**Congregation Meeting Outline**

**Session 5 – Pulling it Together**

**Big Idea**: *Faith, science, and creation justice are interconnected and work together to tell one story of our relationships to God, our neighbor, and the created world of which we are a part.*

**Action Item:** Use reflection questions below to make a 1 month, 3 month, and 1 year implementation plan for your church’s creation justice team/ministry

**Story:** What implementation pathways are we feeling called to step into/deepen into? Are there two we see as connected, and how might we live into that connection and help others do so as well?

**Principles:**

* 1. Faith, science, and creation justice are all interconnected
  2. We all have an important role and can make *good* choices
  3. Small incremental steps done consistently have big impact over time
  4. Our impact increases when we act together (i.e., individual doing “[Meatless Monday](https://www.sistersofmercy.org/files/images/Justice/Earth/Mercy-Meatless-Mondays-Booklet-FINAL.pdf)” vs whole church of 150 vs. church + community)
  5. Creation justice is a part of being of being faithful to God. Co-participating with God in healing, reconciliation, and regeneration of creation is a faithful response to our call to love God, love ourselves, love one another, and love God’s creation of which we are a part.

**Meeting Flow:**

1. [Prayer for the Great Family](https://www.stevenkharper.com/prayerforthegreatfamily.html)

2. Sharing feedback on Session 5

3. Use Reflection Questions below and the Implementation Pathways to make an implementation plan for your church, home, and community

4. Visioning/planning next steps for your congregation (who do you need to talk to/collaborate with?)

5. Closing/[Blessing](https://socialjusticeresourcecenter.org/prayers/environment/)

**Implementation Pathways:**

***Education & Advocacy***

Continue in education about restoring faith, justice, creation in your church, home and community by exploring webinars, reading groups (perhaps you host one at church), table conversations such as through the [Eating Together Faithfully](https://lifearoundthetable.org/etf/how-to-start-an-etf-group/), and continue learning more about creation justice and how to [communicate about it](https://www.climaterealityproject.org/training) with others

***Food***

Church & home menu planning toward plant based and Mediterranean eating. Re-imagining food pantries and regenerative alternatives to food waste. Hosting vegetarian potlucks/picnics at church once or twice a month and host a Food Justice talk afterwards exploring the ethical/faith- based reasons for choosing local, affordable, regeneratively grown food as much as possible for the health of people, the planet, and all its creaturely inhabitants

***Purchasing***

Church and home moving to using reusable longevity items or compostables. Rethink purchasing and purchase for longevity. Explore implementing “Share & Repair” programs at church where clothes can be mended, repurposed, and exchanged freely before purchasing new items is necessary

***Compost & Waste***

Church and home turning trash to treasure: trash stations and composting. Explore starting/expanding composting ministry at church; partner with organization like [Compost Now](https://compostnow.org/) and ask folks to bring food scraps to church; encourage people to begin composting at home and have a talk sharing how this is possible

***Garden***

Church garden created as a “living bridge” to the neighborhood and creation. Explore starting a community garden on your church-land and/or partnering with a local, urban farmer; support a CSA; become site for Farmer’s Market

**DISCUSS**

**Reflection Questions:**

1. In Session 5- Remembering & Implementation, what stood out to you most in the compilation video, the inspiration video, or in the breakout room time? What ideas and/or questions surfaced? What inspiration did you glean as next steps in creation justice ministry in our church?
2. What pathway(s) feel more pertinent to our creation justice ministry in our congregation? What are some ways we can deepen creation justice in education, food, purchasing practices, compost & waste, and garden? Are there two pathways that intersect, and what projects might be possible at their nexus?
3. What is one step (that feels so simple it’s almost embarrassing to say out loud) that we could take right now to deepen into this/these pathway(s)? E.g. researching seeds; emailing an idea to clergy/staff; inviting someone to join/start a creation justice/creation care team at your church; calling a local compost service such as LA Compost or [Compost Now](https://compostnow.org/) or local restaurants/urban farms to see if collaboration is possible)
4. If you were to sketch creation justice action learning goals for your congregation for 1 month from now; 3 months from now; and 1 year from now what would they be? What tools/support/conversations would you need to have in order to accomplish them? *(Example of mapping a three-stage action learning goal timeline)*

* **1 Month:** Research Faith & Farm Partnerships with organizations like [RAFI-USA](https://www.rafiusa.org/farm-and-faith-partnerships-project/). Explore their website, take notes/brainstorm, call other churches partnering with RAFI to learn more about next steps. Share vision with others in your congregation and community; gather volunteers to help with the research; establish creation justice team and choose a time to meet regularly (perhaps you keep this time!)
* **3 Month:** Establish relationship with RAFI and clarify goals of partnership either supporting a RAFI-associated CSA/farm, and/or starting a RAFI-affiliated community garden on your church-land or in your surrounding city/neighborhood.
* **1 Year:** Break ground on your community garden; apply for creation justice/creation care grants in your diocese to fund the longevity of your project; establish/hold regular open service/harvest days in the farm. Begin planting and harvesting, working the land together.