

## **What is A Creation Justice Church?**

The United Church of Christ sponsors a program that calls for people of faith to care for God's creation and to seek justice for the oppressed. Congregations are asked to address the climate crisis, to make a sacred commitment to God for all of creation, and to engage in critical thinking about the socioeconomic dimension of environmental justice. [https://www.ucc.org/creation\\_justice\\_churches](https://www.ucc.org/creation_justice_churches)

## **Creation Justice Church Taskforce Commissioning**

May 31, 2020 the congregation of the Keene Valley Congregational Church voted to commission a Taskforce to pursue an initiative to become a Creation Justice Church. Pastor Sampson asked the Task Force to reflect upon and lead the congregation "through a time of listening for how God may be calling us to move into deeper and more profound communion with the world and its water, the sky and its clouds, the birds and creatures of the land, with other humans made from the world's rich soil, and made in God's image."

See Pastor Sampson's May 31 sermon on this KVCCNY website.

Task Force members are:

Lorraine Duvall, Chair  
Pam Gothner  
Shawn Lamarche  
Katharine Preston  
Martha Swan  
Monique Weston  
Naj Wikoff  
The Rev. John Sampson, Ex Officio

The Task Force is holding periodic virtual meetings following the guidelines of the Six Steps for becoming a Creation Justice Church as outlined by the United Church of Christ. [https://www.ucc.org/how\\_it\\_works\\_becoming\\_a\\_creation\\_justice\\_church](https://www.ucc.org/how_it_works_becoming_a_creation_justice_church)

Meetings are normally held following the Sunday morning service a couple of times a month. All are invited to join these virtual meetings, which are announced in the twice weekly KVCC email. Minutes on the activities of the Task Force will be posted on this website. Contact Task Force Chair Lorraine Duvall with any comments or questions [loradk@mac.com](mailto:loradk@mac.com).

The Task Force has been busy during June and July holding meetings with Church committees including the Worship, Building and Grounds, and Flower committees. A Creation Justice Inventory Subcommittee, headed by Pam Gothner, is looking at many items on how the Church can become more environmentally friendly. They are planning an Energy Audit of the Church buildings; are examining our use of

lighting and flowers and the handling of recyclables; and studying the pros and costs of SV panels.

The Task Force is studying ways to engage the congregation and the wider community to put us in closer communion with our sacred earth and to raise our consciousness on how the most vulnerable are affected by this climate crisis. Honoring the need to keep us safe during this Covid-19 pandemic, the Task Force is considering virtual events and outdoor activities that can be socially distanced. These events will be announced in the KVCC email blasts.