

Adopt a Body of Water Curriculum

Lesson Plan 6: Moving to Action

To be sent ahead

- 🔍 How is this body of water regularly cared for?
- 🔍 What are the natural forms of care provided by other parts of its ecosystems?
- 🔍 What individuals or organizations watch over, care for, and advocate for this body of water?
 - What regular recommended actions do these organizations put forward?
 - What recommended actions are they asking for presently?
 - How might a faith community join with this body of water in bringing about health and life to its wider community?
- 🔍 What are this body of water's safeguards or buffers?
- 🔍 What ecosystems are a part of this body of water? (swamps, forests, aquifers, creeks, etc.)
- 🔍 What Native people are a part of this ecosystem? Or what Native people once were a part of this ecosystem? (<https://native-land.ca/>) How did Native people interact with this body of water?
- 🔍 Indigenous peoples have referenced waters, streams, and rivers as the circulatory system for Mother Earth (earth's body). How might that wisdom be applied to your body of water
- 🔍 What are the regular threats to the health and life of this body of water's ecosystem?
 - For example, how much plastic is regularly dumped into this water's ecosystem? (Estimated that 10,000 metric tons of plastic is put into the Great Lakes every year: <https://theconversation.com/tons-of-plastic-trash-enter-the-great-lakes-every-year-where-does-it-go-100423>)

- What agricultural run-off is a part of this water ecosystem?
- How is waste treatment handled around this water ecosystem?
- Who is responsible for whatever toxicity or pollution enters this water ecosystem? (Resources like the Environmental Defense Fund's Chemical Exposure Action Map might be used:
[https://chemicalactionmap.edf.org/?_gl=1%2A19p638f%2A_gcl_au%2AMTY4MjQ4MDg4MC4xNzA4OTA4NTk0%2A_ga%2AMTA2MjM0MjQ3OS4xNzA4OTA4NTk3%2A_ga_2B3856Y9QW%2AMTcwOTA3NDQ5MC4yLjEuMTcwOTA3NDYxNC42MC4wLjA. \)](https://chemicalactionmap.edf.org/?_gl=1%2A19p638f%2A_gcl_au%2AMTY4MjQ4MDg4MC4xNzA4OTA4NTk0%2A_ga%2AMTA2MjM0MjQ3OS4xNzA4OTA4NTk3%2A_ga_2B3856Y9QW%2AMTcwOTA3NDQ5MC4yLjEuMTcwOTA3NDYxNC42MC4wLjA.)

 How do the regular threats to the health and life of this body of water's ecosystem affect other parts of the ecosystem around it?

- Plant and tree life?
- Animals?
- Humans?

 What are the recent struggles or crises which have affected this body of water?

 Four international climate scientists have developed great discernment, barometers, and critical questions for developing healthier water systems. Read the article here: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-00886-z> How might you use their wisdom for bringing critical questions to your body of water?

 As you pray over and with this body of water, what do you hear this body of water saying in concert with you?

Title

Water as Subject: Teeming with Love

Session Governing Scripture Place

6

Revelation 22:1-5

Local church meeting room, public library, or place marked as central to your local watershed.

Day

Time

Posted upon arrival

Revelation 22:1-5

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and God's servants will worship the Creator of the Universe; ⁴ they will see God's face, and God's integrity will also be their own. ⁵ And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Living God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

How shall we partner with God and with _____ (local body of water) to have water that flows from the throne of God?

Posted for later display

Materials

Butcher paper or something similar with markers to record answers and then post in the room

Technology

Handouts

Pod-maps and their instructions.

1. Posted for people upon arrival/entrance

Revelation 22:1-5

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How shall we partner with God and with _____ (local body of water) to have water that flows from the throne of God?

2. Read what is posted for people on arrival/entrance

3. Prayer

Creator of the Universe, now is the time for action. We have learned much. We have worked hard. We have experienced our mother and sister, this water, acting upon us. Now is the time to be Her protector. Give us the wisdom to know direction and the courage to act.

4. Reflection and discussion

Ask for answers to the discussion questions that were provided and assigned at the introductory meeting. Record the answers on the paper and post for all to see.

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Ask for general reflection on what the participants learned through researching their questions and over the course of this educational experience.

5. Pod-Mapping

Distribute pod maps with these instructions:

We are going to develop a pod-map which is a tool used by Mutual Aid Networks to bring community effort and solidarity to an issue or ministry desperately needed in our community. Today we are going to build that pod-map to begin work as Water Protectors for our body of water. We have done some of the work. Now let's get started.

A "pod" is a microcosm of "community." Since it's more concrete, it's easier to get organized—to connect, make a plan, and follow through if and when it's needed. There may be certain qualities you look for in the folks in your pod(s): maybe they're really reliable, well-resourced, generous, committed, kind. Maybe they have certain skills that you don't and need. Maybe they live nearby.

In the center circle, write your name, and our body of water.

The dark circles are your pod. It's important to write specific names, as well as what supports they can provide.

For example, if we were working on a neighborhood pod, we might ask of potential additions to our pod, "Is it a neighbor who has a generator that will charge your wheelchair when the electricity is out? Is it someone who can buy and drop off groceries? What about a friend who will take care of you when you're sick? Talk to your people and ask what they feel able to provide. Then ask them what they need from you to be in *their* pod, or let them know what you can offer. (Mutual aid is mutual.)

The dotted lines are people who are movable—they could become part of your pod if you have some conversations and build relationships.

The larger circles on the outside are bigger community groups, networks, organizations, etc., that could be resources for you.

As we have more information, we can continue to fill it in. Like, "Do you want to be part of my water protection pod? OK cool, what do you feel like you can contribute? Some might say, "I can do clean up with these materials." Others might offer to bring meals to a meeting. Some do regular water testing. While others still offer to write letters to the editor on a regular basis. Some know how to schedule meetings with local and state

officials. Others can participate just by praying for the whole group. Others can provide lodging for an expert or speaker who will come in to help with discernment.

Begin by filling out your individual pod. If you get stuck, don't hesitate to ask others for help. We're going to try and have one pod we do all together at the end.

Give about 10 minutes for individual pod-mapping.

6. Collective pod-mapping

Now try to come together to build a pod for our whole group. Share resources. Figure out where you fit and what resources you can recommend.

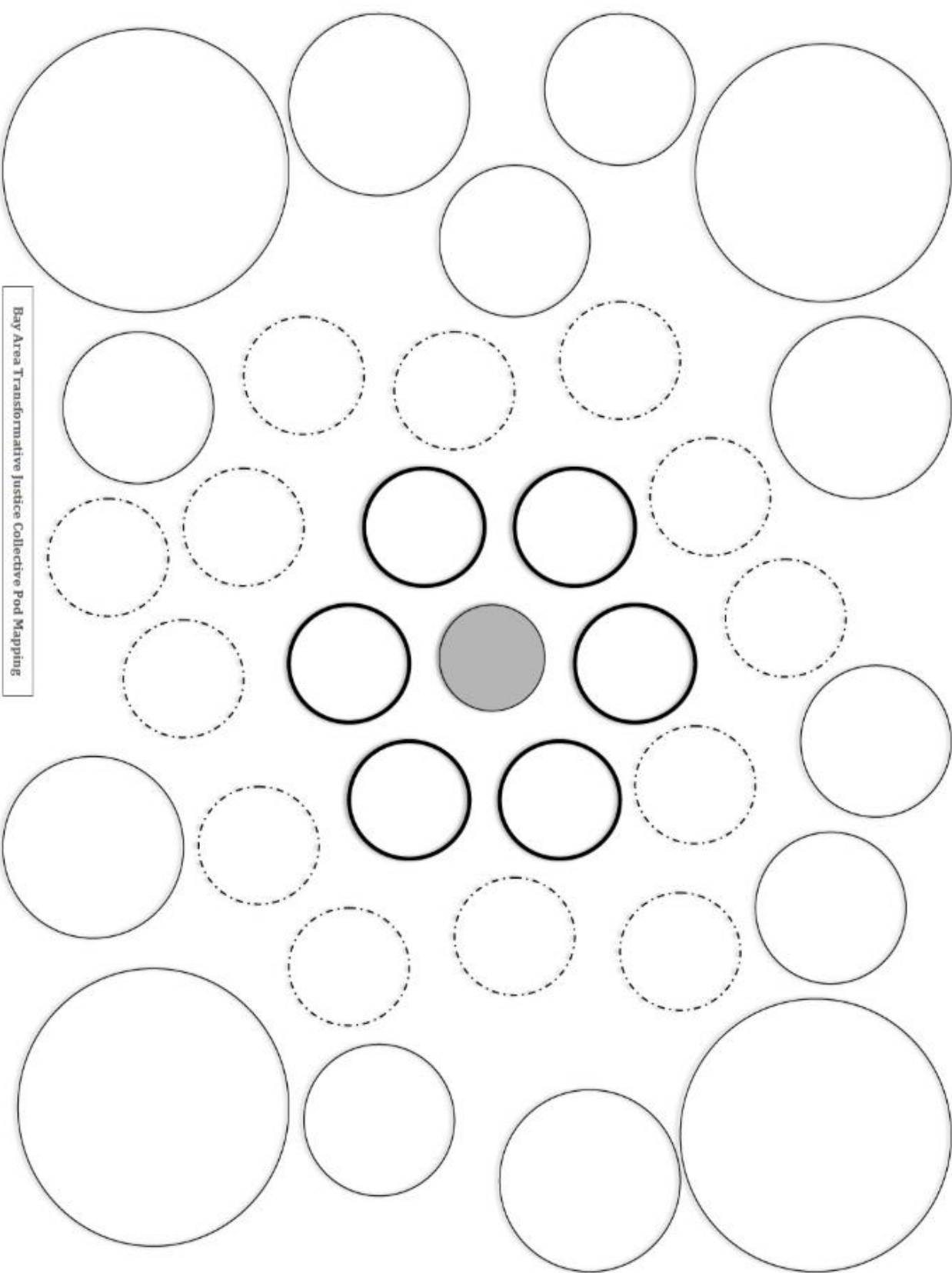
Go to: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-QfMn1DE6ymhKZMpXN1LQvD6Sy_HSnnCK6gTO7ZLFrE/preview?tab=t.0 for a pod-mapping sample that you may want to share with the whole group.

7. Action (write the answers down to then send to the whole group)

- Let's give our pod a name that goes along with our body of water.
- Now discern who might be the two central leaders of your pod and a clerk to record your work.
- What is your next step? Make it easy. You could start out by saying, "At the least, we could do this . . ."
- Set the date and time for your first meeting together as _____ Pod.

8. Express gratitude to the group for participating.

9. End your time together by singing *Water Is Life* one last time.



Bay Area Transformative Justice Collective Pod Mapping