

# Chesapeake Covenant Congregations

A network of faith communities who covenant to express their loving concern for the earth and for the Chesapeake Bay in particular, in a variety of ways:

- by cherishing the earth
- by informing themselves about how we can better care for the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers and tributaries
- by reflecting this love and concern for the earth and the bay in their worship
- by embodying these ideas in their child and adult education programs
- by embodying care for the earth into their congregational life in practical ways
- by encouraging their members to embody care for the earth into their personal lives
- by managing their property in environmentally sustainable ways
- by making public witness to the moral imperative for modern people to respect the creation

[www.chesapeakecovenant.org](http://www.chesapeakecovenant.org)

## Membership

Membership in the Chesapeake Covenant Congregations network signifies the start of a process within a congregation to progressively learn and implement changes in its life to more completely reflect its conviction that care of the earth and the Bay is part of their Christian calling.

## Entering into Covenant

Each community of faith is placed in a particular situation where it is called to live out its faith. Each community of faith has its own traditions and theological understanding. CCC encourages member congregations to prayerfully and thoughtfully develop an earth-care covenant with God that is relevant to their situation and expresses their commitment.

We suggest that in practice each congregation write its own version of the Covenant, which might be a general statement expressing their intent to honor and restore Creation in the ways the Spirit leads. While each congregation will work out for itself the details of its covenant, in general it should include commitments in at least five areas:

- *Worship* Congregations should include care of the earth and environmental justice themes in their worship on a regular basis.
- *Learning and Teaching*, Environmental issues should be included in Christian Education programs
- *Personal and Congregate Lifestyle* There should be a commitment to earth-friendly practices in the everyday life of the congregation and of its individual members

- *Community outreach* The church's witness to the surrounding community should express its concern for the earth

- *National and Global Involvement* The earth and its waters provide a home for all humanity. Covenant congregations should respond to calls for stewardship and witness on national and global issues as well as local ones.

## Supporters

We welcome as Supporters any individuals, or groups within a congregation, that seek support in their earth-care witness and ministry.

## Assistance

Help is available for congregations who are embarking on this process. The CCC network can provide assistance or mentoring. Also a **toolkit** has been developed and is available free through

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National Council of Churches  
110 Maryland Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20002.  
Email [Cassandra@toad.net](mailto:Cassandra@toad.net)

or downloadable at  
[http://www.ncccojustice.org/network/downloads/NCCwatermanual\\_final12-21.pdf](http://www.ncccojustice.org/network/downloads/NCCwatermanual_final12-21.pdf)

The Toolkit contains theological background material, ideas for worship, and practical steps that can be taken by congregations to "walk more gently on the earth."

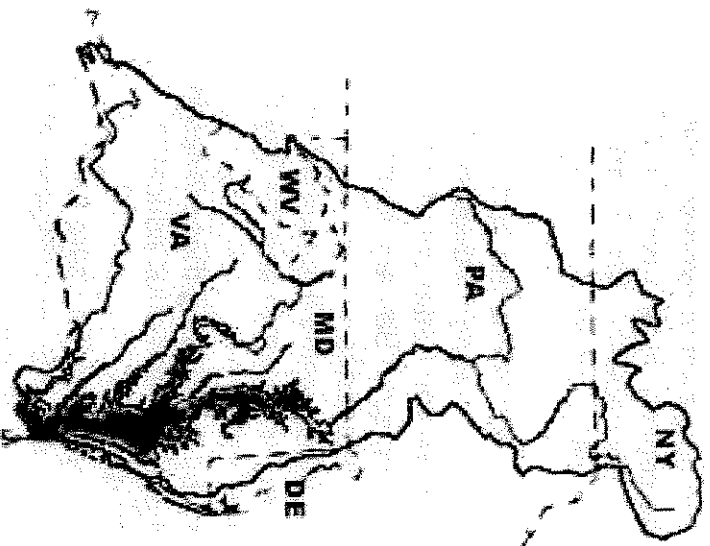
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Chesapeake Covenant Congregations is a movement of churches and religious communities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed who are attracted by the possibilities of bringing healing to lands and waters. As they explore these possibilities, they come to a deeper awareness of God in nature and find motivation for changes in life-style, undertaking reclamation projects on their own property and reaching out in community advocacy. Falling in love with God's Creation, they find the beauty of worship that is alive to the divine presence in all life and shape their education programs to nurture in children as well as adults fresh understandings of God's Spirit in a continuing creation. This builds on our Biblical heritage as well as being open to insights of contemporary science and "the New Cosmology."

How can congregations be supported in such a revolution of consciousness, a revolution that has the courage to challenge, in love, many existing patterns of life: a revolution that will unite us to the Holy as we reshape our value system and rebalance our ties to a consumer-centered economy?

Joining a network of Christian communities on a similar quest allows the sharing of resources and the building of a fresh community of the Spirit. It can be our way of saying AMEN to God's call to care for this beautiful Earth and become our gift to our children for generations to come. The act of joining, however it is expressed, is our "YES" to God and can be seen as a reaffirmation of the Covenant before God at Sinai, where the Israelites promised to do what the Lord set before them and become witnesses to God's concern for oppressed lands and peoples everywhere.

## **Chesapeake Covenant Congregations**



***If all the Christian communities in all the cities and all the towns in all the counties in all of the 64,000 square miles of the Chesapeake Bay watershed were to conscientiously care for God's creation, that would make a real difference for the Chesapeake Bay***

### **Further Information**

[www.chesapeakecovenant.org](http://www.chesapeakecovenant.org)

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