



## Creation Justice Covenant Statement History and Goals

In January of 2016 LUCC embarked on a journey to become a Creation Justice Church by initiating a process required by the Creation Justice Church Program sponsored by the UCC Minister for Environmental Justice Office in Cleveland.

A small committee was formed to shepherd us through this process. The time has come for the congregation to review the Covenant statement, suggest changes or amendments, and vote to endorse the covenant statement and our commitments to environmental and social justice.

We have worked our way through a step-wise process to arrive at this moment when our Covenant statement is ready for your approval.

- Step One: Create or Designate the Group to be the Driving Force
- Step Two: Discern and Implement Ways to “Grow Green” – Discussion in Fellowship, surveys and notes, informal conversations with many church members, and presentations on environment. Areas to be considered are:
  - Theology and Worship
  - Institutional Life and Practice
  - Circles of Awareness and Advocacy
  - Connections to a Broader Movement
- Step Three: Draft a Creation Justice Covenant
  - In the UCC, the most solemn and sacred commitment one can make is that of a covenant. It marks a serious promise to God on the part of a congregation. A covenant also entails a promise among congregants to each other as they seek “to walk together in all God’s ways” (Constitution of the United Church of Christ). After a prayerful process of discernment, those who have been leading the church in seeking designation will draft a Creation Justice Covenant to be presented to either the congregation or the governing council for a vote. There are no requirements for how it is to be written but one can read a sample covenant to begin the process of generating ideas for what should be included.
- Step Four: Vote to Adopt the Creation Justice Covenant and Become a Creation Justice

- Step Five: Submit an Application
- Step Six: Keep It Up!
  - Once a church is recognized as a Creation Justice Church, it is the responsibility of that church to maintain environmental justice as a core part of its DNA. While it is not required, it is recommended that each church revisit the four dimensions of a Creation Justice Church on an annual basis in order to measure and evaluate its progress.

Similar to the *Peace and Justice* and *Open and Affirming* designations approved by this congregation in previous years, by approving this Covenant Statement as a congregation we collectively discern and commit to our higher calling to care for creation and seek justice for the oppressed. See more detailed information on the UCC website (2018 United Church of Christ, [http://www.ucc.org/creation\\_justice\\_churches](http://www.ucc.org/creation_justice_churches)).

After voting to accept our Covenant and applying for Creation Justice Church status with the national office, we will determine more specifically how we will live out our commitment with best practices and actions, some of which we have already instituted.

Please seriously consider the words of this Covenant as you review the document and decide on approval.

Thank you.

LUCC Creation Justice Task Force