

Green Chalice
Certification -2023



Disciples Green Chalice CERTIFICATION—Overview

The purpose of the Green Chalice CERTIFICATION Program is to encourage Disciples congregations, ministries, and assemblies to respond to God's call to love their neighbors and protect, care, and heal creation. Disciples were created for a time such as this and are called to be leaders in creation care and climate justice, modeling a strong and active faith.

This certification process is designed to serve your congregation within your unique context, gifts, resources, passions and community needs. There are credits (like points) associated with this process but the hope is that you will not get bogged down or overwhelmed by the process or lists of creation care/justice options. We are deeply grateful for the collaborators and readers of this living document.

Rev. Monique Crain Spells Rev. Dr. John Frey
Rev. Carol Devine Rev. Megan Peglar

Start by becoming a Green Chalice Congregation-learn more at Greenchalice.org

Five-Step Certification Process

The Green Chalice CERTIFICATION program is a five-step process that begins with commitment and education and ends with achievement and recognition.

Step 1: Commitment

Your congregation/ministry/assembly has become a Green Chalice Ministry, and now you are ready for the next step. Reach out to the Green Chalice Team to inform us of your intention to work toward CERTIFICATION.

Step 2: Listening and Discernment

Listen to the Spirit of God, your congregation, and community. As a team or small group, pay attention to the ways God is already moving in your congregation. Where is there passion or joy? Where do you notice heartbreak or need in your community? You can use a variety of discernment tools to support your conversation and discernment. Here are a couple to explore

Listening to your congregation

Sacred Wander- Nature Listening

While you are discerning bigger projects,. Is there low hanging fruit your church could do with little money and time to help you start soon?

Step 3: Setting Goals

Set goals in all areas of the church, ministry, or assembly. These goals should incorporate both new and existing programs, and should be set based on the church's overall achievement goals. The areas are:

- Building/Office Practices
 - (Goal:Carbon Neutrality)
- Grounds/Property/Restoration/Conservation
- Worship & Education
- Community Outreach/Justice/Advocacy
- Resilience-Disaster Preparedness/Climate Anxiety/Grief Care

Step 4: Implementation

Implement the goals your creation care team set in each of the areas (see Overview). The implementation of these goals may take 1-2 years as projects are created and established. During this time, the creation care team should be in contact with the Green Chalice Ministers for support, ideas, and guidance.

Step 5: Achievement

The final step of the program is for a congregation/ministry/assembly to achieve its goals and to receive its certification. Certification will be awarded once the final application is received and reviewed.

The fine print and more details

The CERTIFICATION application should include:

- 1. An easy to follow outline of the achievements and the earned points as determined by the creation care team
- 2. A narrative that describes the whole process and each achievement
- 3. Photos of some of the achievements.
- 4. The signatures of the creation care team and the senior pastor and/or board chairperson
- 5. Contact information including: website address, an email address, phone number, and mailing address.

The creation care team will be notified by email of CERTIFIED status and then will receive a certificate and beautiful plaque made from sustainable wood in the mail. The name of the ministry will be added to the growing list on the website.

Certification Renewal

Congregations should renew their commitment and certification by making improvements in every area at least every 3 years.



Disciples Green Chalice CERTIFICATION Discernment Worksheet

The Green Chalice CERTIFICATION includes areas in the life of the congregation/ministry/assembly in which changes can be made. A minimum of 10 credits must be achieved in each area, for a total of 50 credits. A list of the five areas appears below. Any credit marked with a * is required for CERTIFICATION.

NOTE: Congregations/Ministries/Assemblies, if your community has special circumstances that prevent you from moving toward certification, please be in contact with Green Chalice staff to create a way forward that supports your efforts toward creation care and environmental justice. For example those that do not own or steward a building or have land, could achieve certification by earning 10 points in the other four areas. Document the process of how each of the achievements is earned.

Start by becoming a Green Chalice Congregation

Create a Creation Care Team*

Adopt the Green Chalice Covenant*

Make three changes in any area*

Once you are a Green Chalice Congregation and you have celebrated with the Green Chalice Staff and your congregation, your community can begin the Certification process by notifying Green Chalice staff via email of your intention to begin work toward Green Chalice CERTIFICATION.

Five Areas of Focus:

- Building/Office Practices/(Goal:Carbon Neutrality)
- Grounds/Property/Conservation/Restoration
- Worship & Education
- Community Outreach/Justice/Advocacy
- Resilience-Disaster Preparedness/Climate Anxiety/Grief Care

General Resources

Green Chalice- greenchalice.org denominational, interfaith, and secular resources to get you started

Blessed Tomorrow- <u>blessedtomorrow.org</u>
Green the Church- <u>greenthechurch.org</u>

Creation Care Alliance- https://creationcarealliance.org/toolkit/_100's of practical ideas

Creation Justice Ministries- creation justice.org Robust ecumenical resource

Project Drawdown- drawdown.org top climate solutions

Interfaith Power & Light- interfaithpowerandlight.org

Building/Office: (10 Credits)

Goal: Carbon Neutrality without the use of carbon offsets.

- Conduct an Energy Audit of Facility (1 credit)*
- Read and take action from the Energy Star Action Workbook for Congregations (1-10 credits)
- Meet certification criteria outlined in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for <u>Building Design and Construction</u> (9 credits)
- Reduce Energy Consumption (4-8 credits, Bonus credit for 30+ percent)
- Replace windows (4-8 credits)
- Replace outdated HVAC- Consider heat pump system (3-6 credits)
- Create a congregation energy policy to guide responsible energy use (1 credit)
- Upgrade lighting systems for energy efficiency (1 credit)
- Use occupancy sensors in appropriate areas (1 credit)
- Install low-flow water faucets (1 credit)
- Install low-flow toilets (1 credit)
- Install Programmable Thermostats (2 credits)
- Use temperature setbacks in building for energy conservation (1 credit)
- Derive a percentage of total electricity consumed from renewable sources such as wind, solar, and/or geothermal (1 credit)
- Install solar panels, wind turbines or geothermal (1-9 credits)
- Achieve Carbon Neutrality (10 credits)
- Replace all toxic cleaners with safe cleaners (1 credit)
- Cleaning service (if applicable) is Green Seal Certified or meets the certification criteria for the Green Seal Environmental Standard for Cleaning Services (1 credit)
- Adopt sustainable operational and management policies (1 credit each)
- Create recycling program (1 credit)
- Reduce or eliminate use of disposable dinnerware (1-3 credits)
- Convert space into emergency or occasional housing (2 credit)
- Congregational innovation (1-9 credits)

Resources-Building/Office Practices/(Goal:Carbon Neutrality)

Disciples Church Extension Fund

HVAC- Consider a heat pump system

LEED Building and Design Construction

Energy Star Workbook for Congregations

Grounds/Property/Conservation/Restoration (10 Credits)

Goal: To protect and heal the land, grow food and be wise stewards.

- Use no chemicals on the landscape (2 credit)
- Recycle lawn and tree trimmings for mulch to be applied on grounds (1 credit)
- Use native plant species in landscape (xeriscapinig) (1-3 credits)
- Restore Natural Habitat (1-3 credits) See Doug Tallamy below
- Implement Integrated Pest Management practices into land-care plan to reduce or eliminate chemical use (1-2 credits)
- Install Rain Barrels for watering (2 credit)
- Plan for, plant and maintain a church or community garden (3-6 credits)
- Raise chickens on church grounds (3 credits)
- Share food from your garden with neighbors or those in need (2 credits)
- Plant a food forest, orchard or food source like fruit trees (3-6 credits)
- Plant Butterfly/Pollinator Garden garden (1-3 credits)
- Establish compost system for kitchen food scraps (1 credit)
- Learn about and teach about your local watershed (1-2 credits)
- Reduce Water Runoff (1-2 credits)
- Use gray or rainwater for irrigation (1-3 credits)
- Create rain gardens for stormwater quality improvement (1-3 credits)
- Learn the types of trees, plants, birds or species living on church property (1-3 credits) Map it!
- Plant Native trees on church property or in community (1-3 credits)
- Support tree planting in other locations nationally or internationally (1 credit)
- Install a bicycle rack in parking area (1 credit)
- Host or cultivate honey bees (1 credit)
- Connect with and learn from congregation members who care for land (farmers, ranchers, gardeners, foresters, etc) (2 credit)
- Take a tour celebrating creation care efforts by congregationally connected land stewards/ owners. (2 credits)
- Construct and retrofit buildings to withstand potential disasters. This may involve incorporating sustainable and resilient design features, such as elevated structures, reinforced foundations, and renewable energy systems. (1-4 credits)
- Congregational innovation (1-8 credits)

Resources-Grounds/Property/Restoration/conservation

Books:

Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard- Doug Tallamy Breakthrough: Trusting God for Big Change in Your Church- Dawn Darwin Weaks

Black Church Food Security Network- Gardens, Food justice, and collaboration

Week of Compassion Congregational Disaster Preparedness

Wise Carbon Offset planning

Worship and Education (10 Credits)

Goal: To integrate creation care, justice and compassion into community rituals, spirituality, worship and education and reduce the congregation's ecological impacts on people, land, air, and water.

- Ritualize inclusion of natural world in every worship service/experience through prayers, liturgy, sermons and hymns (1-3 credits)
- Celebrate Earth Day and/or Season of Creation (Sept 1 Oct 4) in Worship and Adult, Youth, Children Programs (1-2 credits)
- Book Study on Creation Topic (1 credit)
- Learn about the intersectionality of climate with other justice issues. (1 credit)
- Create and Lead a Children Worship and Wonder Story based on a Bible Story that centers Creation Care (2 credits)
- Serve local foods at fellowship meals (1-2 credits)
- Serve fair trade coffee through Disciples Coffee Program (1 credit)
- Purchase Eco-Palms (1 credit)
- Provide Eco-Tips in monthly newsletter (1 credit)
- Faith leaders attend a climate justice workshop or retreat (1 credit)
- One or more clergy/faith leaders become a Blessed Tomorrow Climate Ambassador or Climate Realities Presenter (1 credit)
- Send a group to an Eco Justice, Be the Neighbor, or Blue Theology retreat (2 credits)
- Congregational innovation (1-8 credits)

Resources-Worship & Education

Creation Justice Ministries

Blessed Tomorrow Climate Ambassador Training Code is DOC

Eco Palms

VBS example

Ecopreacher 123 Lectionary support

Birth of Environmental Justice on UCC website

DHM Mission Stations

Betheneighbor.org

Bluetheology.com



Community Outreach/Justice (10 credits)

Goal: To take the lead in modeling what is possible in your Disciples community while educating the wider community as well.

- Advocate for creation care policies at local, state or federal level (1 credit)
- Encourage voting during all election levels-support policies not specific people (2 credits)
- Create/Host environmental or sustainable program for children and/or youth (1-3 credits)
- Create/Host Environmental Educational Events/Classes (1-3 credits)
- Host gardening, cooking, and/or canning classes (1-3 credits)
- Host a Green VBS (1-3 credits)
- Partner with local organizations for Advocacy (1-3 credits)
- Create/Host a community Garden (3-6 credits)

Credit is applicable here or in the Grounds section

- Save seeds from Garden, Share Seeds, Support Seed Savers organizations (1 credit)
- Host a farmer's market (1 3 credits)
- Provide fresh produce to a food pantry (1-3 credits)
- Start a clothing closet (1- 3 credits)
- Create an educational program to highlight new practices (1-4 credits)
- Develop an Environmental Learning Center (1-3 credits)
- Develop system for repurposing, reusing or recycling items that otherwise might be thrown away. (1-3 credits)
- Support tree planting programs (1 credit)
- Participate in best practice carbon offsets (1 credit) https://www.goldstandard.org/content/pop-make-the-right-choices
- Learn about where pollution, heat, poor air quality, frequent floods, poisoned water, polluting industries are located in your town or county (2 credits)
- Join or support a justice rally or protest movement in your community (2 credits)
- Learn about environmental racism (2 credits) Bonus if connecting with impacted communities
- Testify at a public environmental justice hearing (1 credit)
- Invest church/community funds in environmentally responsible ways (2 credits)
- Congregational innovation (1-8 credits)

Resources-Community Outreach/Justice/Advocacy

Interfaith Power & Light
Creation Justice Ministries
Greenfaith- greenfaith.org

Resilience-Disaster Preparedness/Community and Spiritual Care (10 Credits)

Goal: To encourage practices that support healthy and resilient communities and individuals, especially in the face of uncertainty, environmental challenges and injustice. Potential increases in numbers and intensity of disasters and related trauma is certain across North America.

- Create/Host Mental Health Educational Events/Classes (1-3 credits)
- Offer book study on community resilience, disaster preparedness, community trauma, eco grief (1 credit)
- Offer prayer and contemplative practices that highlight awe or presence in creation. (2 credits)
- Highlight mental/spiritual health in communications (newsletter, website, Social media, worship) (1 credit)
- Offer eco grief, anxiety, or climate related care groups for congregation and/or community (1 credit)
- Host Disaster preparedness training or workshop in your congregation. See Week of Compassion or Creation Justice Ministries (2 credits)
- Conduct risk assessment to identify the potential hazards and vulnerabilities they face in relation to climate change and disaster. (1 Credit)
- Reassess and update your congregation's insurance regarding potential disaster (flood, fire, storm) (1 credit)
- Sign up to be a congregation that is "Willing to Respond" in a disaster. https:// www.willingtorespond.org/ (2 credits)
- Make a plan to offer hospitality and care for those fleeing disaster or danger (1-3 credit)
- Build partnerships with local emergency management agencies, community organizations, and other faith-based groups to help with effective community wide disaster preparedness. (3 credits)
- Share wisdom and information. Faith communities serve as hubs for disseminating disaster preparedness information to members and the broader community. Organize workshops, training sessions, communications plans and awareness campaigns to equip individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to respond effectively to climate-related emergencies. (2 credits)
- Congregational innovation (1-8 credits)

Resources-Resilience/Disaster Preparedness/Climate Anxiety/Grief Care

Eco Grief Circles
Creation Justice Ministries
Week of Compassion Congregational Disaster Preparedness
Disaster Preparedness Group Study
Willing to Respond" in a disaster

Category	Practice or Item	Credits	In Process	Completed Point Person
Building/Office: (10 Credits)				
	Conduct an Energy Audit of Facility	1 credit		
	Read and take action from the Energy Star Action Workbook for Con	1-10 credits		
	Meet certification criteria outlined in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for Building Design and			
	Construction	6-9 credits		
		4-8 credits, Bonus credit for 30+		
	Reduce Energy Consumption	percent		
	Replace windows	4-8 credits 3-6 credits		
	Replace outdated HVAC- Consider heat pump system Create a congregation energy policy to guide responsible energy use	3-6 credits		
	Upgrade lighting systems for energy efficiency	1 credit		
	Use occupancy sensors in appropriate areas	1 credit		
	Install low-flow water faucets	1 credit		
	Install low-flow toilets	1 credit		
	Install Programmable Thermostats	2 credits		
	Use temperature setbacks in building for energy conservation	1 credit		
	Derive a percentage of total electricity consumed from renewable sources such as wind, solar, and/or geothermal	1 credit		
	Install solar panels, wind turbines or geothermal	1-9 credits		
	Achieve Carbon Neutrality	10 credits		
	Replace all toxic cleaners with safe cleaners	1 credit		
	Cleaning service (if applicable) is Green Seal Certified or meets the certification criteria for the Green Seal Environmental Standard for Cleaning Services	1 credit		
	Adopt sustainable operational and management policies	1 credit each		
	Create recycling program	1 credit		
	Reduce or eliminate use of disposable dinnerware	1-3 credits		
	Create operational practices related to building and energy use	1 credit		
	Convert space into emergency or occasional housing	2 credit		
	Congregational innovation	1-9 credits		

Green Chalice Certification Check List

Category	Practice or Item	Credits	In Process	Completed	Point Person
Grounds/Property/ Restoration (10 Credits)					
	Use no chemicals on the landscape	2 credit			
	Recycle lawn and tree trimmings for mulch to be applied on grounds	1 credit			
	Use native plant species in landscape (xeriscapinig)	1-3 credits			
	Restore Natural Habitat	1-3 credits			
	Implement Integrated Pest Management practices into land-care plan to reduce or eliminate chemical use	1-2 credits			
	Install Rain Barrels for watering	2 credit			
	Plan for, plant and maintain a church or community garden	3-6 credits			
	Raise chickens on church grounds	3 credits			
	Share food from your garden with neighbors or those in need	2 credits			
	Plant a food forest, orchard or food source like fruit trees	3-6 credits			
	Plant Butterfly/Pollinator Garden garden	1-3 credits			
	Establish compost system for kitchen food scraps	1 credit			
	Learn about and teach about your local watershed	1-2 credits			
	Reduce Water Runoff	1-2 credits			
	Use gray or rainwater for irrigation	1-3 credits			
	Create rain gardens for stormwater quality improvement	1-3 credits			
	Learn the types of trees, plants, birds and other species living on church property -Bonus if you map it!	1-3 credits			
	Plant Native trees on church property or in community	1-3 credits			
	Support tree planting in other locations nationally or internationally	1 credit			
	Install a bicycle rack in parking area	1 credit			
	Host or cultivate honey bees	1 credit			
	Connect with and learn from congregation members who care for land (farmers, ranchers, gardeners, foresters, etc)	2 credit			
	Take a tour celebrating creation care efforts by congregationally connected land stewards/owners.	2 credits			
	Construct and retrofit buildings to withstand potential disasters. This may involve incorporating sustainable and resilient design features, such as elevated structures, reinforced foundations, and renewable energy systems.	1-4 credits			
	Congregational innovation	1-8 credits			

Category	Practice or Item	Credits	In Process	Completed	Point Person
Worship and Education (10 Credits)					
	Ritualize inclusion of natural world in every worship service/ experience through prayers, liturgy, sermons and hymns	1-3 credits			
	Celebrate Earth Day and/or Season of Creation (Sept 1 - Oct 4) in Worship and Adult, Youth, Children Programs	1-2 credits			
	Book or film Study on Creation Topic	1 credit			
	Create and Lead a Children Worship and Wonder Story based on a Bible Story that centers Creation Care	2 credits			
	Serve local foods at fellowship meals	1-2 credits			
	Serve fair trade coffee through Disciples Coffee Program	1 credit			
	Purchase Eco-Palms	1 credit			
	Provide Eco-Tips in monthly newsletter	1 credit			
	Faith leaders attend a climate justice workshop or retreat	1 credit			
	One or more clergy/faith leaders become a Blessed Tomorrow Climate Ambassador or Climate Realities Presenter	1 credit			
	Send a group to an Eco Justice Camp, Be the Neighbor Camp or Blue Theology retreat	2 credits			
	Congregational innovation	1-8 credits			
Outreach/Justice 10 credits)	Advocate for creation care policies at local, state or federal level	1 credit			
	Encourage voting during all elections-support policies, not specific people	2 credits			
	Create/Host environmental or sustainable program for children and/ or youth	1-3 credits			
	Create/Host Environmental Educational Events/Classes	1-3 credits			
	Host gardening, cooking, and/or canning classes	1-3 credits			
	Host a Green VBS	1-3 credits			
	Partner with local organizations for Advocacy Create/Host a community Garden (Credit is applicable here or in	1-3 credits			
	the Grounds section) Save seeds from garden, share seeds, support seedsaver organizations	3-6 credits			
	Host a farmer's market	1 - 3 credits			
	Provide fresh produce to a food pantry	1-3 credits			
	Start a clothing closet	1-3 credits			
	Create an educational program to highlight new practices •	1-4 credits			
	Develop an Environmental Learning Center	3-6 credits			
	Develop system for repurposing, reusing or recycling items that otherwise might be thrown away.	1-3 credits			
	Support tree planting programs	1 credit			
	Participate in best practices carbon offsets	1 credit			
	Learn about where pollution, heat, poor air quality, frequent floods, p	2 credits			
	Learn about environmental racism (2 credits) Bonus if connecting will	2 credits			
	Join or support a justice rally or protest movement in your community	2 credits			
	Testify at a public environmental justice hearing	1 credit			
	Invest church/community funds in environmentally responsible ways	2 credits			
	Congregational innovation	1-8 credits			

Category	Practice or Item	Credits	In Process	Completed	Point Persor
Resilience-Disaster Preparedness/ Community and Spiritual Care (10 Credits)					
	Create/Host Mental Health Educational Events/Classes	1-3 credits			
	Offer book study on community resilience or disaster preparedness	1 credit			
	Offer prayer and contemplative practices that highlight awe or presence in creation.	2 credits			
	Highlight mental/spiritual health in communications (newsletter, website, Social media, worship)	1 credit			
	Offer eco grief, anxiety, or climate related care groups for congregation and/or community	1 credit			
	Host Disaster preparedness training or workshop in your congregation. See Week of Compassion or Creation Justice Ministries	2 credits			
	Conduct risk assessment to identify the potential hazards and vulnerabilities they face in relation to climate change and disaster.	1 credit			
	Reassess and update your congregation's insurance regarding potential disaster (flood, fire, storm)	1 credit			
	Sign up to be a congregation that is "Willing to Respond" in a disaster. https://www.willingtorespond.org/	2 credits			
	Make a plan to offer hospitality and care for those fleeing disaster or danger	1-3 credit			
	Build partnerships with local emergency management agencies, community organizations, and other faith-based groups to help with effective community wide disaster preparedness.	3 credits			
	Share wisdom and information. Faith communities serve as hubs for disseminating disaster preparedness information to members and the broader community. Organize workshops, training sessions, communications plans and awareness campaigns to equip individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to respond effectively to climate-related emergencies.	2 credits			
	Congregational innovation	1-8 credits			