

Our Mission



United by a belief that the Earth is sacred, Green Interfaith Network, Inc., a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, works to promote practices which protect and enhance our relationship to all Earth's life forms and natural systems by engaging faith communities and the people of Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia to support sustainability, accountability, and justice.

GINI's goals are:

To Provide workshops, energy audits, and educational materials for the faith groups of our region

To Create opportunities for faith groups and individuals to network

To Represent faith-inspired stewardship at regional environmental events

To Grow participation in GINI, engaging more faith groups, individuals, businesses, and civic organizations

To Advocate for policies that are just and sustainable at all levels of decision-making

United by the Belief



Did you know most religious groups have made a specific resolution to address and improve humanity's relationship with the Earth? Here are some expressions of Caring for the Creation:

"I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all. Obstructionist attitudes, even on the part of believers, can range from denial of the problem to indifference, nonchalant resignation or blind confidence in technical solutions. We require a new and universal solidarity." | Pope Francis, 2015

"By putting God at the center of life, we see the sacred in everything and the natural world becomes a source of wonder and not only a resource for our use and abuse." | Rabbi Lawrence Troster, 2010

"We are not masters of this Earth; it does not belong to us to do what we wish. It belongs to Allah and He has entrusted us with its safekeeping." | Dr. Abdullah Omar Naseef, Muslim World League, 1986

"All creation is the Lord's, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it." | United Methodist Church, 2008

"Love of God, love of neighbor and Scripture's stewardship demands provide enough reason for Southern Baptists and Christians everywhere to respond to these problems with moral passion and concrete action." | Southern Baptist Declaration, 2011

Green Interfaith Network, Inc.



Living our faiths, greening our lives

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Faith communities promoting environmental stewardship in the Southern Appalachians



Take Action

 GINI wants to help you, your family, and your faith community respond to the call for caring for creation. Contact us, or join us in person, to learn more about:

ENERGY ASSESSMENTS for places of worship and non-profit organizations. Save energy and redirect financial resources. GINI offers a \$500 incentive to begin greening your facility. Proceeds from cost savings are returned to GINI to pay the \$500 forward to another organization.

WORKSHOPS on how to start or strengthen your Creation Care Team.

OPPORTUNITIES to NETWORK with other regional faith groups.

RESOURCES for sermons, prayers, and reflections, along with educational materials for youth and adults.

Success Stories



Green Interfaith Network can partner with faith communities to set up Creation Care Teams to look for ways to become more energy efficient. GINI can conduct an assessment and provide recommendations. The Creation Care Team takes on the mission to bring energy savings to fruition. Below are examples where faith communities act out their commitments to creation care.



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Kingsport

- Conducted detailed energy audit
- Purchased many new LED bulbs and other energy saving supplies
- Efforts have been paying off as energy usage is down 13% or \$2,250 per year. Cut the church's "carbon footprint" by 15 tons/year and reduced labor costs for changing bulbs since LED lights last longer.



St. Mary's Catholic Church Johnson City

- For 2015 recognized by the Interfaith Power and Light as one of six award-winning "Cool Congregations" for a series of energy efficiency measures implemented.
- In 2017 currently saving \$2,000 annually. Have started replacing lights in the school; in the gym St. Mary's replaced nine 500 watt HID lights with 115 watt LEDs.



First Presbyterian Church Elizabethton

- Developed rain-barrel water harvesting, composting, and grounds management measures
- Supported native peoples through sales of artwork
- Received a GINI Justice award for annual Dennis Cove stream clean-ups
- Undertaking energy conservation measures with a GINI \$500 incentive.



St. John's Episcopal Church Johnson City

- Reduced energy use since 2006 by limiting use of the physical plant and monitoring times when heating or cooling were needed.
- Replaced in 2017 constantly operating water pumps with variable frequency drive motors and installed LED lights in the sanctuary.
- Annual electricity bills dropped from over \$30,000 (2016) to an estimated \$25,000 (2017), and electric usage decreased 70,000 kWh over the year. Its carbon footprint was cut by 52 metric tons.

