

GreenFaith Assessment Rubric for Religious Institutions

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Area of Institutional Life	Out of the Garden	In the Wilderness	Building a New Ark	Eden Restored
<p>1. Worship & Spirituality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship • Sermons • Spiritual practices 	<p>No reference or derogatory references are made to the earth in prayers and/or sermons. Plants/animals never integrated into worship services. Members are discouraged from environment-based spiritual practices. No worship services held outdoors.</p>	<p>Positive references to God’s creation of the natural world in sermons and prayers on environmentally-oriented feast days or near Earth Day. Eco-theology addresses nature in only one dimension – spiritual/ stewardship/justice, but not further developed or congregation challenged. Recognition in sermons that people can seek/encounter the divine in nature, without any explicit encouragement or techniques to do so. Flowers are integrated into worship space without particular care or regard to season, locality. One worship service/year held wholly/partly outdoors.</p>	<p>Ongoing references to natural world in worship that recognize and offer challenge around at least two dimensions of eco-theological concern – eg nature as gift/humanity as steward/current conditions call for response. Prayers offer thanks and call for repentance in relation to the earth. Plants and animals welcomed into services at least once/year. At least two services held wholly/partly outdoors each year. Members encouraged to seek the spirit in nature w/o teaching of techniques/practices. At least one special service annually given holy-day significance.</p>	<p>Several sermons each year focus primarily on environmental themes, with mature eco-theology; environmental examples figure regularly in other sermons; outdoor services happen regularly; liturgical season of creation observed; prayers regularly include prayers for the earth and beyond-human forms of life; plants and animals – particularly local/regional species - are welcomed into the worship space on at least two occasions annually; members are taught environment-based practices for deepening their spiritual lives. At least one worship service annually given holy-day significance.</p>

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DRAFT

<p>2. Religious Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children • Teens • Adults • Biblical • Theological • Ethical • Personal experiences 	<p>Members taught that only through written sacred texts can the divine be encountered; that the natural world is fallen/sinful, not part of ultimate salvation/ paradise. Members taught explicitly or by exclusion that religion focuses only on the divine-human relationship.</p>	<p>Members taught in one age group that the natural world is a revelatory gift. No reference made to human responsibility for creation. No opportunities for direct contact with natural world as part of education programming.</p>	<p>Members in two age groups taught that natural world is a revelatory gift; at least one age group taught that humanity has responsibility for environmental care. At least three weeks of educational programming/yr for each of 2 age groups, addressing Biblical, ethical, theological themes. Creation included within the openly acknowledged moral universe of the congregation, and included in the community that is ultimately saved/redeemed.</p>	<p>Adult, teenage, youth members taught that natural world is a revelatory gift; adults and teens taught that humanity has responsibility for environmental care. Education teaches eco-theology, Biblical, ethical and environment-based spiritual practices. Members of all ages given opportunities for direct contact with/ service to nature, with opportunities for reflection and prayer. Members encouraged to recall spiritual experiences in nature, to develop spiritual and moral maturity in relation to nature.</p>
<p>3. Fellowship and Social Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food • Cutlery/plates • Training for home 	<p>No thought given to environmental impact of food consumption or fellowship-related supplies; cost is only consideration.</p>	<p>Food shifted to fruit/vegetables on at least 30% of congregational fellowship events; one event sourced locally/sustainably/fair trade.</p>	<p>Food for events sourced locally/sustainably/fair trade for at least 25% of the year; cutlery/plates/dishwasher replace disposables.</p>	<p>Food for events sourced locally/sustainably/fair trade; members encouraged 3x/year to reduce food footprint; all cutlery and plates washed in dish washer</p>

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<p>4. Facility Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy conservation • Renewable energy • Water • Waste • Toxics • Training for home 	<p>No effort made in any area.</p>	<p>Initial efforts made in energy conservation, though congregation remains dependent on outside organizations for follow-up and accountability.</p>	<p>Efforts made in at least two areas of facility management; reporting system organized for governing board. Governing board affirms “green facility management” as a goal.</p>	<p>Efforts made in all areas of facility management, supported by organizational policies and training. Members encouraged to implement these practices at home and are provided with training and tools to accomplish this.</p>
<p>5. Social Outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer activities • Financial giving • Advocacy 	<p>No care for the earth expressed through social outreach and justice activities; programming supported that inadvertently or openly uses natural resources in unsustainable ways.</p>	<p>Care for the earth affirmed as a religious value; activity in one of the three areas of financial/volunteer/advocacy commitments. Activity linked to major feast day or Earth Day.</p>	<p>Care for the earth affirmed as a religious value; activity in two of the three areas of financial/volunteer/advocacy commitments. Advocacy commitment of some kind undertaken at least once annually.</p>	<p>Care for the earth affirmed as a value equal in importance to other moral priorities. Volunteer opportunities, financial commitments, advocacy commitments fostered and encouraged for all age groups. Regular outreach habits in relation to the earth – akin to monthly food donations – put into practice. Active partnerships with regional environmental groups and beyond. Congregation invests time/resources in struggles for concrete</p>

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				environmental improvements on behalf of at-risk communities.
6. Financial Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endowment/reserve fund management • Modeling for members 	No care for earth expressed through financial management. Financial profit only consideration.	At least 30% of investment portfolio environmentally screened.	Environmentally-screened investment portfolio.	Environmentally-screened investment portfolio; actively votes shareholder proxies for the environment; encourages members to do the same.
7. Influence on Members, Denomination, Community	No effort made to influence behavior of members, denomination, and community.	Passive support given for “greening” initiatives in community/denomination and among members. Congregation does not initiate efforts to influence these areas.	Congregation initiates efforts to influence own members’ behavior and supports others’ initiatives to influence community/denomination.	Congregation initiates efforts to influence members, community, denomination and is known as a leader in each of these areas.