

General Synod #33 of the UCC-Resolution 7-*RIGHTS OF NATURE* - “Who will speak for the trees?”

Recap by Gail Landers

Although not assigned to a specific committee, I followed the Rights of Nature Resolution, subtitled, “Who Will Speak for the Trees?” As a member of the Green Team/Environmental/Creation Justice Group for the past decade, representing the Central Association and serving as a proponent for the PCC presented Alternatives for Plastic Foam at Synod 32, I felt “called”, delegate wise. Our PCC had endorsed this resolution at our Annual Meeting in June. It was authored by the New Hampshire Conference.

Two familiar voices to me were Rev. Dr. Leah Shade and Rev. Jim Antel, both of whom have presented in our conference. The workshop lecture titled “Voices of Courage in a Time of Climate Crisis” included: “Could we make God a Member of our Church? Make a Creation Tithe? Establish an Eco Ethical Ark? Become a Blessing to ALL Living Things? Sing to the Trees?

All resolutions are required to honor Biblical, Theological and Historical Groundings as noted in the copy available on line, as are the many references for implementation:

[https://www.nhcucc.org/uploads/documents/conference-ministries/annual-meetings/Resolution%20of%20the%20Rights%20of%20Nature%20\(3\).pdf](https://www.nhcucc.org/uploads/documents/conference-ministries/annual-meetings/Resolution%20of%20the%20Rights%20of%20Nature%20(3).pdf)

We are all members of the community of the Earth; we are co-participants in Nature (Creation) and are called to respond compassionately to the cries of Nature.” This interconnectedness to ALL living things recognizes our reciprocal and responsible human relationship with Nature.

Business Owners, Community Members, Farmers, Fisher-People, Gardeners, Scientists, ALL actively working and engaged in conservation of this Earth, continue to strive to become what many leaderships of indigenous peoples, our ancestors, have already done and continue to do.

The challenge is large, encompassing Earth, Sea and Sky. Small steps lead the way. Start walking, keep walking, talking and participating.

Gail Landers, New Covenant UCC, Williamsport, Central Association PCC, 2 August 2021