

March 2, 2018

Dear Oak Grove Presbyterian Church,

Congratulations on certification as an Earth Care Congregation! The steps your congregation has taken to care for God's earth are inspiring!

As a token of our appreciation for your ministry, we are enclosing a great booklet on biblical foundations for eco-justice. We hope these may help your earth care ministry as it grows! Also enclosed is a certificate affirming your status as an Earth Care Congregation until February 2019.

The Earth Care Congregation program is housed under the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and we believe that hunger, poverty, and environmental destruction are linked areas of concern, constantly interacting and impacting one another. We are including a sample of the *PHP Post*, which you will receive twice yearly. If you prefer to view it only online, please let us know not to send the printed copy.

Celebrating tremendous growth in PC(USA) Earth Care Congregations, we are now using a more streamlined effort to serve the growing number of congregations. The next application cycle will be January 1 – February 15, 2019. We will certify/recertify all congregations who submit applications during those 6 weeks and meet the criteria.

As an Earth Care Congregation, your church now may use the Earth Care Congregations seal to promote your commitment to earth care on your website, the church newsletter, t-shirts, etc. until the date that the certification expires. The Earth Care Congregation seal was previously sent via email.

A press release has been prepared for your church to send to local media if you would like to publicize your Earth Care Congregation certification. This press release will be sent via email and your church can fill in contact information before sending it to local media. Environmental Ministries will notify your presbytery of your certification as an Earth Care Congregation.

If in the future you are looking for a more in-depth program for additional challenges, please check out our partnership with GreenFaith.org. If you become a GreenFaith church, you will still be counted as a PC(USA) Earth Care Congregation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me. We are here to help churches along their earth care journey. If you would ever like to share a story about earth care from your congregation, let us know!

Thank you for your commitment to caring for God's earth. I look forward to working with your church in the future.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jessica".

Jessica Maudlin
Associate for Sustainable Living and Earth Care Concerns