

Creation Protection Agreement

Preamble

Never before in recorded history have human beings had the capacity for destroying the Earth as we are currently doing today. The continuing destruction of the environment brings into question whether humankind and the majority of living creatures can survive in the decades to come. It also presents an unprecedented challenge to those who profess to believe in a higher power, live a faith-based life, and seek to honor the Creator's works.

Leaders and congregants of every faith community must consider their roles as stewards of creation and how they can lead society, through inspiration from their own traditions, to life-affirming and immediate changes in how humanity interacts with the sacred Creation. Perhaps no other element of society can have a larger influence on how humanity responds to this call than faith-based communities.

Following are acknowledgements and resolutions for faith communities of every size and tradition to support and commit to in protecting Creation for future generations. The goal of this Creation Protection Agreement is to demonstrate a shared purpose and unity among the faith communities and to make a significant change in humankind's current direction.

Acknowledgements

- We acknowledge the sacredness of all Creation as a precious gift from the Creator that makes our lives and faith possible.
- We acknowledge that if we seek to truly honor and glorify the Creator, we cannot allow Creation to be irrevocably harmed or devastated.
- We acknowledge that each generation has a responsibility to leave Creation intact for future generations to experience its wondrous beauty and life-giving powers.
- We acknowledge that we are entrusted with assuring that all creatures and plants continue to survive through our responsible stewardship of planetary life.
- We acknowledge that when Creation is threatened by the actions of humankind, people of goodwill, conscience and faith are obligated to take action to halt its destruction.
- We acknowledge our responsibility to listen to the scientific community when they warn us that humans are harming Creation.
- We acknowledge that all faiths need to commit themselves to Creation's protection today.
- We acknowledge that if we continue harming Creation, thousands of species of plants and animals that have been placed on this Earth by the Creator may disappear forever.
- We acknowledge that human beings living in wealthy, industrialized societies are often major contributors to the destruction of Creation and, therefore, must take proportionately greater responsibility for halting its destruction.

Resolutions

- We resolve to set an example to the faithful by incorporating sustainable practices in our own house of worship that seek to protect Creation.
- We resolve to actively seek inspiration and instruction from our own faith traditions on the importance of sustaining the powerful beauty and life-giving processes of Creation for future generations.
- We resolve to encourage the faithful to consider their role in the destruction of Creation and to find ways to halt harmful practices and seek sustainable and restorative options.
- We resolve to do what we can to progress toward a society that values and considers sacred Creation in every human endeavor and to encourage people of all faiths to help make this vision a reality.

OCICE wishes to acknowledge the following congregations that have signed the Creation Protection Agreement:

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
Buena Park Sikh Temple
Center for Spiritual Discovery
Christ Church by the Sea, Newport Beach
Church of the Foothills, UCC/DOC
Common Ground Spiritual Center
Congregation Shir Ha Ma'alot
Eco-Justice Committee: Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange and Friends
Harbor Christian Church
Irvine United Congregational Church, UCC
Islamic Shura Council of Southern California
Islamic Society of Orange County
Mary Ann Swenson, Resident Bishop, Los Angeles area United Methodist Church
Rev. Adelia Sandoval, Song of the Earth, a Ministry of Shepherd of the Hills Church, UCC/DOC
Rev. Alfred Baca, Officer of Ecumenism & Inter-religion for the Diocese of Orange County
Rev. Sara Halverson, Pastor of Fairview Community Church
Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange
St. Anselm of Canterbury Episcopal Church
St. Mark Presbyterian Church
St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Tustin
Tustin Presbyterian Church
Unity: Spiritual Life Center, Laguna Hills

Creation Protection Agreement – Signature Page

I support the Creation Protection Agreement and allow my name to be publicly attributed as a supporter.

Date: _____

Faith Leader: _____

Signature: _____

House of Worship: _____

Address: _____

City: State: Zip: _____

Faith Leader's Email: _____

Contact Name: _____

Contact Title: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Contact Email: _____

Please add my comments in support of the Creation Protection Agreement to the OCICE Web site (*optional*):

Do you have any feedback on this agreement you'd like to share?

Please return a completed form at your earliest convenience to:

**Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment (OCICE)
P.O. Box 555
Tustin, CA, 92781**

For more information, please call OCICE co-chairs Margaret Henke at (714) 731-6775 or Sherri Loveland at (714) 552-0333, or email ecofaith@ocice.org.