

## Earth Care Bloomington

### Our commitment, vision and mission

Earth Care is an interfaith group that accepts our urgent moral responsibility to protect all life by curbing wanton climate change. The earth is sacred, all its creatures depend on each other, and we must nurture and care for it. This work is a matter of justice: the climate catastrophe will fall most heavily on the vulnerable poor although they contribute the least to heat-trapping emissions.

We seek to listen to and work with all concerned religious communities and individuals in order to create an ever-widening circle of care for the earth and its beings. We urge all Indiana's religious communities to be centers of this care - by living more prudently and speaking up for policies that embody earth care – and we invite all people of faith to join in this sacred responsibility.

We envision that, together, people of faith will help create the tipping point in consciousness and action needed to preserve our sacred earth. To realize this vision, our mission is to bring people of faith together to help curb global climate change by educating, acting, and speaking up.

### What we do and why

Because personal energy usage accounts for one third of our heat-trapping CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, reducing this usage is a quick way that we can significantly reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Therefore, Earth Care focuses on:

- Educating our communities and the public about personal actions that will cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions,
- Reducing the emissions of our congregations: modeling there the change we seek all over,
- Engaging other congregations in this work, and
- Speaking up about key policies that affect CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, as advised by our Council of Experts.

Earth Care enables its members to collaborate; share information, ideas, and resources; and support each other to be more effective in our work to “green” our own communities.

### How we do it

**Earth Care members** are individuals, congregations, congregational greening groups, and clergy that share our vision and mission. Members carry out our activities through **working groups** (WGs) including the *Cut Your Carbon* Workshops WG, Walk-Bike-Carpool-Bus to Church WG, Green Our Buildings WG, Recycling for Congregations WG, and Earth Care Structure WG.

Up to two members from each congregation (whether or not it is a member of Earth Care) and clergy make up our **Steering Committee**, which appoints an **Executive Committee** that includes two **Coordinators**. In consultation with the Steering Committee, the Executive Committee makes decisions and guides Earth Care to achieve its vision. A **Clergy Council** of religious leaders helps ground, guide and expand our work. A **Panel of Experts** advises Earth Care on policy questions.

### Who we are

Born in late 2007, Earth Care now includes fifteen congregations or their greening groups, individual members of other congregations, and clergy. We warmly welcome new members.

## **Current Earth Care Members**

Bloomington Friends Meeting  
Bloomington Islamic Center  
Congregation Beth Shalom, Greening Group  
Dagom Gaden Tensung Ling Monastery  
First Christian  
Earth Stewards Group of First Presbyterian  
First United Church  
St. Paul Catholic Center  
Saint Thomas Lutheran  
Sanshin Zen Community  
Tibetan Mongolian Buddhist Cultural Center  
Trinity Episcopal  
Unitarian Universalist, Green Sanctuary Taskforce  
Unity  
University Baptist  
Individuals from All Saint's Orthodox Christian, St. Marks, and Sherwood Oaks  
Retired congregational clergy