

**REPORT TO 2024 DIOCESAN CONVENTION
FROM THE
DIOCESAN CREATION CARE TEAM**

Following the reorganization of the Justice Councils we changed our name from the Diocesan Climate Justice Council to the Diocesan Creation Care Team. Our mission is to bear witness through the people of the Diocese of Maine to the need for justice in our relations with all living things, with those on the margins who bear the brunt of climate change, and with all creation. We aim to advocate, network and inspire through education, action, and worship so that the diocese as a whole might fulfill its calling to care for creation.

Our chair is Sarah Braik and the scribe is Steve Ward. Starting in January Steve and Sarah will switch roles. Jenny Reece will continue to manage Earth Keeper support with the assistance of Meredith Tipton. We are currently in the process of reviewing our mission and goals. Our web page is located at <https://episcopalmaine.org/ministries/advocacy/creation-care/>.

Our goals for 2024 are

1. Nourish, support and provide resources for Earth Keepers already in place.
2. Be an evocative, interesting and colorful presence at all Diocesan events and gatherings
3. Offer liturgies, prayers, etc to the congregations on and around Earth Day in April and during the Season of Creation in September
4. Improve/enhance our communication with the Diocese through the DioLog (and any other Diocesan communication tools)
5. Offer some experiential opportunities around the Diocese that actually get folks outdoors

We support Earth Keeper teams in 20 parishes. The Rev. Dr. Jenny Reece hosts regular Earth Keeper support Zoom meetings and organized an Earth Keeper retreat at Camp Bishopswood on September 13 and 14, the weekend of Summer Finale, which gave us the opportunity to interact with parishioners from around the Diocese and tell them about the Earth Keeper program. Earth Keepers have been asked to help their parishes to complete a Covenant to Care for Creation with goals at the individual, parish and local, state and national advocacy levels.

We had an [article](#) about our work published in the Virginia Theological Seminary Building Faith newsletter in March. We also played a role in [Solar Faithful](#)'s efforts to enable faith communities in Maine to buy into a solar farm or farms.

This year we continued to offer resources for Earth Day and Season of Creation and will continue to do so. Next year we hope to be more active in our advocacy role. We will also be planning a field trip open to all to the [Church of the Woods](#) in Canterbury NH. We will be

promoting [“Love God, Love God’s World” Creation Care Curriculum](#) throughout the Diocese. It is a nine-week program based on Becoming Beloved Community for small groups of 8-12 persons, either in individual parishes or in collaboration with other parishes. In 2025 we will plan some face-to-face meetings for the education, and support of Earth Keepers, including one in the Northern part of our State. Another 2025 goal will be to encourage at least ten more churches to join in the Earth Keeper program

We are always looking for new members. We meet the third Thursday January through November from 3-4 PM. FMI email Sarah at sbraik642@gmail.com. We are also actively looking for folks who are interested in being Earth Keepers in remaining parishes. Earth Keepers have the freedom to plan goals with the input of their parish, consistent with the needs, interest and culture of the parish. Please contact Rev. Dr. Jenny Reece at revdrjmr@gmail.com if you would like to know more about being an Earth Keeper, starting an Earth Keeper team in your parish, or helping your parish complete the Covenant to Care for Creation.