

Report by the Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, Missioner for Creation Care Diocesan Convention, November 2019

I am writing this report in the midst of the weeklong Global Climate Strike, which is engaging millions of people worldwide in the biggest push for climate action that the world has ever seen.

Over the past year I continued to write, speak, preach, lead retreats, and advocate about our urgent call to protect God's Creation. This ecumenical ministry takes me around Massachusetts and farther afield.

Some highlights of 2019:

- How do you handle your anxiety and grief about the climate crisis? Where do you find courage and hope to keep fighting for a better world? These are some of the questions addressed in my new book, [*Rooted and Rising: Voices of Courage in a Time of Climate Crisis*](#). The anthology, which I co-edited with my friend Leah Schade, features 21 essays by faith-based leaders in the climate movement, along with study questions and spiritual practices. The book is easy for a study group to use. It will be published in November by Rowman & Littlefield.
- *Daily Hampshire Gazette* interviewed me in March: "[Environment: Q&A with Rev. Bullitt-Jonas about finding hope in face of climate change](#)"
- On behalf of [National Religious Coalition on Creation Care](#) (NRCCC), I helped to write [Religious Declaration of Unprecedented Planetary Emergency](#), a statement that was signed by prominent faith leaders and shared with the White House and members of Congress. The statement was released in the same week that the [U.K. became the first country to declare "an environment and climate emergency,"](#) and in the same week that the [Anglican Communion became, as far as I know, the first global religious body to recognize a climate emergency.](#) [My blog post about the statement](#) was widely shared, including being posted on the Swedish Website, We Don't Have Time.
- In 2019 the UCC endorsed the Green New Deal. I contributed a tip for the UCC collection, "[Preaching on the Green New Deal.](#)"
- In the Autumn 2019 issue, *Earth Island Journal* published my article, "[God in the machine,](#)" about the power of friendship to release us from climate despair.
- I preached and led workshops about the climate crisis in Episcopal, UCC, and Lutheran churches in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and California. A sample sermon (preached in Haydenville, UCC) is "[Love in a time of climate emergency.](#)"
- I spoke about "[Spiritual sustenance in a time of climate crisis](#)" at "Climate Change, Extreme Weather and Vulnerability," an interfaith summit held in March at Old South Church, Boston (*Shambhala Times*, an on-line Buddhist magazine, shared my remarks).
- I led a one-day retreat on spiritual resilience and leadership in the midst of the climate crisis for Anglican Studies students at Episcopal Divinity School at Union Theological

Seminary. I also led a one-day clergy retreat on the same topic for the Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real.

- The Episcopal Church continues to lead on climate change, and in July I joined a meeting in New York City with Presiding Bishop Michael and a small group of advisors invited to consult with him on what God is calling our Church to do in this critical time.
- I traveled in California (the Dioceses of Los Angeles and of El Camino Real) to preach, lead Christian and interfaith workshops, and speak in Salinas at a conference on climate change that I helped organize, “An Opportunity for Which the Church Was Born.”
- We continue to develop Creation care in our diocese. In Lent 2019 the Episcopal Church launched [Sustaining Earth, Our Island Home](#), a call to action for all Episcopalians. [Our diocese was honored to be one of the early adopters of this carbon tracker](#), which gives us tools to reduce our household carbon emissions and to make good choices in the five areas of daily life that matter most (how we heat and electrify our homes; how we transport ourselves; what we eat; and how we deal with waste).

So far we have introduced Sustain Island Home to St. David’s, Agawam; Grace, Amherst; St. John’s, Ashfield; Trinity, Milford; St. Paul’s, Stockbridge; and St. John’s, Williamstown, and will soon bring it to Church of the Atonement, Westfield.

To introduce Sustain Island Home to your congregation, please contact the Rev. Eric Elley (phone: 860/394-8728; email: eelley (at) live.com). Other members of our diocesan team include Edith Allison, Sandy Muspratt, Chris Riddle, DeAnne Riddle, and Lucy Robinson. We are always glad to welcome new people to our team, so if you would like to help encourage people in our diocese to reduce their carbon footprint, please let Eric know!

- My newsletter, “Creation Care Network” e-News, is sent out every month. To subscribe, sign up on the [Creation care page of our diocesan Website](#).

To subscribe to my occasional blog posts, please visit my Website, [RevivingCreation.org](#).

Please join the conversation on our Facebook page, [Creation Care](#).

- Thank you for participating in our diocese’s sixth annual Season of Creation (September 1-October 4). Resources are posted on our [Creation Season Website](#) to help us learn, pray, act, and advocate. The materials are there year-round, so please use them anytime!
- As I often say when I’m on the road: I may have the title, “missioner for Creation care,” but actually I hold that title on your behalf. *All* of us need to become missionaries for Creation care. Thank you for the ways you heal and bless God’s Creation!

-- Submitted by (the Rev. Dr.) Margaret Bullitt-Jonas (mbj@revivingcreation.org)