Plant the Seeds: Get Started with a Green Team

Isioma and Samantha

September 14, 2019
Join the conversation!

#RootedAndGrowing

@faithinplace
Give to Faith in Place

Text 44321 to GreenTeam19
Passports

GET YOUR STAMPED PASSPORT BY VISITING THE EXHIBIT TABLES TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR FABULOUS PRIZES

YOU NEED MORE THAN 50% STAMPS TO BE ELIGIBLE AND YOU MUST ATTEND THE PLENARY TO WIN
Who is Isioma?

- Energy and Climate Change Coordinator
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Who is Samantha?

- Energy & Climate Change Support for Chicago, Illinois
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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
Our Organizing Model

Green Teams

Green Team Coach
Why Focus on Faith Communities?
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
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
How to Form a Green Team

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
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Energy &amp; Climate Change</th>
<th>Sustainable Food &amp; Land Use</th>
<th>Water Preservation</th>
<th>Advocacy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Image of solar panels and person" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Image of apples" /></td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Image of people on beach" /></td>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Image of person speaking" /></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
• Energy Audits & Retrofits
• Nonprofit Green Lending Program
• 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
• 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, lighting and/or water audit
- FUNDrive
- Do a climate/environmental justice book club
- Stewardship
- 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
• 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

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.
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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, the North & West Suburbs, Lake County, Central Illinois, and Southern 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.

Register for our 2019 Green Team Summit
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Any Questions?

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