

NCC Eco-Justice Program and Outdoor Ministries Commission Announce Green Camp Covenant Program

Jan. 22nd, 2008 – The Eco-Justice Program and the Outdoor Ministries Commission of the National Council of Churches of Christ, USA, have announced a program inviting camp and conference centers across the country to sign a Green Camp and Conference Center Covenant, recognizing that they have a unique role and responsibility to play in protecting God’s creation and maintaining places where people of faith come to experience God. The covenant, and the sign on process, can be found at www.nccecojustice.org/campcovenant.html.

“Camp and conference centers have a unique role to play in the protection of, and education about, God’s Creation”, said Jordan Blevins, Assistant Director of the Eco-Justice Program of the National Council of Churches. “This covenant gives them the opportunity to put words and commitments to the values many of them have been living out for generations, and to be recognized for and supported in doing so.”

The Outdoor Ministries Commission has long maintained Creation Care as one of their main priorities, writing in their Theological Mission Statement, “Outdoor ministry settings provide space and time to encounter God, others, and creation. The sacred place apart, intentional programs of study, recreation, worship, and sustained time together offer opportunities for Christian community. The natural environment reminds campers of the richness and variety God creates, the call to praise God, and the charge to care for all creation.”

Protection of wilderness areas has also long been a focus area and campaign of the Eco-Justice Program, who state on their webpage, “Wilderness is a place where God meets us, sometimes most powerfully. Whether as the site of Moses’ call, the Israelites’ freedom and consecration, the inspiration of prophets, the testing of Jesus, or our own experiences today, wilderness is a place of divine experience.”

At their annual gathering this week at the Ceverny Conference Center in Live Oak, Florida, members of the Outdoor Ministry Commission unanimously approved the covenant, and all present signed on to show their support.

Members of the NCCC Committee on Outdoor Ministries Signing the Covenant as individuals:
David Berkey, United Methodist Church
Mark Burkhardt, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Brian Frick, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Suzanne Getz Bates, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Rex M. Miller, Church of the Brethren
Jeff Puhlmann-Becker, United Church of Christ
Garland F. Pierce, Senior Program Director, Education and Leadership Ministries, National Council of Churches, USA