



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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<b>Who:</b>	faith community members
<b>What:</b>	Ohio's inaugural faith-based environmental stewardship conference
<b>Where:</b>	Procter Center, 11235 SR 38 SE, London, OH 43140
<b>When:</b>	October 2, 3, & 4, 2009
<b>Why:</b>	To gather faith community members from across Ohio to network and share resources and inspiration for faith-based environmental work.

**Conference Convened by Faith Communities  
To Empower Faithful Environmental Stewardship**

***Mike Schut and Dr. Matthew and Nancy Sleeth will keynote;  
green congregations from around Ohio featured***

**London, OH** -- Members of congregations from across Ohio will gather over the weekend of October 2, 3 & 4 for the Green Summit: a faith community environmental stewardship conference that is the first of its kind in Ohio.

The Green Summit ([www.ohipl.org/GreenSummit](http://www.ohipl.org/GreenSummit)) will be held at Procter Camp and Conference Center in London, OH, and will feature keynote speakers Michael Schut, Economic and Environmental Affairs Officer for the Episcopal Church, and Dr. Matthew and Nancy Sleeth of Blessed Earth ministries. Environmental efforts in many Ohio congregations will also be featured, with the Summit serving as a stop on the 2009 Ohio Solar Tour, and an open roundtable for sharing the work of participating communities.

"A highlight of the conference is the outstanding opportunity to share inspiration and resources for environmental stewardship work in our communities," said Greg Hitzhusen, Executive Director of Ohio Interfaith Power and Light. Michael Schut, formerly of Earth Ministry's staff, will lead a fireside discussion Friday evening. Schut is the author of three study guide books, including the award-winning *Simpler Living, Compassionate Life: A Christian Perspective*, and will invite questions and stories from participants while sharing his perspective from working with hundreds of congregations and small groups to build thriving creation care ministries.

Saturday's featured speakers are Dr. Matthew and Nancy Sleeth, directors of Blessed Earth, an evangelical Christian ministry devoted to serving God and saving the planet. Matthew left a prominent medical practice to author *Serve God, Save the Planet*, and wrote the introduction to the *Green Bible*; Nancy has recently published *Go Green, Save Green: A Simple Guide to Saving Money, Time, and God's Green Earth*. The Sleeths are highly sought creation care speakers, and bring an incredible story of how faithful creation care transformed their family.

"There will be something for everyone, and we are blessed with a phenomenal line-up of speakers, workshops and demonstrations," said Rev. Frank Edmands, the originator of the idea for the Summit. In addition to a roundtable featuring the efforts of local congregations, workshops on Saturday will be divided into three tracks: Greening Congregations; Energy Efficiency, Conservation & Renewables; and Sustainable Living and Agriculture. Other nationally known presenters include Sister Leanne Jablonski, of the Marianist Environmental Education Center in Dayton; Bee Moorhead, Director of Texas Impact and a leading figure in faith-based advocacy work; Stacey Kenney of GreenFaith; the Rev. Nancy Roth of Oberlin; and Hitzhusen of Ohio Interfaith Power and Light. Several solar, geothermal, and energy efficient churches in Ohio will also be featured, making the Summit a stop on the 2009 Ohio Solar Tour sponsored by Green Energy Ohio.

The Summit also features the public launch of the Clergy Climate Caucus, a network of Ohio faith leaders who are raising the voice of faith communities' concern for climate change. Sara Ward, retired Chief of the Ohio Energy Office and OhIPL Advocacy Chair, will introduce the Caucus during a forum on Saturday evening addressing the challenges of climate change legislation.

Online registration and further information can be found at [www.ohipl.org/GreenSummit](http://www.ohipl.org/GreenSummit), and many options exist. Participants can register for individual days or the entire weekend. Students receive a discounted registration rate. The Solar Tour exhibits at the Summit will be free and open to the public from 1-4pm on Saturday; workshops and keynote sessions require registration. Exhibit space for congregations is free.

"Care of creation is a moral priority shared by nearly every faith tradition, and the Green Summit provides an unprecedented venue for Ohioans to come together for inspiration and to work to become better stewards of God's creation," said Sr. Paula Gonzalez, Sister of Charity from Cincinnati and co-founder of Ohio Interfaith Power and Light.

### **Sponsors and Partners**

The Green Summit is a collaborative initiative of:

[Ohio Interfaith Power and Light](#)

[The Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio](#), Social Justice and Public Policy Network

[The Episcopal Diocese of Ohio](#)

[GreenFaith](#)

[The Marianist Environmental Education Center](#)

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