

Earth Care Congregation Application

2. EEC Information

1. Date

02/03/2024

2. Name of congregation (as will be printed on your certificate):

Atascocita Presbyterian Church

3. Original Certificate Date:

02/27/2019

4. Number of members

269

5. Contact and Congregational Information

Church street address

19426 Atasca Oaks Dr

City

Humble

[OLD VERSION] State (2 letter abbreviation)

State

TX

Zip

77346-2001

Country

United States

Earth Care Contact person

Forrest Craig

Earth Care Contact phone number

785-633-2994

Earth Care Contact email

fcraig3@gmail.com

Pastor's name

Rev. Dr. Wayne Eberly

Church office phone number

281-852-8990

Church/earth care team web site address

apchumble.org

Number of Earth Care Team members

16

Date Earth Care Team was formed

07/12/18, Re-formed on 04/13/2023

Name of team if not called "earth care team"**Presbytery**

New Covenant

Presbytery staff person's name to announce certification (if applicable)

Rev. Lynn Hargrove

Presbytery staff person's email address:

lhargrove@pbyofnewcovenant.org

6. Are you:

Recertify Application

7. Please select any of the following terms which describes your congregation?

White

5. Worship**8. Number of Actions**

	1	2	3	4	5	Not applicable
Number of Sundays devoted to earth care in the past year		X				
Number of worship services conducted outdoors in the past year						X
Number of sermons on earth care in the past year**		X				
Number of earth care awareness dramas dances during worship in the past year						X
Number of trees/shrubs planted for new members, baptisms, confirmations, etc					X	

9. Number of Actions

	1	5	10	25	50	Not applicable
Number of Sundays that worship services had an intentional earth care component (prayers, hymns, readings) in the past year **	X					
Number of Sundays that an earth care themed banner or other art was displayed in the past year						X
Number of Sundays that locally grown, pesticide free flowers were used in the sanctuary	X					
Number of Sundays that a Minute for Mission on earth care issues was presented	X					
Number of Sundays with a paperless service	X					

10. Number of actions

	Yes	No	Not applicable
Did your church purchase Eco-Palms (or other sustainably sourced greenery) for Palm Sunday?	X		
Did your church promote and participate in an earth care-focused Lent discipline? **		X	
Does your church use glass communion cups or regularly do communion by intinction? **	X		
Does your church have an outdoor meditation labyrinth or prayer garden?	X		
Did your church sponsor an event for members to write a creation care song, sermon, or prayer?		X	

11. ** If you recommend particular worship resources or sources for glass cups, devotional materials, share here:

6. Your Worship Results

Worship Results

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7. Education

12. Number of Actions

	1	2	3	4	5	Not applicable
Number of children's/youth Sunday school courses (series of classes) on earth care	X					
Number of adult courses (series of classes) with an earth care focus	X					
Number of days Vacation Bible School had an earth care theme						X
Number of guest earth care speakers or programs						X
Number of classes held outside						X
Number of youth projects related to earth care conducted						X
Number of articles/announcements about earth care in the bulletin/newsletter					X	
Number of months a bulletin board on earth care was displayed						X
Number of pages on the church's website devoted to earth care	X					
Number of books, games, videos, or other materials with an earth care focus in church library?					X	
Number of educational events focused on sustainable lifestyle choices for members						X
Number of times email messages about earth care sent to church members					X	
Number of earth care fairs or educational events held						X
Number of art displays or exhibits focused on earth care held at church						X

13. Number of Actions

	Yes	No	Not applicable
Is an earth care component included in confirmation classes?		X	
Is an earth care component included in new member classes?		X	

14. **** If you can recommend particular curricula, books, speakers, please share here:**

8. Your Education Results

Education Results

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9. Facilities

15. Energy Conservation

	Yes	No	Not applicable
Has your church earned recognition for greening efforts from other groups?		X	
Does your church have any LEED-certified buildings?*		X	
Has your session approved a plan to become carbon neutral? (General Assembly 2006 Carbon Neutral Challenge)		X	
Does your church purchase renewable energy, i.e., wind, solar?		X	
Has your church performed an energy audit and implemented at least two suggested items?	X		
Did your church perform 2 preseason (prior to heat/prior to air conditioning) HVAC checkups this year?	X		

16. Heating / Cooling

	None	Some	Half	Most	All	Not applicable
Are your church's furnaces high-efficiency models?	X					
Are your church's air conditioners high-efficiency models?				X		
Are your church's HVAC systems programmable to turn on and off at set times?				X		
Are your church's HVAC systems zoned so that not all rooms need to be heated/cooled continually?					X	
Number of outside doors that seal tightly					X	
Number of windows that seal tightly					X	
Number of windows that are double-pane				X		
Number of windows that are covered with plastic/storm windows for energy efficiency						X

17. Lighting

	None	Some	Half	Most	All	Not applicable
Number of fixtures with efficient light bulbs: compact fluorescent light bulbs, LEDs, or efficient tube lights				X		
Number of exit signs with light emitting diode (LED) bulbs			X			
Number of restrooms with motion sensors on lights	X					
Number of classrooms with motion sensors on lights		X				
Number of rooms with signs to turn off lights when you leave the room (if no motion sensors)				X		

18. Heating water

	None	Some	Half	Most	All	Not applicable
Number of church's water heaters tankless or on-demand?	X					

19. Renewable energy and alternative building*

	Yes	No	Not applicable
Does your church use geothermal energy to heat and cool its facilities?		X	
Does your church have solar panels?		X	
Does your church have a wind turbine to generate power?		X	
Does your church have cob, straw bale, or rammed-earth tire construction?		X	

20. Water conservation

	None	Some	Half	Most	All	Not applicable
Number of dual-flush or low-flow toilets installed	X					
Number of waterless urinals installed	X					
Number of faucets with aerators				X		

21. Recycling / waste

	None	Some	Half	Most	All	Not applicable
Amount of recycled paper purchased			X			
Number of copies made that were double-sided			X			
Aluminum, glass, plastic, and/or paper recycled*				X		
Amount of food scraps and lawn/garden waste that is composted	X					
Amount of purchased paper products (napkins, paper towels, toilet tissue) made from recycled paper				X		
Amount of curriculum, anthems, and other worship/educational materials saved and reused				X		
Amount of electronic equipment recycled*					X	

22. *If known, approx. lbs of mixed recycling (aluminum, plastic, glass, and/or paper):

23. *If known, approx. lbs of recycled electronic equipment:

24. Recycling / waste

	Yes	No	Not applicable
Does your church serve as a recycling drop-off for church members and/or the community?		X	
Do most members know how to turn off water, electricity, and gas as well as to monitor their functions?	X		
Are church members given the option of receiving the church newsletter via email?	X		

25. Reusing

	None	Some	Half	Most	All	Not applicable
Number of plates used that are reusable				X		
Number of cups used that are reusable				X		
Amount of flatware used that is reusable				X		
Number of events where water is served from pitchers (not disposable water bottles)					X	
Number of tablecloths used that are reusable					X	

26. Food consumption

	None	Some	Half	Most	All	Not applicable
Amount of coffee served that is fair trade		X				
Number of meals with plant-based choices			X			
Amount of organically or local food used	X					

27. Cleaning Products

	None	Some	Half	Most	All	Not applicable
Number of cleaners used that are less-toxic, i.e., vinegar, baking soda, salt, borax	X					

28. Grounds

	None	Some	Half	Most	All	Not applicable
Amount of fossil fuel-based fertilizers used on grounds in past year	X					
Amount of chemical pesticides, including herbicides, used indoors and out in the past year	X					
Amount of plants on the church grounds that are native				X		

29. Grounds

	Yes	No	Not applicable
Has your church established a wildlife habitat on the church grounds? *	X		
Does your church have a bike rack on its property?		X	

30. *If known, approx. square footage of certified wildlife habitat:

31. Storm water management

	Yes	No	Not applicable
Does your facility have a rain barrel or cistern to catch water from gutters for later watering needs?		X	
Does your church have a rain garden, bioswale, or other feature to help manage storm water runoff?		X	

32. Storm water management

	None	Some	Half	Most	All	Not applicable
Amount of the parking lot that has permeable pavement	X					

33. *If you recommend particular environmentally-friendly products, companies, sources, please share here:

34. *If known, amount of money and energy saved from above “energy efficiency” efforts:

10. Your Facilities Results

Facilities Results

134

11. Outreach BEYOND YOUR OWN CHURCH

35. Getting out into God's Creation

	1	2	3	4	5	Not applicable
Number of camping trips, nature walks or outings in which your church has participated		X				
Congregation or youth group sponsoring a pick-up trash or stream clean-up						X

36. Witnessing to Corporate Lifestyle Changes

	1	2	3	4	5	Not applicable
Number of days alternative transportation (walk/bike/bus/carpool) to church	X					
Number of times used materials were donated for re-use in social justice projects such as Habitat for Humanity, clothes closets, etc					X	
Number of times recycled or reusable materials used instead of making new purchases			X			
Number of times your church encourages members to carpool or use non-single-occupancy vehicles					X	
Number of times members embraced radical lifestyle changes (vocational, choice of home/vehicles, etc)					X	
Number of times a service project related to earth care conducted					X	

37. Engaging in Public Policy Awareness and Advocacy

	1	2	3	4	5	Not applicable
Number of times your session voted to take a stand on local, regional, or national earth care legislation					X	
Number of times members were encouraged to write or email elected officials about earth care legislation					X	
Number of public hearings or visits to elected officials' offices by a group from your church					X	
Number of times petitions were available for members to sign for earth care campaigns/strategies					X	
Number of time church members organized a climate justice rally lifting up the voices of people of faith					X	
Number of times the earth care issues from the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness, Presbyterian Hunger Program, Creation Justice Ministries, or related email actions were used in an educational setting in the congregation					X	

38. Standing with others

	1	2	3	4	5	Not applicable
Number of times a church group attended an environmentally-related event with other local churches, partners, or organizations		X				
Number of times someone from your congregation provided earth care assistance to another congregation		X				
Number of times members of your church stood in solidarity with a community impacted by environmental racism/classism/injustice					X	

39. Spreading the word

	1	2	3	4	5	Not applicable
Number of times your church received local press, presbytery news, or sharing of your earth care efforts?						X
Number of times visitors/new members/returning members mention earth care efforts as important marks of your church?	X					
Number of times church members join local environmental organizations in their activities?		X				
Number of events/activities that involve young adults (18-30 year olds) in church earth care programs?						X

40. Spreading the word

	Yes	No	Not applicable
Is your church a group member of Presbyterians for Earth Care (PEC) (presbyearthcare.org) or actively involved with Presbyterians for Carbon Dividends, Fossil Free PC(USA) or Red Presbiteriana para el Cuidado de la Creación?	X		
Does your church sponsor a scholarship or send a member to attend the PEC biennial conference?		X	
Does your church host direct farm marketing (including farmers markets, Community Supported Agriculture, buying clubs, or after service farm stands?		X	
Does your church sponsor, offer, or attend a mission trip focused on an earth care issue?		X	
Does your church have an international partnership with a church, presbytery, or community organization working for environmental justice in their area?*		X	
Did your church sponsor an e-trash recycling or household hazardous waste day for the community?		X	
Does your church sponsor a community garden?*	X		
Does your church share or rent office space with non-profit groups?	X		
Does your church collaborate with other Presbyterian, ecumenical, interfaith, or secular groups on earth care?	X		
Does your church participate in gleaning projects (saving/reusing food from farms)?*		X	
Does your church participate in disaster mitigation for possible natural disasters in your area?		X	
Does your church participate in disaster recovery efforts that are sustainable and resilient?*		X	
Does your church grow food for nearby food ministry, or act as an exchange place for food surplus?		X	
Does your church support youth and young adults to enter into creation stewardship as a vocation?		X	
Is your congregation part of the One Home, One Future campaign?		X	

41. *How many acres is your garden:

42. *How many lbs of food/year does your garden produce

43. ** If you recommend particular environmentally-themed mission trip sites, public policy tools, and other resources for outreach, please share here:

44. *Hosting mission trip organization, if you can recommend for others (Joining Hands, AIR Guatemala, World Mission, others):

45. Name and contact information of anyone in your congregation who has technical environmental expertise and would be willing to consult/share knowledge on a limited basis with another PC(USA) congregation trying to care for God's earth:

First Name

Last Name

Email

First Name

Last Name

Email

First Name

Last Name

Email

12. Your Outreach Results

Outreach Results

79

13. Final Comments

46. Other earth care activities your church has completed or other information to share:

Originally formed in 2018 and active well into 2020, our Earth Care Team lost momentum due to the Pandemic combined with staff losses. Earth Care continued on an ad hoc basis, but the Team was officially re-formed in 2023 and our church is committed to continually expanding and synergizing our activities in Worship, Education, Facilities, and Outreach.

15. Your Recertification Results

Worship

63

Education

58

Facilities

134

Outreach

79

Total Results

334

16. FORM 2 Next Steps / Visioning

47. Worship:

We plan to continue to purchase eco palms for Palm Sunday and have 1-2 paperless services again this year.

48. Education:

We plan for VBS to include an Earth Care component, and to expand Earth Care as part of our adult and youth education.

49. Facilities:

We will continue converting fluorescent light fixtures in classrooms and offices to LED. We are actively exploring solar options and renewal energy options for the pending renewal of our electricity provider contract.

50. Outreach:

We will expand our Community Garden and its community outreach. We also plan to advertise Earth Care related events with other organizations to our congregation and encourage them to attend.

51. Other:

We intend to keep a focus on Earth Care and synergize whenever possible with the work of other ministries within the church.