

Spirit of Peace Church Vision and Purpose Action Plan

Version 1, Approved 13 April 2023

Spirit of Peace is a community of faith and spiritual practice that is committed to living out its faith and values through effective and sustained action on climate justice.

We want Spirit of Peace to be recognized in the community as an advocate for Climate Justice. We want to become known as an “Intergenerational Planet Care” community.

Sacred Calling, Sacred Earth

- We will use a foundational theology of Creation Care to guide our work as stewards of the earth and all life. Our theology will come from scriptural sources: we will “read the bible through a green lens” (Calvin B. DeWitt)
- We will educate ourselves about the far-reaching effects of climate change, including how it affects those on the margins and the most vulnerable among us. That includes the numerous health consequences of our use of plastic and other toxic chemicals and understanding how “loving the earth is loving the poor” (Gordon Aeschliman) as Jesus bade us do.
- We will weave the spirituality of climate justice, planet care and environmental stewardship into our regular worship services.

Connecting People and Deepening Relationships as we work together

- We will work intergenerationally, allowing all of us to learn from one another’s experience and perspective as we face all the changes of an uncertain environmental future.
- We will host a variety of events and community gatherings to learn, teach, brainstorm, sing, repair, encourage and work side by side to heal our planet. These events might include nature walks and field trips, working in our community garden, cooking together, planting trees and native species, cleaning rain drains, singing and telling stories, etc.
- We will partner with other organizations, such as Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light (MNIPL) and will work to become a Climate Justice Congregation
- We will connect on environmental care with other congregations in our area, our state, our country and across the world.

Concrete, Practical Actions and Education

- We will use our creativity and resources to create practical, fun, purposeful events that address environmental concerns AND offer community belonging. Here are several examples:
 - We organize ‘Meatless Meal Mondays’ to eat one meatless meal a week for two months. We could share recipes and make a cookbook to make it easy to participate, and we could swap weekly comments about our great meatless meals and celebrate with a meatless meal potluck at the end. Along the way, we educate our congregation (and our community) in how eating less meat helps the environment.
 - We will continue to compost and collect flexible plastics at church, and improve composting and recycling by other users of the building.
 - We will continue to provide information and education to our congregation on reducing their household carbon footprint.

- We will have an eco-friendly Easter Hunt without plastic eggs or toys. We would use envelopes and the “treasures” inside the envelopes would be made of paper, rock, shells, or wood.
- We could Adopt a Highway or creek or river, to clean litter and plastic.
- We could participate in “Buy Nothing” in downtown Hopkins
- We could sponsor a Craft Day to make gifts and crafts from items found in nature.

Promoting systemic and policy change:

- We will educate our congregation on local, state and national environmental issues, news and challenges, and will encourage congregation members to be actively involved in making our concerns known to leaders and politicians.
- We will advocate for public policies that increase renewable energy, address climate change and work for long-term sustainability.

We covenant to achieve these intentions by establishing an “Intergenerational Planet Care” team, made up of young people and adults, who will meet regularly to direct and implement our action plan.