

2021 Annual Report from Earth Stewards Committee

In 2021, the committee continued to work on the requirements to maintain FPUPC's Earth Care Congregation status. As a 3rd year applicant, FPUPC needed a total of 50 points with at least 5 points in each category. FPUPC far exceeded those requirements: Worship: 25, Education: 23, Facilities: 37, Outreach: 14, for a total of 99 points.

In actuality, the point requirements were suspended in 2021 because of the pandemic: the Presbyterians for Earth Care (PEC) leaders realized that some of the congregational work to help restore creation was likely to be disrupted or impossible. However, FPUPC was able to surpass the usual requirements for recertification.

Highlights of the year's work included sponsoring a Zoom class on "Building a Backyard Wildlife Habitat: A Gardener's Approach" presented by Master Gardeners from Cornell Cooperative Extension, jointly sponsoring (with Christian Ed) a children's virtual art fair, setting up community composting on church property, and starting to plan for a large pollinator garden which we prayerfully hope to plant in the Spring of 2022.

Other programs that the committee helped organize included participation in the Lagrange Trash Bash, the Earth Care Sunday livestream service featuring an Earth Care sermon given by Rev. Lent, and publication of 3 church blog articles. Additionally, 2 new books were dedicated to the memory of Frank Brinckerhoff and added to the church library. These were: The Kitchen Garden by Alan Buckingham and Plastic Sucks! by Dougie Poynter. We continued our congregational membership in PEC, benefitting from their newsletters and occasional programs.

During the year the Earth Stewards committee was pleased and grateful to learn that the church has divested from the fossil fuel industry. We thank the Finance Committee for their work on this endeavor.

Undeterred by the pandemic, 2021 proved to be a productive earth-caring year for FPUPC.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Sheets
Earth Stewards Committee Chair