



Claiming Your Call for a Climate-Changed World

A Three-Day Retreat and Community of Practice for teams from Northern New England congregations

The BTS Center invites you to recruit a team of four from your congregation, including the lead pastor (or functional equivalent), and to apply to participate in this three-day retreat and community of practice. Nine congregations will be selected.

Dates: Thursday, June 20, 2024 (11:00 am) through Saturday, June 22, 2024 (1:00 pm)

Location: Schoodic Institute, Winter Harbor, Maine

Application Questions

Note: This list of questions is provided for use by your congregation's team as you are preparing to submit your application. Responses should be submitted using the online application form, accessible at www.thebtscenter.org.

Congregation Name

Congregation Website (optional)

Location of Congregation: In a few sentences, how would you describe the place (geographic, social, and ecological) where your congregation is located?

Congregational Demographics

1. Denomination
2. Average Weekly Worship Attendance:
 - 0 – 25
 - 25 – 50
 - 50 – 100
 - 100 – 150
 - 150 +
3. In a few sentences, how would you describe the composition of your congregation?

Congregational Engagement with Climate and Environment

1. To what degree is your congregation engaged in climate-related or ecological concerns at this time?
 - "Tilling the ground" – no engagement yet
 - "Planting seeds" – just getting started with educating and raising awareness
 - "Sprouting" – at least one effort or event within the congregation
 - "Blooming" – ongoing and significant engagement in the congregation and community
 - "Fruiting" – we're teaching other congregations how to do this work

2. In what ways has your congregation engaged in environmental issues or caring for God's Creation in the past **18** months? (Check all that apply.)
 - Creation-centered worship service (Earth Day, Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Season Creation, etc.)
 - Creation-care or “green” team / committee / task force
 - Sermon series (Season of Creation, nature themes in Scripture, etc.)
 - Educational event or series about Creation, climate, or environmental justice
 - Intentional community engagement with nature (hikes, camping, etc.)
 - Community garden
 - Energy efficient upgrades or renovations
 - Local waterway or land clean-up
 - Ongoing study group engaging ecotheology, advocacy, “green” scripture studies, etc.
 - Participate in marches or public actions on behalf of climate or local environmental issue
 - None of the above
 - Other (please specify)
3. Briefly describe one of these efforts that was particularly meaningful for your congregation:

Congregational Call

1. In your own words, share with us a story that captures your congregation’s emerging sense of call for transformational ministry in a climate-changed world.
2. What strengths do you feel your congregation already possesses for stepping into this call? Where are you particularly yearning as a church to grow further into this call?
3. Where could you envision / dream of this call taking root in your local community?

Commitments

- We commit to bring a team of four to this retreat, including the lead pastor (or functional equivalent).
- We commit to participating in the community of practice as a congregation after the retreat.

Please attach your letter of support from a community member, in support for your church’s participation in this retreat and learning community.

Application Process:

- We are looking for applicant congregations who:
 - are from northern New England (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts)
 - are interested in further deepening their sense of call to ministry in a climate-changed world
 - can help us form a diverse ecumenical cohort of congregations
- The application process includes:
 - Completing the online application form
 - Providing one letter of support from a member of your community, supporting the congregation’s application for participation in this cohort
 - Committing to bring a team of four people to the retreat, including the lead pastor or functional equivalent

Application Deadline: April 10

Participants will be announced May 1.

Questions? Email Ben Yosua-Davis at ben@thebtscenter.org