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Global Ministries to Commission EarthKeepers for Environmental Stewardship
24 new Global Ministries EarthKeepers will launch creation care projects

ATLANTA, December 1, 2020 —Global Ministries will commission 24 new EarthKeepers in an online service on Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 8 p.m. ET. The service will be shared via livestream on the Global Ministries website at www.umcmmission.org and on the Global Ministries Facebook page at www.facebook.com/GlobalMinistries. This service will affirm the EarthKeepers in their call to the ministry of creation care and will bless their work in their communities.

Global Ministries EarthKeepers is a training program to equip United Methodists in the United States for environmental stewardship. Participants discuss theology, United Methodist resources, community organizing and anti-racism, and then use what they learn to develop an environmental project for their churches and communities. The program serves as both a launchpad for people looking to turn an idea into action, and an incubator for people who want to deepen an existing ministry. Participants develop plans in conversation with their peers, troubleshooting ideas and sharing strategies. This year's training took place online due to COVID-19.

This is the fourth year that EarthKeepers commissioning services have been held online. The online service allows EarthKeepers to participate along with their family, friends and church community. Those leading the service include Bishop Larry Goodpaster, bishop-in-residence at Candler School of Theology; Roland Fernandes, general secretary of Global Ministries and UMCOR; and the Rev. Jenny Phillips, senior technical advisor for Environmental Sustainability and leader of the EarthKeepers program.

This year's participants are from 14 different annual conferences in every U. S. Jurisdiction. Headshots of the participants are available for annual conference communications use at:
<https://www.flickr.com/gp/globalministriesearthkeepers/m5B06R>

“In this year of pandemic, firestorms, heat and record-breaking hurricanes, it is crucial that the church examine its commitment to stewardship of the earth,” said Phillips., “With the commissioning of this cohort, there will be more than 200 Global Ministries EarthKeepers throughout the U. S. seeking to ensure the flourishing of God’s creation.”

Upon completion of the training, each EarthKeeper will launch an environmental project in their community. This year's projects include electric vehicle charging, water justice, waste management, food security, gardens, curriculum development and more.

To read more about their projects and to get updates on 2021 trainings, join the Global Ministries Creation Care Network at <http://creationcare.umcmmission.org>.



The 2020 Global Ministries EarthKeepers reside in the following 14 annual conferences:

Alabama-West Florida

Amber Nunn
Rev. Audrey Rodgers

Arkansas

Rev. Angie Gage

Baltimore-Washington

Alan Ward
Rev. Rebecca Vardiman

Florida

Sara Nussel
Kim Wendt

Northern Illinois

Tricia Smith

Minnesota

Dr. Jon Urban

New England

Rev. Priscilla Dreyman
Steve Hill
Michael Leonard
Linda Webster
Rev. Robert Webster

North Georgia

Rev. Bomi Kim
Rev. Millie Kim

North Carolina

Linda Hevner
Dianne Gagnon

Oklahoma

Rev. Paul McDowell

Pacific Northwest

Elizabeth Williams

South Georgia

Pat Homer

Susquehanna

Rev. Lenore Hosier
Rebecca Hosier

Wisconsin

Mary Volmer

Photos are available at <https://www.flickr.com/gp/globalministriesearthkeepers/m5B06R>

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About the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church

Global Ministries is the worldwide mission and development agency of The United Methodist Church. Founded in 1819, Global Ministries today supports more than 300 missionaries in over 70 countries, including the United States. It has personnel, projects, and partners in 115 countries. Learn more about Global Ministries by visiting www.umcmmission.org or by following www.facebook.com/GlobalMinistries and www.Twitter.com/UMCmission.