



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: July 1, 2010

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Environmental Stewardship Program Initiated by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Louisville, Ky. – Environmental Ministries, a program of the General Assembly Mission Council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), has introduced the Earth Care Congregations program to encourage churches to care for God’s earth and to honor churches that have committed to this important mission.

The goal of the program is to inspire churches to care for God’s earth in a holistic way, through integrating earth care into all of church life. *Earth Care Congregations: A Guide to Greening Presbyterian Churches* provides congregations with worksheets, resources, and instructions for becoming an Earth Care Congregation. The Earth Care Congregation certification honors churches that make the commitment to be stewards of God’s earth and encourages others to follow their example.

To become an Earth Care Congregation churches affirm the Earth Care Pledge to integrate environmental practices and thinking into all facets of their church life and complete projects and activities in the fields of worship, education, facilities, and outreach. Seven PC(USA) churches from around the country have already achieved Earth Care Congregation certification through participation in a pilot program.

“There are many Presbyterian congregations that are committed stewards of God’s earth, and I hope that the Earth Care Congregations program can help tell the stories of these churches and inspire others to follow their lead,” says Katie Holmes, program assistant for Environmental Ministries.

The program was originally developed by Jane Laping, Stewardship of Creation Enabler from Houston, as “Restoring Creation Congregations.” PC(USA) Environmental Ministries worked with Jane Laping and Alan Jenkins, founder of Earth Covenant Ministry in Atlanta, to update a guide to becoming an “Earth Care Congregation” to be used on a nationwide scale for Presbyterian congregations interested in earth care.

For more information on Second Presbyterian Church’s earth care program contact Katie Holmes at 502-569-5624 or [Katie.holmes@pcusa.org](mailto:katie.holmes@pcusa.org). *Earth Care Congregations: A Guide to Greening Presbyterian Churches* can be downloaded at www.pcusa.org/environment.