



**Interfaith**  
Partners for the  
**CHESAPEAKE**

# ONE WATER PARTNERSHIP

*Igniting and equipping the faithful  
to restore our shared waters,  
honor Creation and act justly in  
our broader communities*

## PROGRAM PARTNERS



A photograph of a stone building with a Gothic-style window and a large tree, with a stone-lined stream in the foreground. The stream is filled with large, smooth, light-colored rocks and green plants. The building has a grey roof and a stone wall. The tree is large and dark green. The foreground is a grassy area with a stone-lined stream.

# Our shared sacred waters need your help

Now is the time for people of faith to heed the call to restore Creation. The Earth is a gift to be cherished, but we have been poor caretakers. Our negative impact is evident in degraded streams, trash-filled neighborhoods, and the loss of natural habitat. In the One Water Partnership, your congregation will work with other stakeholders and community partners to change this. You will develop a strong sense of place and responsibility for restoring a healthy environment for all inhabitants who live together in the Jones Falls Watershed.



## Congregations healing Creation together

When your congregation joins the One Water Partnership you will be embraced by Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake and our expert partner organizations who will serve as your own “personal trainers” to help you achieve your goals. This partnership will help you build and support congregational Green Teams to strengthen your Creation care efforts, provide you with information and specific ideas for taking action, and broker connections to help you sustain your new habits of stewardship. The 15 congregations who join the One Water Partnership will receive \$1,000 in seed funds to kickstart your initiative.

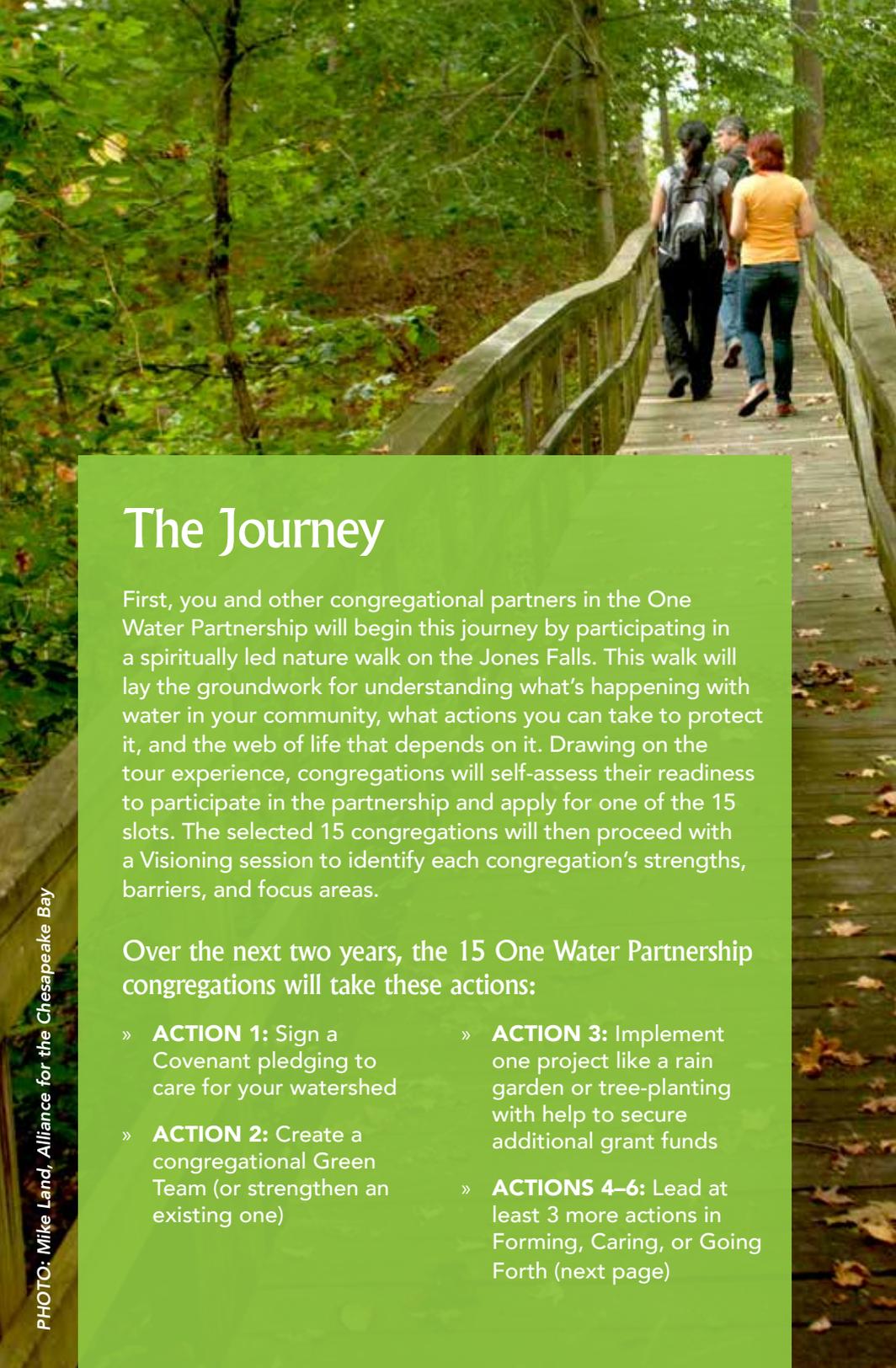
*Due to generous grant funding there is no fee for congregations to participate.*

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## SIGN UP TODAY!

### REGISTER YOUR CONGREGATION

by contacting Bonnie Sorak, Outreach Coordinator  
[bonnie@interfaithchesapeake.org](mailto:bonnie@interfaithchesapeake.org) | 410-609-6852

A group of people is walking away from the camera on a wooden boardwalk that winds through a dense forest. The trees are tall and have vibrant green leaves, suggesting a late summer or early autumn setting. The boardwalk has wooden railings on both sides. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

# The Journey

First, you and other congregational partners in the One Water Partnership will begin this journey by participating in a spiritually led nature walk on the Jones Falls. This walk will lay the groundwork for understanding what's happening with water in your community, what actions you can take to protect it, and the web of life that depends on it. Drawing on the tour experience, congregations will self-assess their readiness to participate in the partnership and apply for one of the 15 slots. The selected 15 congregations will then proceed with a Visioning session to identify each congregation's strengths, barriers, and focus areas.

Over the next two years, the 15 One Water Partnership congregations will take these actions:

- » **ACTION 1:** Sign a Covenant pledging to care for your watershed
- » **ACTION 2:** Create a congregational Green Team (or strengthen an existing one)
- » **ACTION 3:** Implement one project like a rain garden or tree-planting with help to secure additional grant funds
- » **ACTIONS 4–6:** Lead at least 3 more actions in Forming, Caring, or Going Forth (next page)



Ongoing mentorship and support will be provided by all partner organizations in the One Water Partnership to increase the success of your efforts.

- » **FORMING:** activities that inform and provide spiritual context, such as outdoor experiences, educational workshops, and discussions
- » **CARING:** visible/measurable actions such as stenciling storm drains, picking up trash, installing solar panels or rain gardens, or planting trees
- » **GOING FORTH:** actions that engage the **broader** community, such as hosting a rain barrel workshop for neighbors, purchasing community solar, or discussing environmental policies with your elected officials

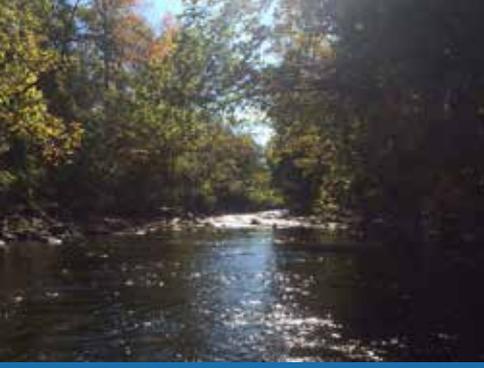
## Join us at one of our scheduled events

### NATURE WALKS

- » Saturday, March 25th  
10 AM @ Druid Hill Park
- » Saturday, May 6th  
10 AM @ Cylburn Arboretum
- » Sunday, March 26th  
2 PM @ Wyman Park
- » Tuesday, May 9th  
6:30 PM @ Wyman Park
- » Sunday, April 30th  
2 PM @ Lake Roland Park

### COMMUNITY VISIONING SESSIONS 2 PM, locations to be determined

- » Sunday, May 21st
- » Sunday, July 16th
- » Sunday, June 4th
- » Sunday, September 10th
- » Sunday, June 11th



# The Story of Our Watershed

The Jones Falls Watershed offers a compelling story. Its upper reaches are relatively healthy, but its lower reaches are impaired and polluted. In the context of a single watershed, one can witness the degradation from human impact that begins upstream. Vulnerable neighborhoods located in the lower reaches of the watershed suffer the cumulative impact from this degradation. Neighbors in the upper reaches need look no further than their own watershed to manifest the call to care for one another by respecting shared resources. And our whole watershed will need to adapt together to a warmer world. In this story, environmental justice and watershed restoration are inextricably connected.

“Do unto those downstream as you’d have those upstream do unto you.”

**AUTHOR-FARMER WENDELL BERRY**

# Lead Partner



**Interfaith  
Partners for the  
CHESAPEAKE**

**Forming Faithful Stewards,  
Caring for Sacred Waters**

Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake awakens the faith community to the call to care for water as a manifestation of love for one another and our Creator. There is a moral urgency to respond to the degradation of water seen throughout the Chesapeake Region. We help congregations live into this call to restore water. We provide support, mentoring, grant-writing guidance, ministry development, and broker connections to technical partners. We journey together.

**WWW.INTERFAITHCHESAPEAKE.ORG | 410-609-6852**



## Ready to Join?

**CONTACT BONNIE SORAK,  
OUTREACH COORDINATOR**

[bonnie@interfaithchesapeake.org](mailto:bonnie@interfaithchesapeake.org)  
410-609-6852

## One Water Partnership Program Partners



Interfaith Power & Light (DC, MD.NoVA) works with congregations across DC, Maryland, and Northern Virginia to save energy, go green, and respond to climate change.  
[ipldmv.org](http://ipldmv.org)



Blue Water Baltimore is a not-for-profit organization with a mission to restore the quality of Baltimore's rivers, streams and Harbor to foster a healthy environment.  
[bluewaterbaltimore.org](http://bluewaterbaltimore.org)



MD Sea Grant Extension's Watershed Protection and Restoration Program works with local governments, NGOs, and individuals to improve water quality in Maryland  
[www.mdsg.umd.edu](http://www.mdsg.umd.edu)

This material is based on work supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Chesapeake Bay Program's Small Watershed Grant program, which promotes community-based efforts to develop conservation strategies to protect and restore the diverse natural resources of the Chesapeake Bay.

