

Earth Care Congregations

an Environmental Ministries program of the Presbyterian Hunger Program

First Year Certification Application Materials

Form 1 Earth Care Congregation (ECC) Information and Earth Care Congregation (ECC) Audit for Certification

Form 2 Next Steps/Visioning

Form 3 Earth Care Pledge (must be signed by the clerk of session and then scanned/emailed or mailed)

Forms must be typed into, saved onto your computer, and then attached to an email to environment@pcusa.org and Rebecca.barnes@pcusa.org.

Applications accepted January 1-February 15, each year.

FORM 1 ECC Information and ECC Audit

Contact and Congregational Information

Date:	26-Jan-16
Name of congregation:	Springdale Presbyterian Church
Number of members:	304
Street address:	7812 Brownsboro Road
City:	Louisville
State:	KY
Zip:	40241
Contact person:	Mary Pace
Contact phone:	(502) 386-8273
Contact email:	pacemaryj@gmail.com
Pastor's name:	John Oerter
Church office phone:	(502) 425-1760
Church/earth care team web site address:	www.springdalechurch.org
Number of Earth Care Team members:	6 (+Pastor, ex officio)
Date Earth Care Team was formed:	1/28/2016
Name of team if not called "earth care team:"	Earth Care Team
Presbytery:	Mid-Kentucky
Presbytery staff person's name (to announce certification):	John Odom
Presbytery staff person's email address:	john@midkentuckypresbytery.org

INTRODUCTION

Earth Care Teams can decide the best way to move forward with this application. Steps include completing the following audit of their church's practices and asking session to affirm the Earth Care Pledge. There are four categories to be assessed in the audit: worship, education, facilities and outreach. For initial certification, identify the points associated with the correct answer for your congregation and write the points for each answer in the column on the right marked "Points." Twenty-five points are needed in each category the first time you apply for certification as an Earth Care Congregation. A total of fifty points, with at least five in each category, are needed for recertification for each year after initial certification. For initial certification, facilities upgrades can be made at any previous time, but worship, education and outreach activities must have occurred in the past year. For recertification, all upgrades and activities in all categories must have occurred in the past year.

NOTES AND DIRECTIONS

Tips and resources for completing activities in each of the areas are provided in "Earth Care Congregations: A Guide to Greening Presbyterian Churches," found at <http://www.pcusa.org/media/uploads/environment/pdf/earth-care-guidebook.pdf>.

To record points, the numbers above the dotted line represent the number of times an action has been completed. The numbers directly across from the mentioned activity are the points associated with the number of times that action has been completed. To mark each item, locate the activity, look at the "number of times completed" row at the top and then drop down in the appropriate column to locate the point value. For instance, if your church devoted one Sunday to earth care in the past year, you receive 5 points whereas if your church had 5 such Sundays, you receive 25 points.

In some sections, the application invites you to share a resource your church has located and appreciated (glass communion cup, cleaning supplies, Vacation Bible School curriculum). This optional sharing of resources can help other congregations wanting to make changes.

In other areas of the audit, you are invited to share measurables where appropriate and known. All of the estimations/approximations should be figured for the full year. This optional information helps us to communicate what Presbyterians can do, together, across the U.S., when our efforts are combined.

notes and directions continued...

If you use the EPA EnergyStar portfolio manager, it tracks these measurables for you. For more information about the portfolio manager visit www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=evaluate_performance.bus_portfoliomanager and please let us know you are participating (so we can track cumulative impact)!

The activities listed on this audit are by no means the only way for your congregation to act as stewards of God's earth! The audit was created to standardize a scoring system for the program. Please use the "other" section, listed after outreach, to write in other activities that your congregation has completed. You are encouraged to send in further information and pictures from events with your ECC application.

If you have any questions about the audit, please do not hesitate to contact Environmental Ministries at environment@pcusa.org or (800) 728-7228, x5624.

Send completed application (Forms 1, 2, and 3) by email to: Rebecca.Barnes@pcusa.org and environment@pcusa.org.

EARTH CARE CONGREGATION AUDIT

Worship (25 points needed for certification, for overall 100 point total)

Number of Actions	1	2	3	4	5	POINTS
Number of Sundays devoted to earth care in the past year	5	10	15	20	25	0
Number of worship services conducted outdoors in the past year	5	10	15	20	25	0
Number of sermons on earth care in the past year**	5	10	15	20	25	0
Number of earth care awareness dramas or dances in worship in the past year	5	10	15	20	25	0
Number of trees/shrubs planted for new members, baptisms, confirmations, etc	2	4	6	8	10	8
Number of Actions	1	5	10	25	50	Points
Number of Sundays that worship services had an intentional earth care component (prayers, hymns, readings) in the past year **	2	4	6	8	10	0
Number of Sundays that an earth care themed banner or other art was displayed in the past year	2	4	6	8	10	0
Number of Sundays that locally grown, pesticide free flowers were used in the sanctuary	2	4	6	8	10	0
Number of Sundays that a Minute for Mission on earth care issues was presented	2	4	6	8	10	0
Number of Sundays with a paperless service	2	4	6	8	10	0
Number of Actions	Yes	No				Points
Did your church purchase Eco-Palms for Palm Sunday?	5	0				5
Did your church promote and participate in an earth care-focused Lent discipline? **	10	0				0
Does your church use glass communion cups or regularly do communion by intinction? **	10	0				10
Does your church have an outdoor meditation labyrinth or prayer garden?	10	0				10
Did your church sponsor an event for members to write a song, sermon, or prayer with an earth care theme?	10	0				0
Subtotal for worship:						Subtotal Worship Points 33

** If you recommend particular worship resources or sources for glass cups, devotional materials, etc. please share here:

alivingtribute.org (trees - memory/honor)

Education (25 points needed for certification, for overall 100 point total)

Number of Actions	1	2	3	4	5	POINTS
Number of children's/youth Sunday school courses (series of classes) on earth care	12	14	16	18	20	0
Number of adult courses (series of classes) with an earth care focus	12	14	16	18	20	12
Number of days Vacation Bible School had an earth care theme	4	8	12	16	20	16
Number of guest earth care speakers or programs	4	8	12	16	20	0
Number of classes held outside	1	2	3	4	5	0
Number of youth projects related to earth care conducted	4	8	12	16	20	4
Number of articles/announcements about earth care in the bulletin/newsletter	4	8	12	16	20	0
Number of months a bulletin board on earth care was displayed	2	4	6	8	10	0
Number of pages on the church's website devoted to earth care	4	8	12	16	20	0
Number of books, games, videos, or other materials with an earth care focus in the church library	1	2	3	4	5	0

Number of educational events focused on sustainable lifestyle choices for members	12	14	16	18	20	0
Number of times email messages about earth care sent to church members	1	2	3	4	5	0
Number of earth care fairs or educational events held	12	14	16	18	20	0
Number of art displays or exhibits focused on earth care held at church	4	8	12	16	20	0
Number of Actions	Yes	No				Points
Is an earth care component included in confirmation classes?	5	0				0
Is an earth care component included in new member classes?	5	0				0
Subtotal Education Points						32

Subtotal for education:

*** If you can recommend particular curricula, books, speakers, please share here:*

Facilities (25 points needed for certification, for overall 100 point total)

POINTS

Energy Conservation	Yes	No				
Has your church earned recognition for greening efforts from other groups?*	10	0				0
Does your church have any LEED-certified buildings?	10	0				0
Has your session approved a plan to become carbon neutral? (suggested in the General Assembly 2006 Carbon Neutral Challenge)	5	0				0
Does your church purchase renewable energy, i.e., wind, solar?	5	0				0
Has your church performed an energy audit and implemented at least two of the suggested items?	5	0				0
Did your church perform 2 pre-season (prior to heat/prior to air conditioning) checkups to maintain its HVAC system in the past year?	2	0				2
Heating/Cooling	0 some half most all					Points
Are your church's furnaces high-efficiency models?	0	2	3	4	5	3 (when installed 15 years ago)
Are your church's air conditioners high-efficiency models?	0	2	3	4	5	3 (when installed 15 years ago)
Are your church's HVAC systems programmable to turn on and off at set times?	0	2	3	4	5	5
Are your church's HVAC systems zoned so that not all rooms need to be heated/cooled at the same time?	0	2	3	4	5	5
Number of outside doors that seal tightly	0	2	3	4	5	0
Number of windows that seal tightly	0	2	3	4	5	5
Number of windows that are double-pane	0	3	5	7	10	7
Number of windows that are covered with plastic/storm windows for energy efficiency	0	2	3	4	5	4
Lighting	0 some half most all					Points
Number of fixtures with efficient light bulbs: compact fluorescent light bulbs, LEDs, or efficient T8 tube lights	0	2	5	7	10	2
Number of exit signs with light emitting diode (LED) bulbs	0	2	5	7	10	0
Number of restrooms with motion sensors on lights	0	2	3	4	5	2
Number of classrooms with motion sensors on lights	0	2	3	4	5	0
Number of rooms with signs to turn off lights when you leave the room (if no motion sensors)	0	1	2	3	4	0
Heating water	0 some half most all					Points
Number of church's water heaters tankless or on-demand?	0	2	3	4	5	0
Renewable energy and alternative building*	Yes	No				Points
Does your church use geothermal energy to heat and cool its facilities?	10	0				0

Does your church have solar panels?	10	0				0
Does your church have a wind turbine to generate power?	10	0				0
Does your church have cob, straw bale, or rammed-earth tire construction?	10	0				0
Water conservation	<u>0 some half most all</u>					Points
Number of dual-flush or low-flow toilets installed	0	2	5	7	10	0
Number of waterless urinals installed	0	2	5	7	10	0
Number of faucets with aerators	0	2	3	4	5	4
Recycling/waste	<u>0 some half most all</u>					Points
Amount of recycled paper purchased	0	1	3	4	5	0
Number of copies made that were double-sided	0	1	3	4	5	4
Aluminum, glass, plastic, and/or paper recycled*	0	1	3	4	5	4
Amount of food scraps and lawn/garden waste that is composted	0	1	3	4	5	0
Amount of purchased paper products (napkins, paper towels, toilet tissue) made with recycled paper	0	1	3	4	5	0
Amount of electronic equipment recycled*	0	1	3	4	5	4
	Yes	No				Points
Does your church serve as a recycling drop-off for church members and/or the community?	5	0				0
Are church members given the option of receiving the church newsletter via email?	3	0				3
Reusing	<u>0 some half most all</u>					Points
Number of plates used that are reusable	0	1	3	4	5	3
Number of cups used that are reusable	0	1	3	4	5	0
Amount of flatware used that is reusable	0	1	3	4	5	5
Number of events where water is served from pitchers (not disposable water bottles)	0	1	3	4	5	5
Number of tablecloths used that are reusable	0	1	3	4	5	4
Food consumption	<u>0 some half most all</u>					Points
Amount of coffee served that is fair trade	0	1	3	4	5	3
Number of meals with vegetarian choices	0	1	3	4	5	5
Amount of organically or local food used	0	1	3	4	5	1
Cleaning Products	<u>0 some half most all</u>					Points
Number of cleaners used that are less-toxic, i.e., vinegar, baking soda, salt, borax	0	1	3	4	5	1
Grounds	<u>0 some half most all</u>					Points
Amount of fossil fuel-based fertilizers used on grounds in past year	5	3	2	1	0	0
Amount of chemical pesticides, including herbicides, used indoors and out in the past year	5	3	2	1	0	0
Amount of plants on the church grounds that are native	0	1	3	4	5	1
	Yes	No				Points
Has your church established a wildlife habitat on the church grounds?	5	0				0
Does your church have a bike rack on its property?	2	0				0
Storm water management	Yes	No				Points
Does your facility have a rain barrel or cistern to catch water from gutters for later watering needs?	5	0				0
Does your church have a rain garden, bioswale, or other feature to help manage storm water runoff?	5	0				0
	<u>0 some half most all</u>					Points
Amount of the parking lot that has permeable pavement	0	2	5	7	10	0

Subtotal for facilities:

Subtotal Facilities Points

79

**Please specify, ENERGY STAR, Portfolio Manager, GreenFaith, IPL, or other:*

**If known, amount of money and energy saved from above "energy efficiency" efforts:*

**How many kilowatt hours per year does your renewable energy cover:*

**If known, approx. lbs of mixed recycling (aluminum, plastic, glass, and/or paper):*

**If known, approx. lbs of recycled electronic equipment:*

**If known, approx. square footage of certified wildlife habitat:*

***If you recommend particular environmentally-friendly products, companies, sources, please share here:*

one 30+ gallon container per week
20-30 lbs per year

Outreach BEYOND YOUR OWN CHURCH (25 points needed for certification, for overall 100 point total)

POINTS

Number of Actions	1	2	3	4	5	Points
Getting out into God's Creation						
Number of camping trips, nature walks or outings in which your church has participated	4	8	12	16	20	4
Youth group sponsoring a pick-up trash or stream clean-up	4	8	12	16	20	8
Witnessing to Corporate Lifestyle Changes						
Number of days alternative transportation (walk/bike/bus/carpool) to church	4	8	12	16	20	0
Number of times used materials were donated for re-use in social justice projects such as Habitat for Humanity, clothes closets, etc	2	4	6	8	10	6
Number of times a service project related to earth care conducted	4	8	12	16	20	0
Engaging in Public Policy Awareness and Advocacy						
Number of times your session voted to take a stand on local, regional, or national earth care legislation	4	8	12	16	20	0
Number of times members were encouraged to write or email elected officials about earth care legislation (local and/or national)	2	4	6	8	10	0
Number of public hearings or visits to elected officials' offices to advocate for earth care legislation in which a group from your church participated	4	8	12	16	20	0
Number of times petitions were available for members to sign for earth care campaigns or strategies	2	4	6	8	10	0
Number of times the earth care issues from the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness, Hunger Program, Environmental Ministries, Creation Justice Ministries, or related email actions were used in an educational setting in the congregation	2	4	6	8	10	0
Standing with others						
Number of times co-sponsored an environmentally-related event with other local churches, environmental organizations, or other partners	4	8	12	16	20	0
Number of times someone from your congregation provided assistance or leadership to another congregation wanting to engage in earth care	4	8	12	16	20	0
Number of times members of your church stood in solidarity with members of a community negatively impacted by environmental racism/classism/injustice	4	8	12	16	20	4
Spreading the word						

Number of times your church received local press, presbytery news, or other wider sharing of your earth care efforts?	4	8	12	16	20	0
Number of times visitors/new members/returning members mention importance of earth care efforts as a Christian witness of this congregation?	2	4	6	8	10	0
Number of times church members join local environmental organizations in their activities?	4	8	12	16	20	12
Number of events/activities that involve young adults (18-30 year olds) in earth care programs of the church?	4	8	12	16	20	0
	Yes	No				Points
Is your church a group member of Presbyterians for Earth Care (presbyearthcare.org)?	5	0				0
Does your church sponsor a scholarship or send a member to attend the Presbyterians for Earth Care biennial conference?	5	0				0
Does your church host direct farm marketing (including farmers markets, Community Supported Agriculture, buying clubs, or after services farm stand)?	5	0				5
Does your church sponsor, offer, or attend a mission trip focused on an earth care issue?*	10	0				10
Does your church have an international partnership with a church, presbytery, or community organization working for environmental justice in their area?*	10	0				0
Did your church sponsor an e-trash recycling or household hazardous waste day for the community?	5	0				0
Does your church sponsor a community garden?	10	0				0
Does your church share or rent office space with non-profit groups?	5	0				5
Has your church purchased Sweat-Free T-shirts (made with organic cotton)?	5	0				0
Does your church collaborate with other Presbyterian, ecumenical, interfaith, or secular groups focused on earth care?	5	0				0
Does your church participate in gleaning projects (saving/reusing food from farms)?	10	0				0

Subtotal Outreach Points

Subtotal for outreach:

54

*Hosting mission trip organization, if you can recommend for others:

<http://www.guatemalastoveproject.org/>

*Country/name of partnership:

*How many acres is your garden:

*How many lbs of food/year does your garden produce:

*If known, approx. lbs food gleaned:

** If you recommend particular environmentally-themed mission trip sites, public policy tools, and other resources for outreach , please share here:

TOTALS

POINTS

Subtotal for Worship
 Subtotal for Education
 Subtotal for Facilities
 Subtotal for Outreach

33
32
79
54

Total Points:

198

Other earth care activities your church has completed or other information to share:

Our Building & Grounds Ministry Team encourages you to add the following to the assessment: "Does your church use mulch on outdoor trees and shrubs to retain moisture and decrease water consumption?" (We do this.)

Name and contact information of anyone in your congregation who has technical environmental expertise and would be willing to consult/share knowledge on a limited basis with another PCUSA congregation trying to care for God's earth:

Congratulations on finishing your Earth Care Congregations Information and Environmental Audit, and on all the good work that your congregation has done to protect God's creation. Thank you for your ministry!

If your audit shows that your congregation has earned at least 25 points in each category, with an overall total of 100 points, you should qualify for certification. Please proceed to Form 2.

FORM 2 Next Steps/Visioning

We invite you to include photos, bulletins, or newsletter articles in order to share ideas and best practices among congregations. We would be happy to highlight your congregation's good work if we receive a good paragraph about your congregation's particular program(s) that you think would be of interest to others. In addition to pictures and good description you might think about including a quotation from the pastor, a church member, or a youth/young adult. Please include paragraph below under "other" or attached in an email.

Briefly describe your plans for recertification in each of the four areas for next year (50 points will be needed to be re-certified--at least 5 in each category):

WORSHIP:

Springdale plans to hold an Earth Day service on April 24, 2016. We will have at least one Minute for Mission focused on earth care issues, and we will encourage (and track) the intentional use of prayers, hymns and readings that focus on earth care in our worship services. We will promote a Lenten photo-a-day reflection (via our website) and will continue our current earth care practices in worship (Eco-Palms, etc.)

EDUCATION:

In addition to continuing current earth care practices in education, we plan to incorporate intentional earth care elements in our Springdale 101 (new member/inquirer class) and Confirmation classes. We also plan to use the church newsletter, bulletin, and website to intentionally promote caring for creation.

FACILITIES:

In addition to continuing our established earth care practices, we will do the following: We will begin replacing existing fluorescent bulbs in overhead fixtures throughout the building with energy efficient LED tubes that have a 10-year life expectancy. We plan to request an "Energy Audit" of our church building from Louisville Gas and Electric for consideration in planning future projects and in replacing existing plant (HVAC, plumbing, electrical, etc.). We will implement at least two of the recommendations resulting from the audit, providing adequate funds exist to do so. We plan to place stickers at each light switch reminding folks to "Please turn off lights when room is not in use." We plan to install a motion sensor LED lighting fixture at the entrance to the Pre-School along with LED roping across the upper canopy. We will replace the existing outdoor East-facing, motion sensor light fixture (Klein Chapel) with one that uses efficient LED bulbs.

OUTREACH:

In ongoing initiatives we will sponsor a pick-up trash or stream clean-up; we will donate used materials for re-use in social justice projects; we will continue to stand in solidarity with a community negatively impacted environmentally (Portland); we will host a CSA; and we will continue to rent office space to non-profit groups. In new initiatives for 2016 we will plan and/or promote participation in nature walks/outings; we will conduct a service project related to earth care; we will highlight earth care issues in an educational setting; we will become a member of Presbyterians for Earth Care, we will sponsor an e-trash recycling or household hazardous waste day; and we will collaborate with other Presbyterian, ecumenical and secular groups re. earth care.

OTHER:

When a group of members at Springdale Presbyterian Church of Louisville, Kentucky first began considering becoming an Earth Care Congregation last summer, the assessment seemed daunting. Once we decided to move forward (with many thinking we probably wouldn't qualify as an Earth Care Congregation yet, but that we could start working on things to be certified next year) many of the group were very surprised that even with a conservative approach to the assessment, we had 198 points with well over 25 in each category. The process of going through the assessment encouraged us and gave us lots of ideas for actions we could incorporate into our plans for this year. If you are on the fence about doing the assessment - take it from us, you may be surprised to see how much you are doing. We were!

FORM 3 Earth Care Pledge*The below Earth Care Pledge is affirmed by:*

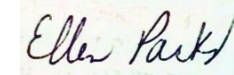
Name of Congregation:

Signature, Clerk of Session:

Date:

Form 3 Signature

Springdale Presbyterian Church, Louisville,



27-Jan-16

The Social Justice and Peacemaking Unit of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), in consultation with congregations and presbyteries across the denomination, developed a five-part resolution as a model for mobilizing congregations to respond to the General Assembly's "CALL TO RESTORE THE CREATION." The resolution was simplified to a four-part pledge in 2010. Churches applying to be an Earth Care Congregation must have the Earth Care Pledge affirmed by their session and signed by the clerk.

Earth Care Pledge

Peace and justice is God's plan for all creation. 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. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God, we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth.

1. **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.

2. **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.

3. **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.

4. **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.

Send this completed First Year Certification Application (Forms 1, 2 and 3) by email to: Rebecca.Barnes@pcusa.org and environment@pcusa.org.