

ELPC is an Earth Care Congregation

ELPC received the first year certification as an Earth Care Congregation by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Presbyterian Hunger Program in March 2020. We were recertified through February 2022. This honor speaks to the great commitment that ELPC has made to care for God's Earth.



To become an Earth Care Congregation, ELPC affirmed an Earth Care Pledge to integrate environmental practices and thinking into their worship, education, facilities, and outreach.

The Earth Care Congregation certification is designed to recognize churches that make the commitment to take seriously God's charge to "till and keep" the garden.

Started in 2010 by the PC(USA), the goal of this program is to inspire churches to care for God's Earth in a holistic way, through integrating Earth care into all aspects of their church life. The Earth Care Congregation certification honors churches that make the commitment to intentionally care for God's Earth and encourages others to follow their example.

Earth Care Pledge: The Earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this Earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family.

Our **worship** and discipleship will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation and declare that God calls us to cherish, protect and restore this Earth.

In **education**, we will seek learning and teaching opportunities to know and understand the threats to God's creation and the damage already inflicted. We will encourage and support each other in finding ways of keeping and healing the creation in response to God's call to Earth-keeping, justice and community.

Our **facilities** will be managed, maintained, and upgraded in a manner that respects and cherishes all creation, human and non-human, while meeting equitably the needs of all people. In our buildings and on our grounds we will use energy efficiently, conserve resources, and share what we have in abundance so that God's holy creation will be sustainable for all life and future generations.

Our **outreach** will encourage public policy and community involvement that protects and restores the vulnerable and degraded earth as well as oppressed and neglected people. We will be mindful that our personal and collective actions can positively or negatively affect our neighborhood, region, nation and world. We will seek to achieve environmental justice through coalitions and ecumenical partnerships.