



# Growing Together:

Creation Care & Environmental Justice  
in the Diocese of Olympia

Adrienne Elliott | 21 October 2022  
112th Convention, Diocese of Olympia

# A bit about me!





# Outline

## Previous Work

Background  
EDSD Case Study  
Findings  
Recommendations

## Upcoming

Background  
Program Components  
Appreciative Inquiry & Visioning

Group Sharing, Q&A



ACTIVATING CHURCHES IN  
THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO:

# A Case Study in Mainline Christian Climate Action

Adrienne Elliott | 6 June 2022  
MAS Climate Science & Policy Symposium

UC San Diego



SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF  
OCEANOGRAPHY



EDSD  
COURAGEOUS LOVE



01

# Project Background

Definitions, Motivation, Stakeholders



St. Paul's, Seattle. Photo by Laura Swimmer.



St. Paul's Cathedral, San Diego. Courtesy of Diane Lopez-Hughes.



## Progressive Mainline

- Protestant branch with deep, historic roots and influence in American society
- Not evangelical or fundamentalist
- Skews whiter, wealthier, more educated than other Christian groups





# Creation Care

Christianity's main term for environmental stewardship, based on the Genesis account of Creation...not Creationsim!





# Faithful Climate Action

- Theological imperative and history
- Achieving Collective Action
- How do we relate to the world and each other?

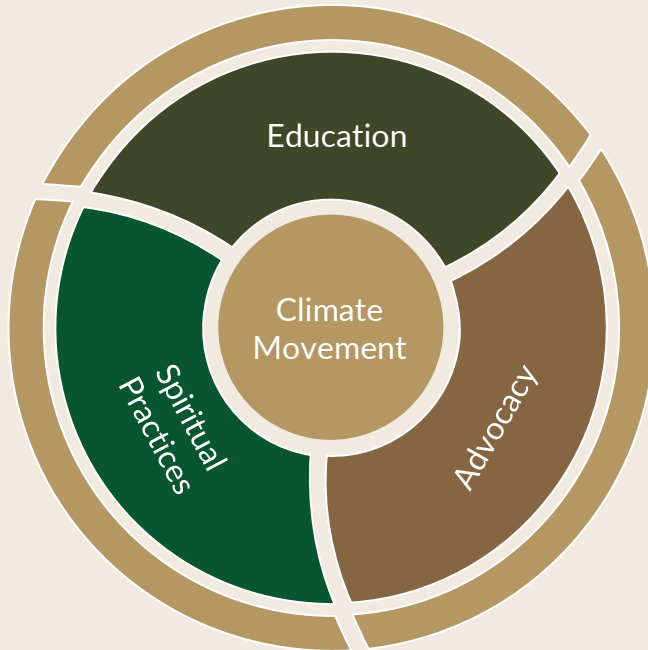


UCC Rev. Ben Chavis at a 1983 protest against the siting of a PCB landfill in Warren County, NC. Photo by Ricky Stilley.





# Faith Contributions to Social Movements



Religious institutions mediate scale and sector, connecting personal experience with larger political & communal frameworks.

(Peterson, 2022)

# Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

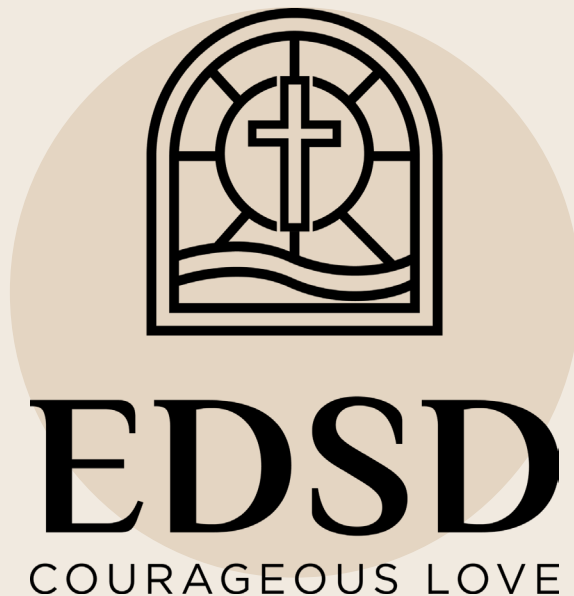


## The Episcopal Church

Skews progressive; ordains  
women & LGBTQ+ folks;  
COP delegation since 2015;  
Carbon Tracker

## 42 Parishes

Spanning the San Diego  
region, the High Desert,  
El Centro, and Yuma



## Advocacy

Migrant Ministry, Interfaith,  
Gun Violence, Anti-Racism,  
Housing, Food Security, Civil  
Discourse

## Creation Care





# Creation Care Task Force



## Origins

Appointed in early  
2021 by EDSD's  
Advocacy Committee



## Focus Areas

Education, advocacy,  
church engagement,  
food justice,  
communications



## Work

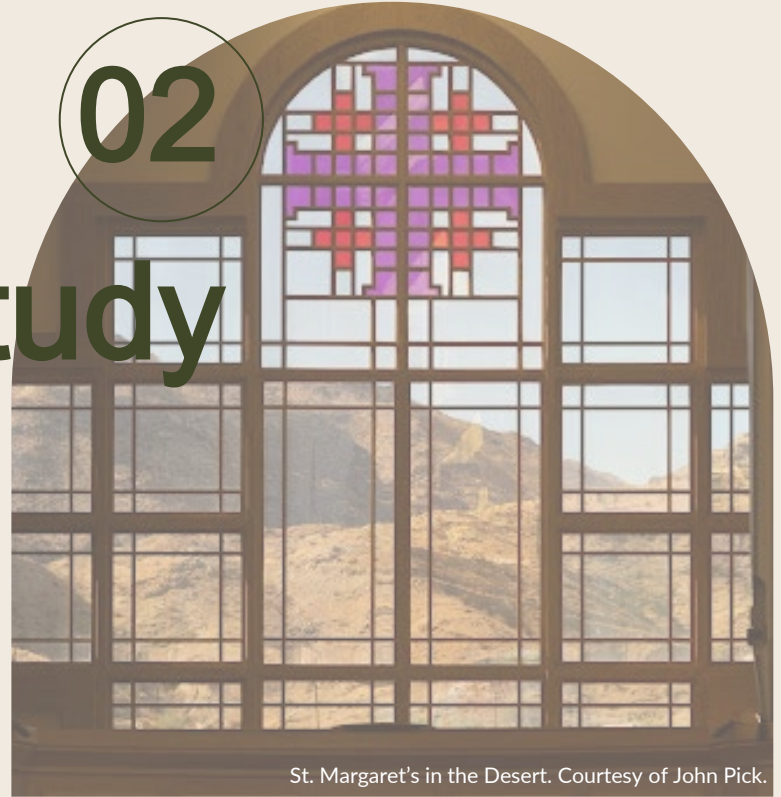
Solar, events, actions,  
book studies, resources,  
church ministries



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# Case Study

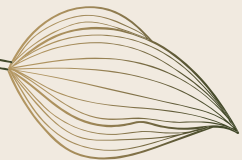
Research Question  
Stakeholder Contributions



St. Margaret's in the Desert. Courtesy of John Pick.



**Have progressive  
mainline Christians been  
activated to respond to  
the climate crisis, how  
might they be, and why  
does it matter?**



# Climate Action Contributions



## Education

Resources,  
adult/youth education,  
theology



## Advocacy

Community engagement  
and political action



## Practices

Embodied liturgy,  
sacraments, disciplines



## Structure

Top-down or bottom-  
up?







# Case Study: EDSD Church Engagement Process

24 churches interested  
(2021 survey)

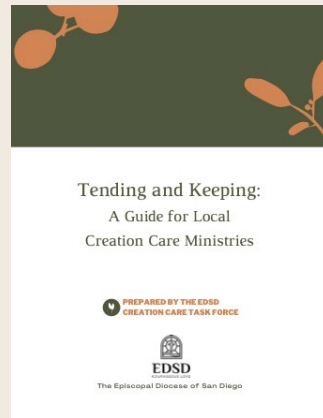
12 churches, 20  
people attended  
Zooms

16 churches  
currently active

8 churches to be  
contacted



January



March





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# Findings

Mainline, EDSD



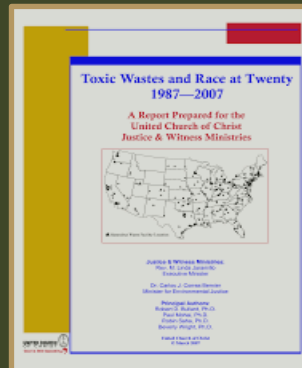
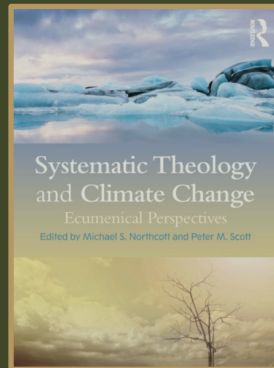
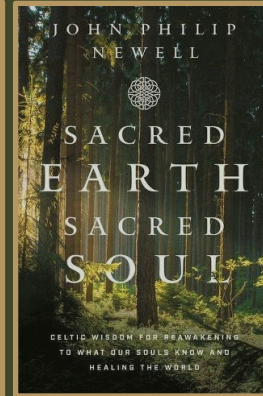
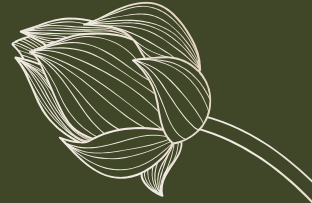
St. Dunstan's at EDSD Cleans Up event. Courtesy of EDSD.



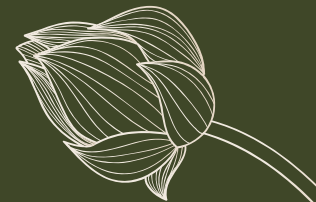
Have progressive mainliners been activated  
to respond to the climate crisis?

**Yes. And  
there's still  
work to do.**

# Education and Formation



# Advocacy

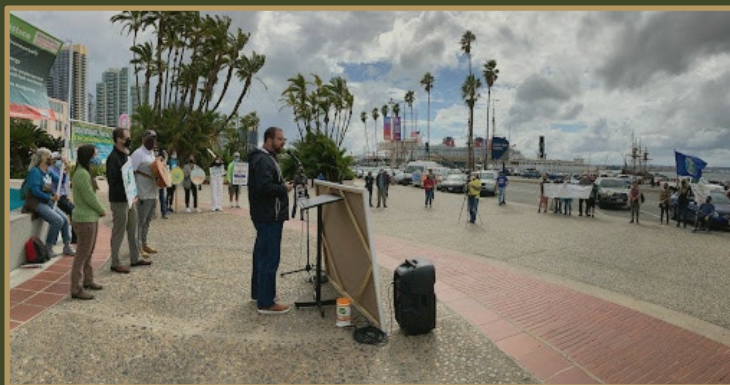


**THE BISHOP'S LIST OF  
CREATION CARE ACTIONS**

1. Explore converting your church and home to solar power here.
2. Pray daily for our common home and all its inhabitants.
3. Explore TEC's Covenant for the Care of Creation.
4. Take the Episcopal Creation Care Pledge.
5. Complete TEC Carbon Tracker.
6. Green your home.
7. Engage children and youth in Creation Care base.
8. Study Creation Care through books and films.
9. Spend time in nature: walking guide for all ages, and family resource.
10. Participate in civic engagement.
11. Stand with vulnerable communities experiencing climate disruption.
12. Learn about environmental racism, eco-justice, and environmental justice base.
13. Consider your transportation choices and carbon offsets.
14. Divestment from fossil fuels resource.

**CONNECT WITH CCTF**  
We are available to support your church to grow in caring for God's Creation.  
Contact us at:  
<https://edsd.org/creationcare>  
[dianepezzughed@gmail.com](mailto:dianepezzughed@gmail.com)

**EDSD**  
COURAGEOUS LOVE



**Diocese of California plans  
to turn 9-acre lot into  
affordable housing and  
organic farm**

BY EGAN MILLARD  
Posted Mar 28, 2022

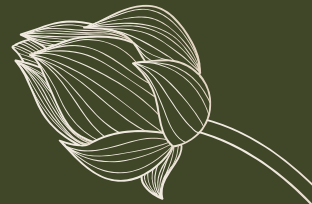


**72 FAITH INSTITUTIONS  
DIVEST**

RECORD NUMBER OF FAITH INSTITUTIONS DIVEST FROM FOSSIL FUELS  
IN GLOBAL DIVESTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT AHEAD OF COP26



# Liturgy and Practices







# Recommendations

EDSD, larger community

04



Extinction Rebellion protestor. Photo by Ehimetalor Akhere Unuabona.



# General Recommendations



## Education

Rethink harmful theologies



## Advocacy

Climate initiatives support and implementation



## Practices

Leverage liturgies for collective action, lament, and healing

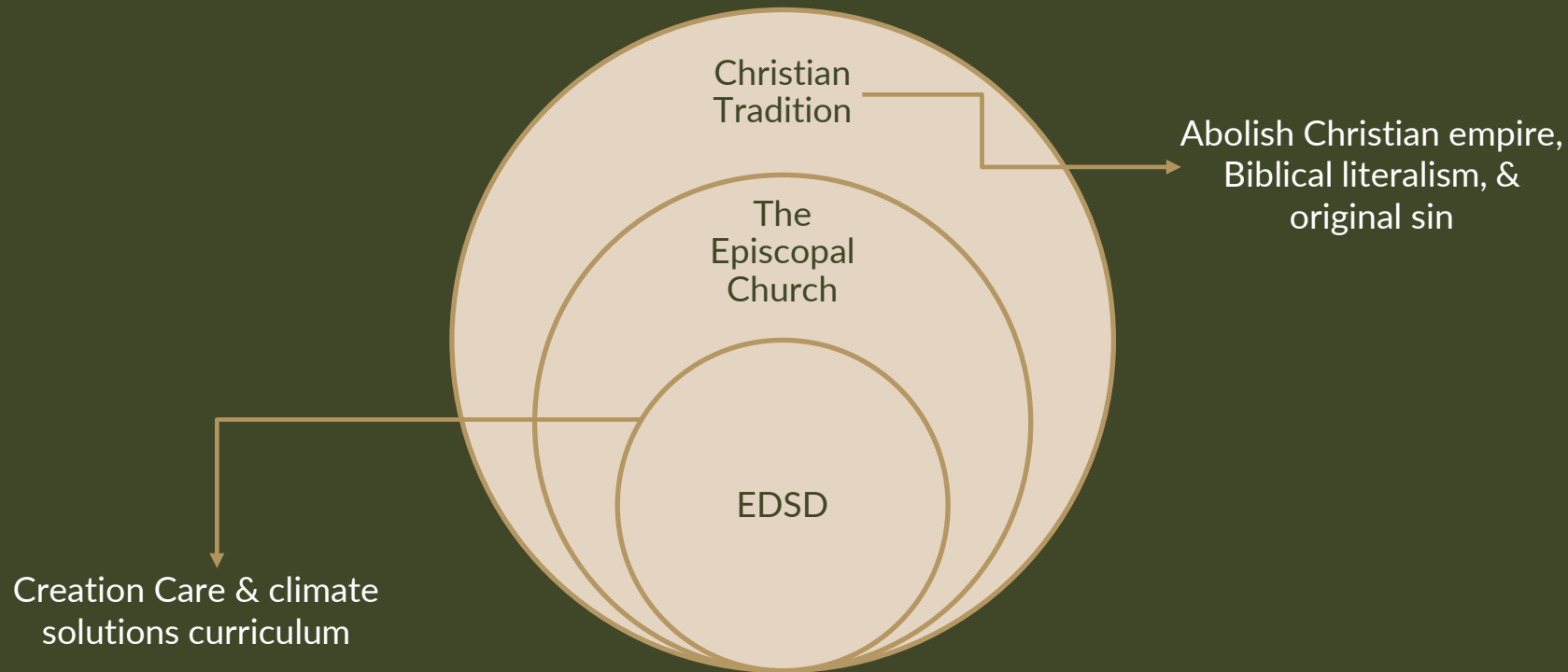


## Structure

Lean into institutional organization, build power with social movements



# Education



# Larger Community



## Adaptation Plans

Churches have deep, place-based relations with community stakeholders



## Political Support

Progressive mainliners are looking for opportunities to educate & mobilize congregations

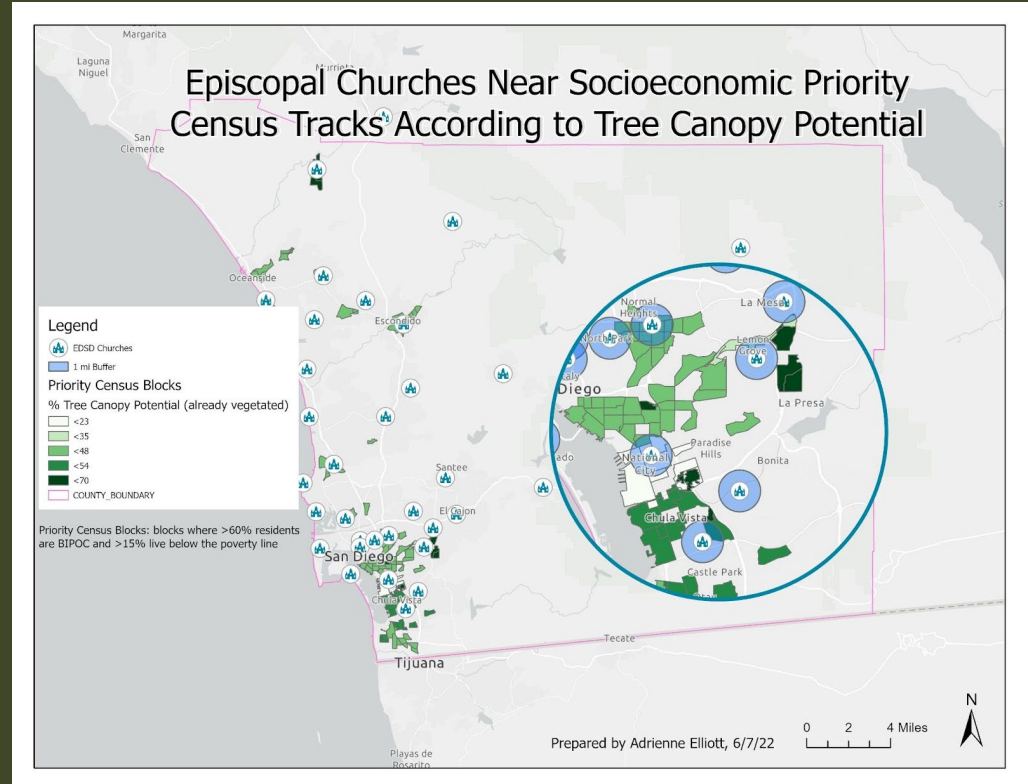


Photo by Benjamin Combs.



# EDSD Faith & Community Tree Project

- 8+ community partners
- Interfaith climate equity
- Local policy outcomes





01

# Project Background

Ministries, Diocesan Context



St. Paul's, Seattle. Photo by Laura Swimmer.



# Ministries

Faith Formation  
Multiethnic Ministry & Community Transformation



Photo: Markus Spiske



# Episcopal Diocese of Olympia

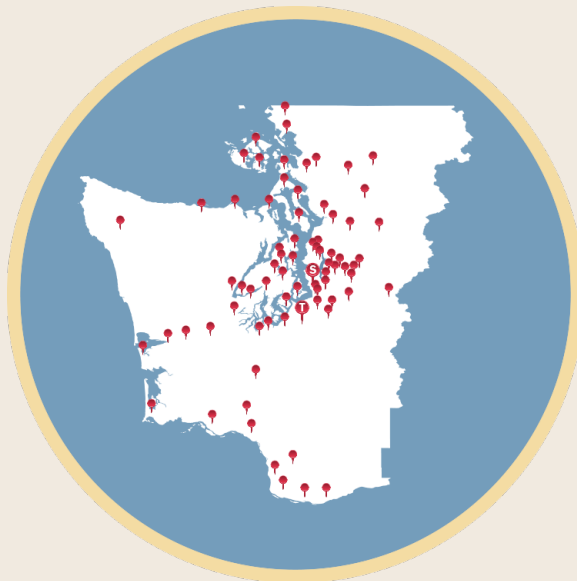


## Deep History

Eco-commitment part of  
regional and diocesan ethos

## 100+ Faith Communities

Spanning diverse microclimates &  
socioeconomic statuses



## Current Work

CJTF, Convention, ongoing  
Creation Care initiatives

## Future Goals

Creative synergy of the Spirit,  
in need of a container



02

# Program Components

What to expect & how to  
get engaged



Photo: Jonathan Kemper



# Creation Care Advisory Committee



## Origins

Possible re-organization  
of the BCE / CJTF



## Focus Areas

Possibly: Education,  
advocacy, church  
engagement, food  
justice

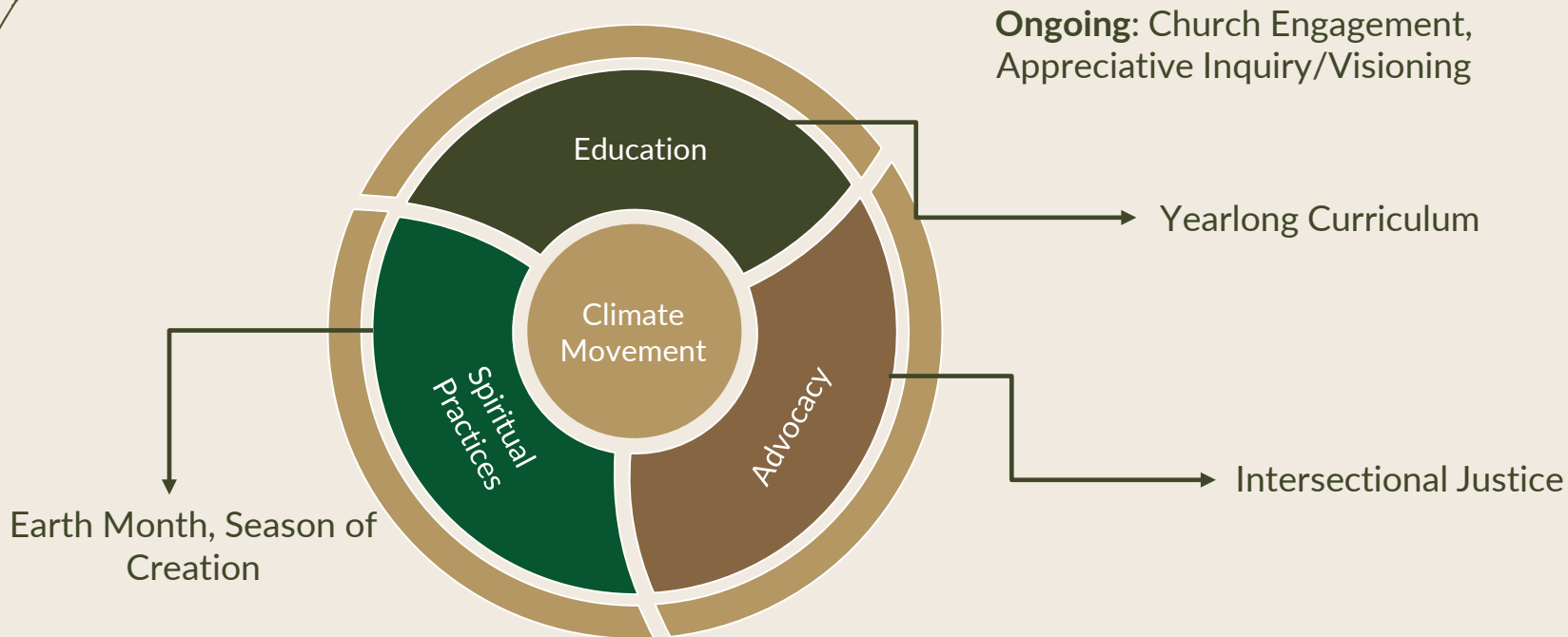


## Work

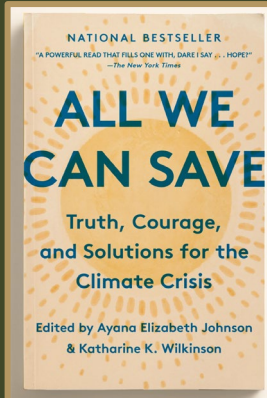
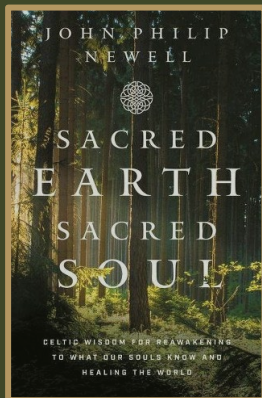
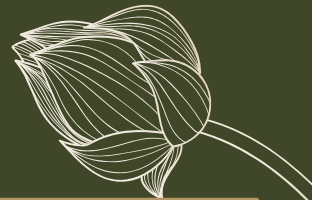
Plan, assist with  
program and future  
visioning



# Faith Contributions to Social Movements



# Yearlong Curriculum




## Supplementary materials


For those who may wish to read/watch/listen further — now or down the road — we've curated a short list of supplementary materials for each section of the anthology. They're organized by contributor and marked by type. Please share these with your Circle.


### Adrienne Rich

 [The Dream of a Common Language](#), poetry collection, 1978.


### Ayana Elizabeth Johnson

 [How to Save a Planet](#), podcast, Gimlet Media, 2020-21.


 [I'm a black climate expert. Racism derails our efforts to save the planet](#), op-ed, Washington Post, 2020.

 [What I Know about the ocean – we need ocean justice](#), essay, Sierra Magazine, 2020.

 [A love story for the coral reef crisis](#), TED Talk, 2019.

 [Our climate crisis](#), panel discussion with Rhiana Gunn-Wright and Kate Marvel, Pioneer Works, 2019.

### Katharine K. Wilkinson

 [These women are transforming what climate leadership looks like. Here's what they learned from the pandemic](#), interview, TIME, 2021.

 [A Matter of Degrees](#), podcast, co-hosted with Leah Stokes,



# Intersectional Justice

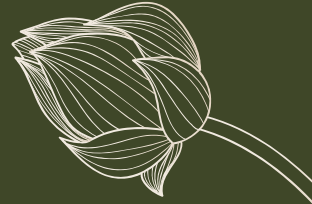


Photo: Harbor Roots Farm site



Photo: WA Environmental Council



Photo: Earth Ministry



## One River, One Community, One Home

*Established in 2001, Duwamish River Community Coalition provides resources, knowledge, and action to build more just environmental futures.*

# Earth Month, Season of Creation

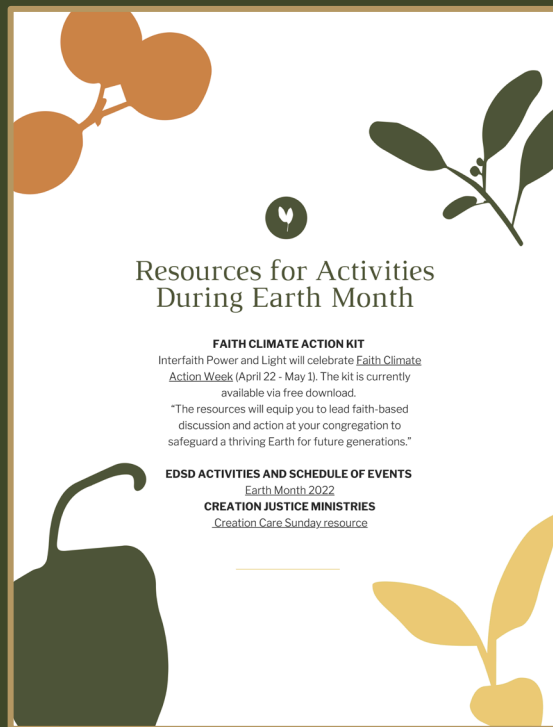
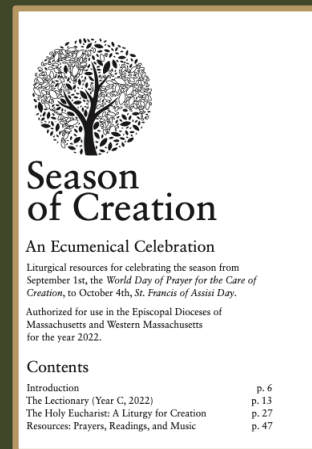


Photo by Ben White





03

# Appreciative Inquiry & Visioning

Re-membering & Integrating

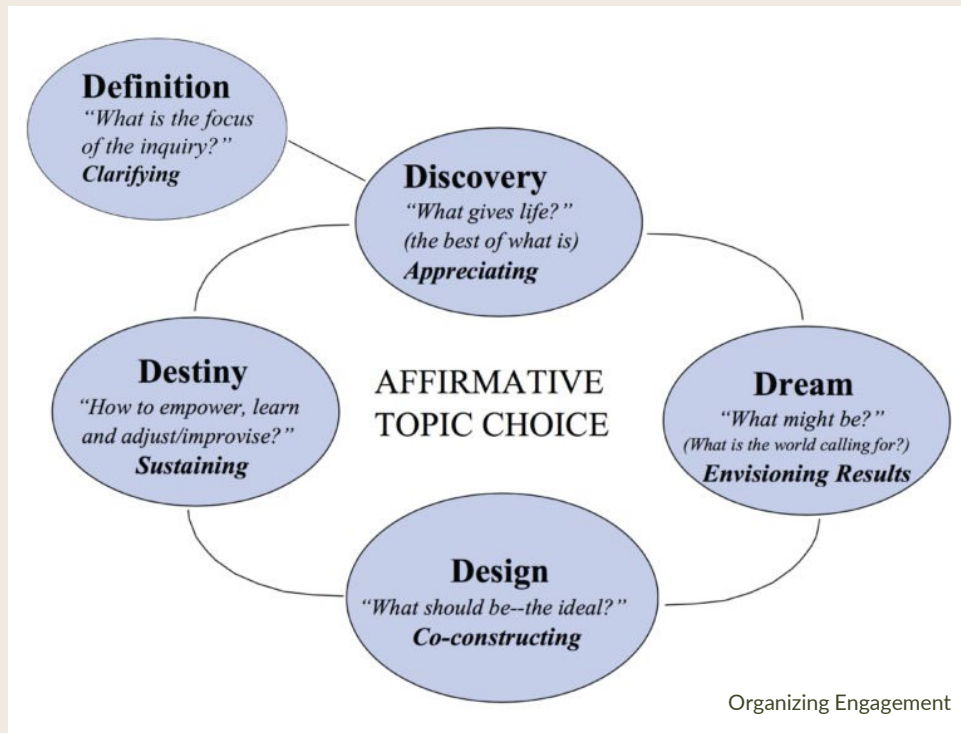


Photo Jachan Devol



# What is it?

"asset-based approach... [that] utilizes questions and dialogue to help participants uncover existing strengths, advantages, or opportunities"  
- Organizing Engagement







“Redemption happens when we wake up to the sacred interrelationship of all things and translate it into action.”



Photo by Sapan Patel.

—John Philip Newell, *Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul*



# Group Sharing, Q&A





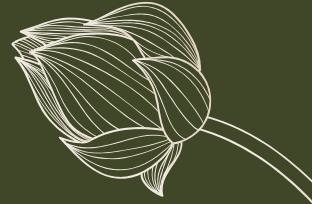


# Thanks!

Contact: Adrienne Elliott  
[adrienne@faithfulclimateaction.com](mailto:adrienne@faithfulclimateaction.com)

CREDITS: This presentation template was  
created by **Slidesgo**, including icons by  
**Flaticon**, infographics & images by **Freepik**

# Additional Picture References



<https://www.routledge.com/Systematic-Theology-and-Climate-Change-Ecumenical-Perspectives/Northcott-Scott/p/book/9780415742795>

[http://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/unitedchurchofchrist/legacy\\_url/7987/toxic-wastes-and-race-at-twenty-1987-2007.pdf?1418432785](http://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/unitedchurchofchrist/legacy_url/7987/toxic-wastes-and-race-at-twenty-1987-2007.pdf?1418432785)

<https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2021/11/12/episcopal-delegates-to-cop26-climate-conference-share-lessons-of-hope-and-struggle-with-the-church/>

<https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2022/03/28/diocese-of-california-plans-to-turn-9-acre-lot-into-affordable-housing-and-organic-farm/>

<https://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/>

<https://laudatosimovement.org/news/faith-institutions-announce-largest-ever-divestment-ahead-of-cop26/#:~:text=In%20total%2C%2072%20faith%20institutions,to%20divest%20from%20fossil%20fuels.>

<https://www.instagram.com/poorpeoplescampaign/>

<https://twitter.com/alexandrawimley/status/1137466227209703426>

Other pictures courtesy of EDSD and Unsplash.