

## **Green Congregation Challenge -- 2019 Addendum to Tasks for Levels 1,2,3**

As the song often sung at Massachusetts climate rallies goes, “The seas are rising, and so are we.” The Mass Conference Environmental Ministries Team recognizes that some of the tasks/steps listed in our Green Congregation Challenge are dated and the times are “a changing.” There are many new ideas and steps which we would like to encourage congregations to consider as they work toward their Green Congregation recognition. See below.

We also encourage churches to think of new and creative ways of

- encouraging greater understanding of environmental and climate issues within their congregation,
- taking steps to make their church buildings and church operations more “carbon neutral” and sustainable,
- promoting actions by their members to green their own homes and lifestyles, and
- identifying opportunities for public advocacy and support for environment-friendly policies

Please feel free to forward new ideas or variations to the Environmental Ministries Team as your Church works toward its Green Congregation recognition.

Additions to the Tasks listed in the Green Congregation Challenge brochure:

- Promote the UCC Creation Care Voter Project / Environmental Voter Project to church members
- Energy Audit by a qualified energy professional with recommendations for improvements to building systems to reduce energy usage and/or green house gas emissions
- Participate in UCC Climate Justice webinars or organize your own webinars on climate justice issues
- Info session for members re. electric vehicles
- Info session for members on solar panels or on community solar programs
- Church retreat
- Encourage church youth to speak out and to join youth climate organizations
- Train church members on effective advocacy, especially on climate issues
- Hold programs on climate justice and encourage members to take positive steps

Please feel free to contact Karen Methot at the Mass Conference of the UCC Office with questions, suggestions and ideas for the Green Congregation program. [methodk@macucc.org](mailto:methodk@macucc.org) or (508) 875-5233