

Report of the Climate Justice Team  
of Pennsylvania Southeast Conference  
August, 2020

Since the Penna. Southeast Conference voted last fall to form the Climate Justice Team, subgroups met and proposed the 50-50-50 environmental challenge, hoping 50 churches would celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day during the 50 days of Easter by committing to an environmentally healing project.

Marian Shearer and Karl Jones agreed to be co-chairpersons; Liz Brunton agreed to be secretary.

With the blessing of conference consistory, we organized to roll out the invitation right after the New Year, by publicizing it in Conference mailings and by establishing a page on the PSEC web site, with help from Brea Rarick in the conference office.

The web page invites congregations to sign up to do a project, or report that they have done so. The committee provided a comprehensive and detailed list of possibilities, and more resources have since been added. The plan was to talk up the 50-50-50 project at association meetings and report at the Spring conference meeting whether we'd reached 50; and then for members of the committee to phone some churches and encourage them to take part.

And then the Corona virus struck, and churches and the PSEC spent most of their energies coping with that, and few meetings were held even on line. In spite of that, eight churches have committed to nine projects of garden-planting, recycling, composting, tree planting, and preaching about caring for the earth. They are: Epler's in Leesport; Falkner Swamp; First UCC, Royersford; Immanuel Shillington; Peace in Zion, Zieglersville; Ridge Valley, Sellersville; Tabernacle, Philadelphia; Zion, Womelsdorf.

Our hope is that we can rekindle our environmental concern when the conference meets in August, and in fall meetings of associations, and direct email. There really is no deadline except that climate change will harm us all sooner rather than later, the longer we wait to act.

Respectfully submitted, Marian Shearer and Karl Jones