Get Connected Through a Green Team

Isioma and Christina

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Join the conversation!

#GreenTeamSummit

@faithinplace
Who is Christina?

• Outreach Support in central and southern Illinois

• UMW Be Just Be Green Jurisdiction Guide (NCJ)

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Who is Isioma?

- Bronzeville Outreach Coordinator

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Our Mission

Faith in Place empowers Illinois people of all faiths to be leaders in caring for the Earth, providing resources to educate, connect, and advocate for healthier communities.

Since 1999, Faith in Place has worked with over 1,000 houses of worship throughout Illinois to protect our common land, water, and air.

Faith in Place is the proud Illinois Affiliate of Interfaith Power & Light
There are more molecules of water in a cup of water than cups of water in all the world's oceans. This means that some molecules in every cup of water you drink, passed through the kidneys of Genghis Khan, Napoleon, Abe Lincoln or any historical person of your choosing. Same goes for air: There are more molecules of air in a single breath of air than there are breaths of air in Earth's entire atmosphere. Therefore, some molecules of air you inhale passed through the lungs of: Billy the Kid, Joan of Arc, Beethoven, Socrates or ANY other historical person of your choosing.

Neil deGrasse Tyson
Green Team Model

Connect to Faith
Greening is an act of love, faithfulness, and praise.

Find Allies
Do not try to do this alone. There are people around you who care deeply about the issues. Support one another as you do this important work.

Celebrate!
Don’t forget to have fun! Let people rejoice together in the good work that your faith community is doing.

It’s About Justice
In order for it to have relevance to people’s lives, it needs a human face.

Don’t Scold
Because we are people of faith, our job is to fix ourselves, not fix other people. No one is blameless, so there is no need for finger-pointing.

Be Tenacious
Faith communities can move at a glacial pace. Be patient, stick with it, and ask for help when you need it.
Green Teams

First Presbyterian Church, Champaign

Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Episcopal Church, Waukegan

Covenant United Church of Christ, South Holland

St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Glen Ellyn

- 110 current active Green Teams (up from 93 last year!)
- Coach will mentor and connect your Green Team to programs and opportunities for Earth care in your area.
- Coaches will reach out twice a month and may attend your meetings and events.
1. Identify diverse, motivated, and influential members:
   » Lay and ordained
   » Members from facilities/maintenance, finance, worship, education, social action—Green should infiltrate every area in your ministry
   » Youth
How to Form a Green Team

2. Share the work:

» Successful Green Teams share the workload
» Find ways to get others in the community involved
  • Partner with other community orgs and support work already being done in your community
» Divide up responsibility: energy, food, water, advocacy
3. Meet regularly:

» Successful Green Teams meet once every 4-6 weeks
» During meetings, discuss accomplishments and challenges, outline goals, create subcommittees, assess progress, and brainstorm future activities
How to Form a Green Team

4. Celebrate, educate, challenge, and love:
   » Find “quick wins” for your community and celebrate your accomplishments publicly
   » Build momentum and a sense of pride
   » Begin to educate and challenge yourselves to bigger things
   » Keep your goals in mind, but don’t rush
   » Work with love, patience, and a teacher’s spirit
   » Keep space for loving disagreement
5. Connect to your faith:

» Green is how we live out our love for God and neighbor
» Green needs to have a human face: the burden of climate change weighs most heavily on the poor.
» Everyone is downstream (or downwind) of someone
» Our consumption is a modern-day idol
» Environmental justice = social justice
Our Program Areas

- Energy & Climate Change
- Sustainable Food & Land Use
- Water Preservation
- Advocacy
• Energy Audits & Retrofits
• Fossil Fuel Divestment
• Smart Energy Workshop
• Solar Panels
• Waste
Smart Energy Mini Grant

• **Centenary UMC in Effingham**
  – 205 educated
  – 2 smart energy programs, 1 EFIP, 3 weekend worship services
  – $2500 awarded to help recycling program

• **Normal First UMC**
  – 400 educated
  – 1 EFIP, 2 smart energy workshops, “mission moment”, weekend worship service, youth event
  – $2500 awarded to help upgrade lighting in fellowship hall

[https://www.faithinplace.org/our-programs/smart-energy-education](https://www.faithinplace.org/our-programs/smart-energy-education)
• Congregation-Supported Agriculture (CSA)
• Habitat Restoration
• Just Eating curriculum
• Migration & Me
• Native Plant & Vegetable Gardens
• Winter Farmers Markets
• Interfaith Water Curriculum
• Rain Barrels
• Rain Gardens
• Water Audit & Retrofits
• Advocacy Day
• Faithful Citizen Workshops
Activities:

- Invite an environmental justice speaker to guest preach
- Show an environmental film
- Publish eco-tips in your newsletters/bulletins
- Have an energy and/or water audit
- Write or sponsor a climate justice resolution at AC
- Do a climate/environmental justice book study
- Preach a “green” sermon during Season of Creation (Sept-Oct) or Earth Day (April 22)
Activities:

Green Movies at Covenant UCC

Native Plants / Kickapoo Woods / Creation Sunday/CSA
• Initiative between Faith in Place, State Treasurer Mike Frerichs, and Everence Federal Credit Union
• Low interest loans for energy efficient heating/cooling, structural improvements, solar panels, rain gardens, and permeable parking lots.
• Smaller-dollar improvements could include lightbulbs, programmable thermostats, pipe insulations, and faucet aerators.

https://www.faithinplace.org/our-programs/nonprofit-green-lending-program
Let’s Connect!

I am interested in learning more about Faith in Place’s programs in regards to:

**Energy & Climate Change:**
- [ ] How to save money with a peak time rebate
- [ ] Reducing energy usage and cost with hourly pricing
- [ ] Free Energy Assessments & Energy-Saving Products for your
- [ ] Home and/or
- [ ] House of Worship

**Sustainable Food & Land Use:**
- [ ] Nature Outings
- [ ] Community Gardens
- [ ] Winter Farmers Markets

**Water Preservation:**
- [ ] Interfaith Water Curriculum
- [ ] Start a Green Team/Learn More

**Advocacy:**
- [ ] Faithful Citizen Workshops
- [ ] Lobby Day in Springfield

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*Faith in Place does not share our list with anyone. Information gathered is used for program e-mails and as a consent to photos taken at this event.*
Faith in Place inspires religious people of diverse faiths to care for the Earth through education, connection, and advocacy. Since 1999, Faith in Place has worked with over 1,000 houses of worship throughout Illinois to protect our common land, water, and air. With outreach staff working across the state and offices located in Chicago, Lake County, and Central Illinois, Faith in Place inspires faithful people to care for the Earth through our four program areas: Energy & Climate Change, Sustainable Food & Land Use, Water Preservation, and Advocacy.
Exhibitor Passport

- Visit Exhibitor tables throughout the day
- Have them stamp your passport
- Turn in your passport with at least \( \frac{1}{2} \) stamped & completed Exit Survey to be entered into a drawing for prizes
Any Questions?

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