



March 14, 2021

Climate Justice Team Offering Grants

Would your church like some seed money to kick-start a new season of climate-saving activities? The Climate Justice team of PSEC invites applications for grants of up to \$250, to be matched by the churches themselves.



The matching grants will be given on a first-come, first-served basis, until the team's budget of \$1,000 is met. **Please apply by April 1 at psec.org/green.**

- Could you use \$100 for seeds and soil for your community garden?
- \$100 to buy the books on climate activism and theology you've been meaning for your study group to read?
- \$200 toward the \$400 needed to replace every light bulb?
- \$250 to add to your \$250 for a \$500 jump-start on replacing a drafty window?
- \$250 toward the \$500 for food, books and activities for your environmental summer outdoor school for the neighborhood?
- A couple of hundred in sight so you can go to an individual donor and ask them to match it?

Check out the list of possible activities in the climate justice link on our web site, psec.org/green.

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Strengthen the Church Offering

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering builds up the whole United Church of Christ. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. Funding supports leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation.



Together, we can be a Spirit-inspired and world-changing Christian movement.

Pastor Samuel Chamelin explains the impact of the grant: "The quarantine made in-person activities more difficult, but it also helped us to understand the value of gathering together. While Keep and Till elected not to worship in-person in any capacity, we did continue to meet in the garden, masked and socially distanced, to continue our ag work (which is spiritual work also). This exposed us to new friends and neighbors in a way that we did not expect."

The grant literally funded the renewal of the garden. Mulch enriched the soil. A 250-gallon trough increased the water capacity. Organic pest control improved the overall yield of the garden.

But most significantly, people in the neighborhood came out to spend time in the garden. Pastor Samuel saw a renewal in people. "When a tornado destroyed the tool shed, one of those new families stepped forward to offer their old shed, in good shape. We had community members come out to hang with us and assist, and they brought real help to the garden project. Then, they noticed that we had issues with weeds and poison ivy. The family used their flame thrower to eliminate the problems. Later, we discovered that others were mowing some particularly weedy areas. And then, finally, we realized neighbors were helping each other harvest food for their tables. In this way, Keep and Till truly became a member of the community. Though our



interactions were not how we might hope them to be, we saw growth in our community, integration with the surrounding neighborhood, and stories of generosity and sharing."

