Investigate

environmental and economic inequities through:

- resources like the Just Living series, Considering our Treasure
- connecting with a presbytery Hunger Action Advocate
- stewardship

### We Equip

Presbyterians to make informed, faithful choices through:

- study/reflection-action trips
- Earth Day Sunday worship materials, Treading Lightly for Lent daily reflection-action calendar
- Blessed Tomorrow Ambassador training

### We Embody

practices that bring about active transformation through:

- Climate Care Challenge
- Fair Trade Coffee Project, Eco-Palms and the Global Marketplace
- becoming an Earth Care Congregation