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## **100 Shades of Green Hits Halfway Point**

Fifty congregations now identify with our network and are linked to MCCN through a liaison. That puts us half way to our goal of 100 Shades of Green! Welcome to our newest members:

### **East Goshen Mennonite Church, Goshen, IN**

East Goshen focused a retreat around creation care last fall, with much energy and discussion.

### **Hope Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, MB**

“Climate change is the most pressing issue facing us today, and as Christians we need to be leading the way in addressing it,” says Christine Penner Polle, Hope’s liaison to MCCN. Christine blogs about climate change at [350orbust.wordpress.com](http://350orbust.wordpress.com).

### **Huntington Beach Church, Huntington, CA**

Here’s how Pastor Jeff McLain describes this new urban church: “We as a community continue to look for engaging and intuitive ways to be a prophetic voice of the Kingdom, We seek to truly discover what it would mean for it to be on earth as it is in heaven here in Orange County, California.”

### **Langley Mennonite Fellowship, Abbotsford, BC**

Recycling and other green initiatives have always been core issues for this congregation, says liaison Bruce Hiebert. Currently it is expanding its vision by reexamining peace theology and its application to environmental ethics, as well

as building partnerships with other organizations like A Rocha, a global Christian conservation group.

### **Metro Mennonite Church, Oklahoma City, OK**

This is a newer Mennonite congregation. Pastor Norman Berry tells us that gardening and recycling are part of life here.

### **Osler Mennonite Church, Osler, SK**

Pastor Gordon Allaby reports that Osler M.C. is a voice in the uranium industry debate. The congregation was also instrumental in getting its town to adopt curbside recycling.

### **Prairie St. Mennonite Church, Elkhart, IN**

This congregation's liaison, Caitlin Desjardins, connects at-risk youth to nature education and is involved in youth gardening. The congregation helps supports the Elkhart Mennonite Voluntary Service Jubilee House and the Jubilee Neighborhood Demonstration Garden, as well as hosting a 4-H club in the building.

## **Meet Your Creation Care Council: Karla Stoltzfus-Detweiler**



Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler serves part-time as Minister of Church Community Life at First Mennonite Church in Iowa City. She also has a longtime interest in sustainable gardening. "I love tending the growth of people and plants, and am thrilled to live and work in a place that blesses both of these callings!" Karla says.

On Sunday, February 13, Karla participated in the Interfaith Power and Light National Preach-in. The organization challenged faith leaders to preach on global climate change on this date. Karla's sermon, "Choose Life!" focused on Moses' parting words to his people in Deuteronomy 30. The departing leader lays out the options

Working with youth is one of Karla's responsibilities at First Mennonite. She is the thoughtful provider of the [Green Convention Ideas for Youth Groups](#) page on our web site.

Karla's love for gardening has two outlets at this point. Recently, her church launched a community garden in partnership with the Miller-Orchard Neighborhood Association of Iowa City. They are working with a local Art and Ecology class at the University of Iowa to make the garden more inviting. Karla and a friend are also beginning a small CSA that will provide flowers, herbs, bread and vegetables to its customers this summer.

## Recent Posts on our Web Site

### Hillcrest Mennonite Installs Solar Panels

As far as we know, Hillcrest Mennonite Church, New Hamburg, Ont., is the first of MCCN's 100 Shades of Green congregations to go solar. The church dedicated the project fall of 2010; the panels arrived in January 2011 and the system was connected to the grid on February 17.

The system that Hillcrest installed is a ground-mounted tracking unit, meaning that it can follow the sun throughout the day. The array is rated at 9.87 kW and will produce enough power in a year (about 18000 kWh) to provide for two average urban homes. [read more](#)

### MCCN Web Site Revised

Check out our [home page update](#): We've also revised the resources page and several other aspects of our site. We hope you find it easier to use. The Mennonite Church USA's upcoming convention in Pittsburgh July 4 – 9 is bringing more hits to our site, especially the pages on [Greening our Mennonite Conventions](#). Check them out if you haven't already.

## Resources

### **Ecology of the New Testament: Creation, Re-creation and the Environment, by Mark Bredin**

Much has been written on creation theology in the Old Testament; fewer people have applied this focus to the New Testament. What is the ecological significance of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness? Of the Beatitudes? Of the table fellowship in the New Testament? These are the kinds of questions that Bredin is asking. Bredin works not only with scholars, but also with learning-

disabled people and gardens. He writes for a popular audience.

### **Global Warming and the Risen Lord, by Jim Ball**

A gripping center point in this book is the statement "Overcoming global warming is a spiritual challenge." Such a statement is rare in most conversations about climate change and environmental degradation. Skeptics in society - as well as in the evangelical Christian community - often dismiss the evidence of global warming and overlook the idea that the condition of the soul is at the core of the problem. [Complete review](#)

### **InterFaith Power and Light**

[Interfaith Power and Light](#) promotes renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation among people of faith. The organization's web site includes information on public policy, energy audits, worship resources and a variety of campaigns and challenges to participate in. In 2010, InterFaith Power and Light challenged congregations to reduce their carbon footprints by 10 percent. About 250 congregations participated, with efforts that ranged from new heating systems to planting shade trees.

MCCN's Luke Gascho has been instrumental in bringing an InterFaith Power and Light affiliate to his home state of Indiana. The Indiana chapter of IFPL will launch on March 5, 2011.

### **Greening Sacred Spaces**

[Greening Sacred Spaces](#) is a Canadian organization with goals similar to Interfaith Power and Light. Among its many resources is a 74-page *Practical Guide to Energy Efficiency* with detailed information on how to make a church building more efficient.

Greening Sacred Spaces is also sponsoring a solar initiative. One of the tools provided is a solar self-assessment form. A congregation can submit answers to a series of questions about their location and building and receive advice as to whether solar is a good idea for its situation. Hillcrest Mennonite Church has received assistance from Greening Sacred Spaces and is featured on its web site.

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Luke Gascho provides leadership for MCCN. Jennifer Schrock oversees the production of this newsletter. If you have stories or resources to share, email [Jennifer](#) or Luke.