Several congregations in Western North Carolina are involved in efforts to “green” their membership through sermons, seminars, studies of sacred writings, and outdoor experiences, as well as their facilities through environmental improvements such as energy efficiency, solar panel installation, and community gardens.

Other congregations are working to engage members in advocacy efforts and still others are in need of information about what to do and how to do it. Regardless of where you or your congregation may be on this continuum, all are invited to be part of the Creation Care Alliance of Western North Carolina.

**Ways to partner with the Creation Care Alliance**

**Invite** your faith community to explore or deepen its care for creation and to become a part of CCA. Check out the *Creation Care Guide*.

**Serve** by volunteering for CCA actions or with your own faith community on behalf of God’s Creation.

**Share** financially with CCA by sending a check to CCA at 29 N. Market Street, Suite 610, Asheville, NC, 28801 or donate online at www.creationcarealliance.org

**Lead** courageously and compassionately by sharing with others your hopes for creation care.

**Offer prayers** with your heart, mind, or body on behalf of God’s creation and those most impacted by our environmental crisis.

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**Join us**

**Creation Care Alliance of Western North Carolina**

**29 N. Market Street, Suite 610**

**Asheville, NC, 28801**

**creationcare@mountaintrue.org**

**(828) 258-8737**

**Inspiring and mobilizing individuals and faith communities to care for God’s creation.**
The Creation Care Alliance of Western North Carolina (CCAWNC) is a network of people of faith and congregations who have united around a moral and spiritual call to preserve the integrity, beauty and health of God’s creation.

We bring practical and hopeful solutions to our congregations and broader secular communities by engaging hearts and minds through education, service and advocacy. Our work is an expression of our love of God and God’s love for the earth and all life.

Why a Group Focused on Faith and the Environment in WNC?

We recognize that humans have acted unwisely toward the sacred gift of creation. As a result, climate change and a host of other environmental problems are causing a global health and ecological crisis, resulting in incredible harm and injustice to people and places across our planet, including the ecosystems and communities of Western North Carolina.

As people of faith, we have a duty to our communities, our neighbors across the planet, and future generations to engage full heartedly in creating and implementing practices and policies that protect the health, economic welfare, and dignity of every human being and all of God’s creation.

Who is CCAWNC?

CCAWNC is open to all people and faith communities in Western North Carolina. We have worked with more than 50 local congregations over the last five years to organize and/or host some of the following events and initiatives:

- Offer the Creation Care Toolkit for Congregations
- Preach, share workshops, offer pastor breakfasts, resources and education
- Earth Day Interfaith Vigils
- Host Clergy and Faith leader retreats
- Share hopes and faith perspectives related to clean energy with North Carolina Legislators.
- Twenty-seven churches signed a 2012 ad in the Asheville Citizen-Times asking elected officials to be faithful stewards of our air, water, and land.
- Testified at EPA and Air Quality Board hearings
- Delivered a letter signed by 73 local clergy to Duke Energy CEO calling on the company to retire the Asheville coal plant.
- Offered presentations by Katharine Hayhoe, Climate Activist, Tim DeChristopher, Matthew Sleeth of Blessed Earth and Rev. Peter Illyn of Restoring Eden.
- Led events and book studies to highlight Pope Francis’ writings on Care for Creation.
- Led People’s Pilgrimage along the French Broad River highlighting the efforts at the Paris Climate Talks.

What Guides CCAWNC?

CCAWNC aims to bring together morally-driven citizens and organizations, whether they are clergy, congregations, people of faith, or other community members, to support and expand our creation care efforts through:

- **Inspiration** by coming together to experience gratitude, hope, and awe at the wonders of God’s creation and to express sorrow for the injustices done to it;
- **Education** by partnering on educational events and sharing information and resources;
- **Service** by providing assistance and support to individuals and congregations engaging in environmental justice service activities; and
- **Advocacy** by using our voices to call for the protection of God’s creation in the public sphere.

Where is CCAWNC Headed Next?

From our beginning in 2012 as Western North Carolina Green Congregations, Mountaintrue (formerly the Western North Carolina Alliance) generously provided funding and staff assistance from their campaign coordinator, Anna Jane Joyner.

In June 2014, the CCAWNC steering committee voted to formally associate with Mountaintrue as an official program to garner more organizational strength and resources for our programs and to mutually support the work to care for creation.

In the coming year, CCAWNC plans to host additional clergy gatherings and public educational events and panels to offer more resources to congregations regarding energy efficiency and education, to explore ways to support creatures and people with bird and people friendly gardens, offer another Care of Creation Earth Day Vigil, green foods potluck and continue to partner with the Audubon Society, Interfaith Power and Light and Wake Forest Divinity School.