



April 26, 2020



## Are You an "Advocate for Justice"

We Do Justice - Join Us! In the United Church of Christ, we do justice. We started in the '60s with the Civil Rights movement. We've been advocating for gay rights since the '70s. We took on environmental racism in the '80s. And in 2005, we were the first church in America to endorse marriage equality. We're doing justice.

Doing justice, seeking peace and building community are central to the identity of the UCC. We invite you to explore the breadth and depth of the UCC's justice work. Join us in building a stronger faith-based movement for peace, justice, equality and inclusivity. Our work is rooted in the teachings of scripture and the policies of our General Synod.

To learn more, use the following link:

[https://www.ucc.org/justice\\_issues](https://www.ucc.org/justice_issues)

## Will 50 PSEC Churches Commit to Climate Action for the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day?

It was going to be the 50-50-50 challenge: 50 churches taking action during the 50 days of the Easter season for the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

But the Corona virus has changed all kinds of plans, so the Climate Justice Working Group of the Conference invites you to take climate action any time, starting now and continuing even after the 50 days of Easter season is over.

How can you do that when everyone must stay at home? Answer: Most of the resources we've listed can be done or started on line. For suggestions ranging from the simple: quit using foam cups—to the controversial: put your church's investments in "greener" places—check out our page on the web site: [www.psec.org/green](https://www.psec.org/green)

There are lots of suggestions: read a book by UCC climate activists Jim Antal or Brooks Berndt; check in at the UCC climate justice action page by going to: [https://www.ucc.org/the\\_ucc\\_council\\_for\\_climate\\_justice](https://www.ucc.org/the_ucc_council_for_climate_justice); invite your pastor to preach on the changing climate and our responsibility; go to a virtual Earth Day celebration with Interfaith Power & Light or Citizens' Climate Lobby; plan to plant trees or a garden for a UCC Love of Creation action. A family might plant a tree even when they have to do it at a social distance!

And then sign up in the format on the climate page ([psec.org/green](https://www.psec.org/green)) and let us know what you are doing on your church's behalf.

We'll recognize our 50 churches at the next PSEC meeting .

You don't have to hold an all-church vote to try out one of these actions. You and a few others, or your book group or prayer group, or youth group, can commit to one of these actions on behalf of your church, and let us know on the web page.

We have already seen how less travel and less auto use has cleaned up our air and water during the virus shutdown. Let's do our best to show our love of creation by also committing to something specific that helps care for the earth and its people whom God loves.

*Pennsylvania Southeast Conference Climate Justice Working Group*  
*Marian Shearer and Karl Jones, co-chairpersons*  
*Liz Brunton, secretary*