

2026 Green Chalice: Justice and Creation Fellowship

Foothills Christian Church



Disciples Home Mission: Justice and Creation 2026

My name is Marco Fernandez and I'm excited to introduce myself as a Disciples Home Missions: Justice & Creation intern. My mentor is Laura Clark.

Through this internship, I'll be exploring what it means to live out our faith by caring for God's creation and working toward a more just and sustainable world.

Congregation Contact and Website

<https://foothillsdisciples.com>

Foothills Christian Church

3951 W. Happy Valley Rd.

Glendale, AZ 85310

(623) 516-9192



DISCIPLES
Home Missions



**GREEN
CHALICE**

Mission Statement

Our goal is to inspire care for God's creation through sustainability, environmental education, and community outreach. Through hands-on activities with children, I hope to foster appreciation for nature and encourage joyful stewardship while helping build a more just, sustainable, and hopeful future.



Solution and Justice

I focused especially on helping children and young people understand that caring for the environment can be a meaningful part of living out our faith.

Our community has a need for more opportunities to learn about environmental stewardship in ways that are hands-on, creative, accessible, and connected to faith. My internship provided opportunities for children to explore how everyday choices can make a difference in protecting God's creation.



We Played environmental games and activities with children to teach them about caring for the Earth.

- Created recycled art projects, showing how everyday materials can be reused in creative ways.
- Planted wildflowers and caring for the space.
- Made birdhouses out of old cartons



Co-Dreamers and Justice Supporters

A special thank you to Laura, and to our wonderful Children's Ministry leaders, Cassidy and Kacie, for your support, encouragement, and willingness to help bring these ideas to life.

I'm also incredibly grateful to all of the parents who volunteered their time and energy to help with activities and support the children throughout the summer. Your involvement made such a difference.

Most importantly, thank you to all of the children who participated, played, created, planted, learned, and shared their joy with us. You reminded me that caring for God's creation can be joyful, creative, and something we can do together.

This internship truly became a community effort, and I'm grateful for everyone who helped make it possible.

Children of all ages participated in our Justice & Creation activities, bringing enthusiasm, creativity, and a willingness to help.

One of our greatest achievements was bringing awareness to our Green Chalice efforts and encouraging our congregation to see environmental stewardship as part of our faith.

We also celebrated the installation of solar panels earlier this summer, an important step in caring for God's creation.

Even our garden became a lesson in stewardship! While the rabbits enjoyed some of our flowers and plants, they were also benefiting from the garden—reminding us that our efforts can help support the wildlife around our congregation, too.

Together, we planted, created, learned, and grew—and hopefully planted some seeds of stewardship that will continue beyond this summer.



“God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.”
Genesis 1:31

I saw God in unexpected places. I felt His presence in nature—in the hills and valleys, in the mountains, and in the air I breathed. Through creation, I was reminded that our home, this beautiful planet, is good. It is a gift from God, and one we are called to cherish, protect, and care for.



Green Chalice Ministry Goals

In the future, I could see this ministry growing through more environmental education, community projects, gardening, recycling, and opportunities for people of all ages to participate. My hope is that the seeds planted this summer will continue to grow—not only in our garden, but in the hearts of our congregation.

