

May 3, 2021

To: UMC Leadership Team

From: Jean Landis, for the UMC Creation Care Committee

On behalf of the UMC Creation Care Committee, I bring to the attention of Leadership Team a proposal to participate in the Mennonite Creation Care Network by becoming one of their “Green Patchwork Congregations.”

[The Mennonite Creation Care Network \(MCCN\)](#) is affiliated with the Mennonite Church USA and the Mennonite Church Canada. Its primary focus is the Mennonite community, but welcomes anyone who wishes to be part of a faith-based network of people engaged in caring for creation. MCCN encourages the Church to:

- Claim its biblical and theological foundation regarding the care of God’s Creation.
- Discover the ties that link all created beings to each other and to God.
- Confess the harm we have caused the natural world and our neighbors.
- Act faithfully to restore the earth.

The network strives to:

- Engage people with their peers and facilitate partnerships.
- Gather and share faith-based resources.
- Bring lessons learned by individual congregations to the broader community.
- Support each other in prayer.

MCCN “Green Patchwork Congregations” are those which accept the challenge to integrate Creation Care into their ministries and practices daily living. The minimum requirements of the designation are:

- The leadership of the congregation has affirmed the decision to actively engage in caring for the earth as part of its ministry.
- The congregation has chosen a liaison to MCCN.
- The church office manager, a pastor and the creation care liaison receive MCCN’s monthly E-Newsletter.
- The congregation as a whole is aware of the decision to be listed [on the MCCN website] as one of MCCN’s Green Patchwork congregations.

It is recommended further that:

- The congregation is assessing what forms of creation care are needed in their context.
- Some members are studying creation care.

The UMC Creation Care Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to obtain the Green Patchwork Congregation designation as it would allow access to related MCCN resources, participation in its activities and networking with other congregations. The designation also would officially name Creation Care as an integral part of UMC’s identity, which could be helpful in attracting new members.

If leadership agrees with this proposal, I have volunteered to be UMC’s designated liaison to MCCN. However, I am open to passing the baton to anyone else who is called.