

## IPC Suggested Reading List

### Christian

Earth-Honoring Faith-Religious Ethics in a New Key, Larry L. Rasmussen: Oxford University Press, 2013.

An inspiring examination of our current environmental challenges through an ethical lens, woven within the theme of *how do we sing our new song in a strange land?* - a strange land of climate change and decreasing biodiversity. Rasmussen offers a clear vision forward based upon an "Earth-honoring Faith."

Just Water-Theology, Ethics, and the Global Water Crisis, Christiana Z. Peppard: Orbis Books, 2014.

Peppard draws a clear line of connection between how we treat water and the social justice implications it has for those "downstream" from our actions. "She roots our response to the water crisis deeply in the call to "love our neighbor." A provocative new book is for every person who turns on their tap, and take a drink of water, without saying a prayer of thanks--in other words, you." - James Martin, S.J.

On Care for Our Common Home: *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter: US Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2015.

Appropriate reading for all faiths, Pope Francis' Letter calls upon "every person living on this planet" to acknowledge the urgency of our environmental challenges and offers a path of hope and justice for the earth and those most severely impacted by environmental degradation.

Care for Creation - a franciscan spirituality of earth, Ilia Delio, OFM, Keith Douglass Warner, OFM, Pamela Wood: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2007.

"... a profound theology from our medieval Catholic heritage that can help put 'our Sister Mother Earth' at the forefront of religious concern in the twenty-first century. An excellent tool for parishes, schools and study groups concerned about expressing Christian faith through a right relationship with God's creation." - Brother William J. Short, OFM, Franciscan School of Theology

Watershed Discipleship-Reinhabiting Bioregional Faith and Practice, Ched Myers, ed: Cascade Books, 2016.

An inspiring collection of essays from over a dozen watershed stewards on the "frontlines" of a new generation of environmental activists who are followers of Jesus, fueled by their dedication to restorative justice and firmly grounded their commitment to be watershed disciples within their own bioregions, drawing upon the rich biblical tradition to "repair the earth."

### Quaker

A Sustainable Life: Quaker Faith and Practice in the Renewal of Creation, by Doug Gwyn, QuakerPress of FGC 2014.

A well-known Quaker historian explores the qualities of Quaker faith and practice that contribute to living sustainably in the world today. He explores such paradoxes as equality and community, unity and differentiation, integrity and personal discernment, and other aspects of life that Quakers have worked to bring into balance through their 350-year history and into the present time of social and planetary change.

### Jewish

The Way into Judaism and the Environment, Jeremy Benstein: Jewish Lights, 2006.

"Clear and thorough ... brilliantly articulates a mandate of Jewish activism that is rooted in Jewish tradition and speaks to the broad range of issues we face in our twenty-first-century global village. Moves seamlessly between Jewish texts, theology and modern scientific thinking, at a level that a lay reader can easily follow.... A much needed resource to the field of Jewish

environmentalism." -- *Rabbi Marla J. Feldman, director, Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism*

[A Wild Faith: Jewish Ways into Wilderness, Wilderness Ways into Judaism](#), Rabbi Mike Comins: Jewish Lights Publishing, 2007.

Exploration of the connections between God, wilderness and Judaism, author is founder of Torah Trek. "Part holy book, part handbook, any Jew who as ever wondered how their Judaism, the world and their own soul can connect must read this book." - Dr. Jeremy Benstein, associate director, the Heschel Center for Environmental Learning and Leadership.

### **Muslim**

[Green Deen-What Islam Teaches About Protecting the Planet](#), Ibrahim Abdul-Matin: Berret-Koehler Publishers, 2010.

"An important book for everyone! Muslims will be inspired by what their fellow believers are doing to be stewards of the Earth, and all people will gain a more complete and accurate picture of how Islam sees the world." -Imam Siraj Wahaj, Masjid Al-Taqwa, New York

### **Buddhist**

[Mindfully Green-A personal and Spiritual Guide to Whole Earth Thinking](#), Stephanie Kaza: Shambala, 2008.

"... Stephanie Kaza offers a votive of wisdom--a path to self where we can hold the impossible dilemmas of our day in the heart of generosity, not fear; compassionate service, not guilt. Mindfully Green is a balm to the spirit, food for the long road ahead to a restored and honored planet." - Paul Hawkin

[The World We Have-A Buddhist Approach to Peace and Ecology](#), Thich Nhat Hanh: Parallax Press, 2008.

"Only when we combine environmentalism with spiritual practice will we find the tools to make the profound personal transformations needed to address the planetary crisis. This book by the great Buddhist teacher Thich Nhat Hanh can be our guide." - Melvin McLeod

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[The Green Bible](#) (NRSV) with Foreword by Desmond Tutu, Division of Christian Education, National Council of Churches: Harper One, 1989.

All scriptures relevant to earth, environment, or stewardship of Creation are highlighted in green. Includes inspirational essays and bible studies by scholars and faith leaders.

### **Native American**

[Braiding Sweetgrass](#), by Robin Wall Kimmerer, Milkweed Editions 2013.

A wonderfully deep examination of our relationship with earth through the eyes of Kimmerer, a PhD Botanist and member of the Potawatomi tribe. Her series of essays describes in exquisite detail the ways that gratitude for all that the earth provides shifts our understanding and relationship with all of Creation.

### **Inspiring Non-religious Books**

[The Hidden Life of Trees](#), Peter Wohlleben: Greystone Books, 2016.

A fascinating insider view of how trees survive and thrive through a wide range of adaptive and amazing strategies, including communicating with and feeding one another through their underground network of roots associated with fungi. Learning these wondrous facts about trees will foster an even deeper appreciation for their existence and Creator.

Blue Mind-The surprising science that shows how being near, in, on, or under water can make you happier, healthier, more connected, and better at what you do, by marine biologist Wallace J. Nichols: Little, Brown Book Group, 2014.

Explores the science based evidence of the mental, cognitive, emotional, psychological, social and spiritual benefits of being in and near water with fascinating evidence-based stories. Proposes the foundation of a new frontier of research called neuroconservation - an interdisciplinary approach to environmental care that brings together neuroscience and psychology, nature and conservation, art and science, poetry and practice.

The Nature Principle- Reconnecting *with Life in a Virtual Age*, Richard Louv: Algonquin Books, 2012.

“The future will belong to the nature-smart—those individuals, families, businesses, and political leaders who develop a deeper understanding of the transformative power of the natural world and who balance the virtual with the real. The more high-tech we become, the more nature we need.” —Richard Louv Includes the ways that being in nature heals and nurtures us, and thereby strengthens our resolve to care for it. The section "Creating Everyday Eden" includes concrete steps to take "where we live, work, and play" to restore our local environments, including the "backyard revolution" of creating "nature corridors."

Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants, Updated and Expanded, by Douglas W. Tallamy and Rick Darke, Timber Press, 2009.

“As development and subsequent habitat destruction accelerate, there are increasing pressures on wildlife populations. But there is an important and simple step toward reversing this alarming trend: Everyone with access to a patch of earth can make a significant contribution toward sustaining biodiversity. There is an unbreakable link between native plant species and native wildlife—native insects cannot, or will not, eat alien plants. When native plants disappear, the insects disappear, impoverishing the food source for birds and other animals. In many parts of the world, habitat destruction has been so extensive that local wildlife is in crisis and may be headed toward extinction.”

The Sense of Wonder by Rachel Carson, Harper Collins, 1998 (originally published in 1956).

The Sense of Wonder relates Carson's intimate account of adventures with her young nephew, Roger, as they enjoy walks along the rocky coast of Maine and through dense forests and open fields, observing wildlife, strange plants, moonlight, and storm clouds and listening to the living music of insects in the underbrush. It is a refreshing antidote to indifference and a guide to capturing the simple power of discovery that Carson views as essential to life.

The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden, by Rick Darke & Douglas W. Tallamy, Timber Press, 2014.

“Many gardeners today want a home landscape that nourishes and fosters wildlife. But they also want beauty, a space for the kids to play, privacy, and maybe even a vegetable patch. Sure, it’s a tall order, but *The Living Landscape* shows how to do it. By combining the insights of two outstanding authors, it offers a model that anyone can follow. Inspired by its examples, you’ll learn the strategies for making and maintaining a diverse, layered landscape—one that offers beauty on many levels, provides outdoor rooms and turf areas for children and pets, incorporates fragrance and edible plants, and provides cover, shelter, and sustenance for wildlife. Richly illustrated with superb photographs and informed by both a keen eye for design and an understanding of how healthy ecologies work, *The Living Landscape* will enable you to create a garden that is full of life and that fulfills both human needs and the needs of wildlife communities.”

World as Lover, World as Self, by Joanna Macy, Parallax Press, 1991

This overview of Joanna Macy’s innovative work combines deep ecology, general systems theory, and the Buddha’s teachings on interdependent co-arising. A blueprint for social change, *World as Lover, World as Self* shows how we can reverse the destructive attitudes that threaten our world, with concrete suggestions on how to address “An Inconvenient Truth”. The essays are based on the Buddha’s teachings of “Paticca samuppada” (interdependent co-arising).

*Active Hope: How to Survive the Mess We're in Without Going Crazy*, by Joann Macy, New World Library, 2012.

Active Hope is a practice. Like tai chi or gardening, it is something we do rather than have. It is a process we can apply to any situation, and it involves three key steps. First, we take in a clear view of reality; second, we identify what we hope for in terms of the direction we’d like things to move in or the values we’d like to see expressed; and third, we take steps to move ourselves or our situation in that direction.

*The Soil Will Save Us: How Scientists, Farmers, and Foodies Are Healing the Soil to Save the Planet* by Kristin Ohlson, Rodale, 2014.

Thousands of years of poor farming and ranching practices—and, especially, modern industrial agriculture—have led to the loss of up to 80 percent of carbon from the world’s soils. That carbon is now floating in the atmosphere, and even if we stopped using fossil fuels today, it would continue warming the planet. In *The Soil Will Save Us*, the author makes an elegantly argued case for “our great green hope”—a way in which we can not only heal the land but also turn atmospheric carbon into beneficial soil carbon—and potentially reverse global warming.

*Nature's Fortune: How Business and Society Thrive by Investing in Nature* by Jonathan Adams and Mark Tercek, The Nature Conservancy, 2013.

Mark Tercek, CEO of The Nature Conservancy and former investment banker, and science writer Jonathan Adams argue that nature is not only the foundation of human well-being, but also the smartest commercial investment any business or government can make. The forests, floodplains, and oyster reefs often seen simply as raw materials or as obstacles to be cleared in the name of progress are, in fact as important to our future prosperity as technology or law or business innovation.

### **On Climate Change**

*A Climate for Change Global Warming Facts for Faith-Based Decisions* by Katherine Hayhoe and Andrew Farley, Faithwords, 2009.

Most Christian lifestyle or environmental books focus on how to live in a sustainable and conservational manner. This book shows why Christians should be living that way, and the consequences of doing so. Drawing on the authors’ experiences, one an internationally recognized climate scientist and the other as an evangelical leader of a growing church, this book explains the science underlying global warming, and how our Christian faith should play a significant role in guiding our opinions and actions on this important issue.

*Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming* by Paul Hawken, Penguin Books, 2017.

The 100 most substantive solutions to reverse global warming, based on meticulous research by leading scientists and policymakers around the world.

### **On Consumption**

*The Story of Stuff: How Our Obsession with Stuff Is Trashing the Planet, Communities, and Our Health—a Vision for Change* by Annie Leonard, Free Press, 2011.

Leonard, named one of *Time* magazine’s 100 environmental heroes of 2009, highlights each step of the materials economy and its actual effect on the earth and the people who live near



production sites. With curiosity, compassion, and humor, Leonard shares concrete steps for taking action at the individual and political level that will bring about sustainability, community health, and economic justice.