



*This summer, we've been blessed with a terrific intern. Paige, a rising junior at the University of Michigan, is not only a whiz at managing the logistics for our October 6 conference ([early-bird registration is open!](#)), she's also kind and smart and a delight to work with.*

*As a special treat, we're sharing the following reflection, written by her. Enjoy!*

**"Through my time at Michigan IPL I have discovered that God's work does not have to stay within the walls of the church."**

As a 20-year-old studying environment and sustainability, I get this comment a lot: "Good. We need people like you, because the world is in a bad place right now."

What I respond is, "Thank you, I need the support." In my head, however, it's more like, "Crap, that's a lot of pressure!" It's true, these are scary times for the environment.

Watching the news these days makes it sound like we're in a nose-dive toward collapse. It can be a wearisome task, working for something so huge.

My method for coping has been this: just do everything! Take all the classes, join all the clubs, read all the books, and stay up at night making lists of what to do next. That's why I took this internship at Michigan IPL--to continue my progress toward doing everything, but also because it piqued my interest as a person of faith.

I have always been a spiritual person, but have viewed my time at church as an opportunity to lay the troubles of the world onto my God and be present with my community. I sort of treated it like a bubble. Spiritual matters stay inside and the rest of the world stays outside. Through my time at Michigan IPL I have discovered that God's work does not have to stay within the walls of the church. Creation care is a way for me to celebrate a God of abundance, and I was even inspired to start a green team at my own church.

By putting my faith into my work at Michigan IPL and in my personal life, I no longer have to feel like the weight of the world is resting on my shoulders. What I've learned here is this: You can't do everything yourself. It's not possible, it's not fun, and most importantly, it's not healthy. Here, I have watched others make the choice to live out their faith with action, building meaningful relationships along the way.

I have found that a lot of people want to do something good for the environment, but don't know where to start. They leave it to the 20-year-olds of the world and say, "Good. We need people like you." The next time I hear that, maybe I'll hand them a Michigan IPL pamphlet and say, "How about w work together? We need people like you too."

Yours truly,



Paige Tornow

Paige Tornow  
Intern

### \$10 off Conference Tickets now-September 1!

Our fall conference, **Heeding the Call: Faith, Hope & Climate Action**, will feature congregations and individuals on the front lines of climate action sharing their stories about solar, energy efficiency, water protection and water justice, ethical eating, and advocacy.

Join us Friday, October 6, 9:30am-3pm, in East Lansing. You don't want to miss it!



**Get tickets**

*Sponsorship opportunities are available for businesses and non-profits. Check out our [conference webpage](#) for more details or contact Paige at [intern@miipl.org](mailto:intern@miipl.org).*

**Your congregation could continue to waste \$\$ on inefficient lighting...**

OR you could do more of your vital mission.



*The choice is yours.*

What good works could your congregation do with \$250, \$500 (or even more) a year in energy savings?

**Sign up for Light the Way** if your congregation:

- is a Consumers Energy customer
- is located in the Kalamazoo, Muskegon, Grand Rapids, Jackson, Flint or Saginaw areas
- hasn't participated in the program before

Or reach Jennifer at [projectmanager@miipl.org](mailto:projectmanager@miipl.org) or 248-463-8811. *Pssst*: pass it on!

**Sign up online**

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### **In other news:**



**A Hole in the Roof Foundation provides building repair funds to faith and relief groups** of every denomination who care for the homeless and/or victims of disasters. Hole in the Roof, a Mitch Albom charity, distributes funds based on need and doing the most good.

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**The Season of Creation**, September 1-October 4, is that time of the year when 2.2 billion Christians-- from Miami to Manila-- are invited to pray and care for Creation. Help your community respond to the



Creator's call to steward the Earth! [Host a prayer service with the easy-to-use toolkit](#) or [find a prayer service near you](#).



**[Our Guidebook for Congregations Going Solar is here!](#)** The guide includes case studies of two churches (First Unitarian of Ann Arbor and Edgewood United Church in E. Lansing), plus information about permitting, financing, emissions factors, and solar installers and contractors here in Michigan.



**[Green Living Science, a Detroit nonprofit, can help your metro Detroit congregation or business start recycling!](#)** They'll provide an on-site assessment and connect you with a recycling vendor, a dumpster, and pick-up service for a single stream recycling program. Contact [info@greenlivingscience.org](mailto:info@greenlivingscience.org) or (313) 871-4000, ext. 3, for more.



**You don't need thousands of dollars on hand to make energy improvements** to your home or house of worship. [Michigan Saves](#), a non-profit green bank, offers dedicated financing (at rates as low as 0%) for everything from insulation, to efficient boilers, to solar panels. Michigan IPL highly recommends their services-- check them out!



**[Need a new fridge?](#)** [Income-qualified DTE Energy residential electric customers can now get a free ENERGY STAR certified refrigerator](#) to replace old, inefficient models (manufactured before 2000). This program is administered by Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice while supplies last!

## Upcoming events:

8/4-10/17: [An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power](#), Main Art Theater (Royal Oak). See link for showtimes!

8/6/17: [Interfaith Suburban-Urban Unity Annual Picnic](#), Belle Isle (Detroit), Central Avenue across from kids' playscape, 12-5pm.

8/27/17: [Michigan Jewish Food Festival](#), Eastern Market (Detroit) Sheds 5 & 6, 11am-4pm.

9/24/17: Solar Open House, Haslett Community Church (Haslett), 2-4pm.

10/6/17: Michigan IPL's [Heeding the Call: Faith, Hope & Climate Action](#) conference, University United Methodist Church (E. Lansing), 9:30am-3pm.

10/25/17: [US Green Building Council Sustainable Detroit Forum](#), Detroit, 9am-3:30pm.

11/7/17: [C-Change Conversation](#), Christ Church Grosse Pointe (Grosse Pointe Farms), 7pm.



### Resources

Check out our free resources-- from energy efficiency manuals to study guides on the spiritual foundations of earth care.

[Resources >>](#)

### Love Our Work?

Your support enables us to help faith communities become more sustainable through action, education, and advocacy.

[Donate >>](#)

### Become an Advocate

We have a moral responsibility to protect the Earth and love our neighbors. Help us make systemic change!

[Advocate >>](#)

### Connect with Us



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