

## Bio for Reverend Fred Small

Cited by Bill McKibben as “one of the true stalwarts in the fight against climate change” and “one of the key figures in the religious environmental surge,” Rev. Fred Small is Minister for Climate Justice at Arlington Street Church, Boston (<http://ascboston.org/>). He serves on the Steering Committee of the Faith Science Alliance for Climate Leadership (<http://faithsciencealliance.org>). A Unitarian Universalist parish minister for nearly two decades, Fred is also a singer-songwriter and environmental lawyer. In 2015 he left parish ministry to devote his energies to creation care and climate advocacy. Fred has studied with some of the wisest spiritual teachers of our time, including Thich Nhat Hanh, Eknath Easwaran, Joanna Macy, John Philip Newell, and Tara Brach. In 2018, Fred earned his Certificate in Spiritual Guidance from the Rowe Center. A member of Spiritual Directors International, he leads workshops on spiritual support for climate activism and offers one-on-one spiritual counseling, especially for climate anxiety and ecological grief. Educated at Yale (BA 1974) and the University of Michigan (JD and MS in Natural Resources 1978), Fred served as a staff attorney for the Conservation Law Foundation. In 1980, Fred left CLF to tour internationally as a folksinger and songwriter, releasing seven albums over two decades on the Rounder, Flying Fish, and Aquifer labels. Pete Seeger called him “one of America’s best songwriters.” In 1996, Fred entered Harvard Divinity School, where he designed the Green Sanctuary program adapted by the Unitarian Universalist Association and implemented in over 250 congregations. Awarded his M.Div. degree in 1999, Fred was ordained a Unitarian Universalist minister by First Church Unitarian in Littleton, Massachusetts. After nine years in Littleton, in 2008 Fred was called by First Parish in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

One of the first to engage in civil disobedience to draw attention to climate change, Rev. Small was arrested with 21 others in prayer outside the US Department of Energy in Washington, DC, in May 2001. In 2007, he was one of the lead organizers of the Interfaith Walk for Climate Rescue from Northampton to Boston, Massachusetts. In 2016, he was twice arrested with other faith leaders in nonviolent civil disobedience protesting construction of Spectra Energy’s fracked gas pipeline in West Roxbury, Massachusetts.

In 2007, Grist Magazine named Rev. Small one of 15 Green Religious Leaders worldwide (<http://www.grist.org/news/maindish/2007/07/24/religious/>). In 2017, UU Mass Action honored him with the Ruth Rowan Award for his musical contributions to social justice movements.