



The United Methodist Church

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Sally Dyck
Bishop

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Date: January 24, 2018
To: Attendees at the United Methodist Green Fair on the Chicago Southern District
From: Bishop Sally Dyck
Re: Encouragement to care for creation

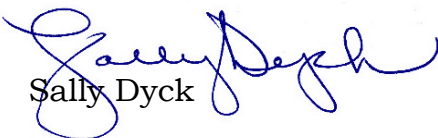
Care for creation is more important than ever and it may be that people of faith are the best ones to remind our country to care for the home that has been given to us by God. None of us would think to trash or pollute or make inhabitable, unclean or unsafe the house we live in. Yet in many ways, as citizens of this earth we are trashing, polluting and making uninhabitable, unclean and unsafe the earth on which we depend.

While I am unable to be with you today for the United Methodist Green Fair on the CSD, please know of my commitment for us as United Methodists to care for creation, beginning with our own homes, habits and churches. We also have work to do in terms of supporting our government to be more proactive in terms of the Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA has been decimated over the past year and many of our communities, including the Southside, need its support.

If you have read my co-authored book (with Sarah Ehrman O'Connor), *Hope for the Earth*, you know that I believe each one of us needs to assess where we are in our practices to care for the earth. We shouldn't insist that others have the same practices as we have because we all have different situations in which we live. The same is true in terms of our churches; some have more resources, opportunities or ability to make changes that are compatible with God's earth. Where we can, when we can, how we can, we need to make those changes.

Thank you for attending today and I hope that you and your team go home with new inspiration and ideas to take one more step toward "a hopeful earth."

Your Servant in Christ,


Sally Dyck

SJD:mla