



Global Ministries to commission 67 EarthKeepers

New Global Ministries EarthKeepers will launch creation care projects in the U.S.

November 05, 2024

ATLANTA - Global Ministries will commission 67 new EarthKeepers in an online service on Tuesday, Nov. 19 at 8 p.m. EST. This service will affirm the EarthKeepers in their call to the ministry of creation care and bless their work in their communities. The service will be livestreamed at www.facebook.com/GlobalMinistries.

Global Ministries EarthKeepers is a training program to equip United Methodists in the United States for environmental stewardship. Participants discuss theology, United Methodist resources, community organizing and antiracism, and then use what they learn to develop an environmental project for their churches and communities. The program supports people looking to turn an idea into action and those who want to deepen an existing ministry. Participants develop plans in conversation with their peers, troubleshooting ideas and sharing strategies.

With 2024 trainings held online and in Baltimore, Md., and St. Paul, Minn., this group of EarthKeepers represents 30 annual conferences and all five jurisdictions. Participants include clergy, laity, annual conference staff and agency staff.

“Large-scale, climate-driven catastrophes around the world are stretching the capacity and resources of United Methodist disaster responders,” said Roland Fernandes, general secretary of Global Ministries and General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. “When Global Ministries EarthKeepers lead community-driven environmental projects, they are building a bulwark against future suffering.”

“These EarthKeepers are driven by the urgency of the environmental crisis, a sense of calling to respond, and a deep well of faith to carry them on the journey,” said the Rev. Jenny Phillips, director of Environmental Sustainability. “They have developed ambitious projects which together will create significant positive impact on emissions, sustainable land use, waste management and more.”

This is the eighth year that the EarthKeepers commissioning service has been held online, allowing EarthKeepers to participate along with their family, friends and church community. The service will be led by Bishop Lanette Plambeck, resident bishop for the Dakotas-Minnesota Area.

Headshots of the participants are available for annual conference communications use at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/globalministriesearthkeepers/albums/72177720321391510>.

To read more about EarthKeepers projects and to get updates on 2025 trainings, join the Global Ministries Creation Care Network at <http://creationcare.umcmission.org/signup>.



The 2024 Global Ministries EarthKeepers reside in the following conferences:

Arkansas

Daniel Hiatt
Rev. Lindsey Russell

Baltimore-Washington

Rev. Andre Briscoe, Jr.
Katherine Martin
Elizabeth Stemley
Clorie Tildon

California-Nevada

Rev. Laurie Bayen

California-Pacific

Angelie Ryah

Central Appalachian Missionary

Rev. Robert Amundsen
Rev. Daniel Henson
Whitley Henson
Rev. Karen Stigall

Dakotas

Rev. Marty Toepke-Floyd

Desert Southwest

Kristin Mikels

Eastern Pennsylvania

Richard Fetzer
Rev. Zachary Hople

Horizon Texas

Kim Rahebi

Indiana

Rev. Robert Barton
Anita Sanford

Iowa

Wayne Steen
Rev. Felix Tshibang

Kentucky

Emily Allison

Rev. Dr. Gregory Kevin Brown
Tyler Vandever

Louisiana

Amy Fuselier

Minnesota

Sheri Brezinka
Sandra Christie
Cecelia Cope
Jessica McMahon
Rev. Laura Nordstrom

Missouri

Fred Koenig

Mountain Sky

Anil Dewan
Ross Janovec
Judy McGoogan

New England

Peggy Drew

New Mexico

Christina Roy

New York

Janet Marshall-Tate
Rev. Valerie Paul-Greenaway
Rev. Ross Topliff

North Alabama

Jacob Knapp
Trey Lemmon
Rev. Joe Riddle
Ashley Riddle

North Carolina

Carmella McKeller-Smith
Rev. Donna Thompson

North Georgia

Rev. Jacque Smith

**Northern Illinois**

Kate Tallo

Oregon-Idaho

Pattie Sloan

Pacific Northwest

Rev. Laura Baumgartner

Rev. Pat Longstroth

Patrick Scriven

Teri Tobey

Rev. David Valera

Eric Walker

Rev. Richenda Fairhurst

Peninsula-Delaware

Bill Innes

Janet Taylor-Smith

Rio Texas

Rev. Abel Stewart

Virginia

Rev. Dori Baker

Lincoln Baker

Jaydee Hanson

Western North Carolina

Mary Jac Brennan

Nancy Keziah

Brenda Messera

Ben Rogers

Western Pennsylvania

Rev. Pamela Armstrong

Wisconsin

Brittany Phelps

Photos are available at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/globalministriearthkeepers/albums/72177720321391510>

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About the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church

Global Ministries is the worldwide mission and development agency of The United Methodist Church. Founded in 1819, Global Ministries today supports more than 200 missionaries in over 60 countries, including the United States. It has personnel, projects, and partners in 115 countries. Learn more about Global Ministries by visiting www.umcmmission.org or by following www.facebook.com/GlobalMinistries and www.twitter.com/UMCmission.