

CREATION CARE CONGREGATIONS

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it. Psalm 24:1

The Creation Care Planning Team of the Great Plains Conference of the United Methodist Church is beginning a new project available to all congregations in Nebraska and Kansas. Beginning this Earth Day, April 22, 2017, Creation Care churches will be able to participate in this initiative under the auspices of the mercy and justice team of the conference. The program is structured to "...recognize the responsibility of the church and its members to place a high priority on changes in economic, political, social and technological lifestyles to support a more ecologically equitable and sustainable world leading to a higher quality of life for all of God's creation." Part V, Social Principles, ¶160. It is the hope of the Creation Care Team that congregations will find purpose and motivation to join in the mission of environmental stewardship as we face the challenges to care for God's wonderful creation!

We are building on a rich history that was once within the realm of Kansas West United Methodist Church Commission on Church and Society. For approximately 24 years many congregations participated in this and over 200 awards were presented. Our current guidelines ask for the beginning or completion of at least two tasks in each one of four areas. These are environmental witness, environmental education, environmental service and environmental action. Each congregation would be asked to do this within the year from Earth Day to Earth Day. An award will be presented each year at the Great Plains Annual Conference Session in June to each rural or urban church.