

Summer Read-Along Series



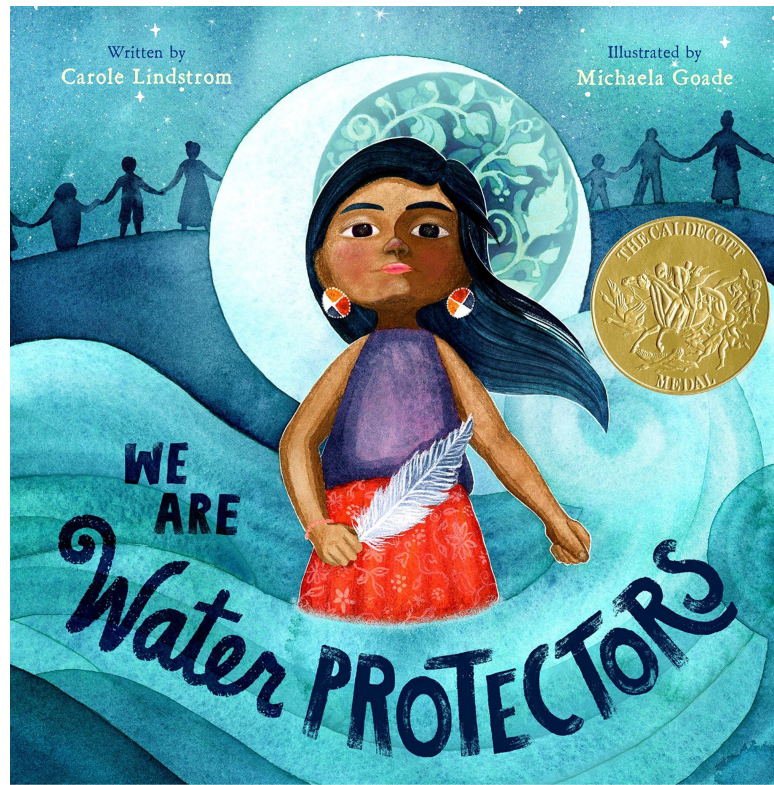
CHURCH & SOCIETY
The United Methodist Church

Sacred Worth Books

We Are Water Protectors

WRITTEN BY CAROLE LINDSTROM

ILLUSTRATED BY MICHAELA GOADE



UMC Commitments & Actions

Water:

[Resolution #1029](#), “Protection of Water,” UMC Book of Resolutions

[Resolution #1033](#),

“Caring for Creation:
A Call to Stewardship and Justice”

Climate Justice:

Social Principles ¶160

“All creation is the Lord’s, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God’s creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings.”

— *United Methodist Social Principles*, ¶160

[Resolution #1033](#),

“Caring for Creation: A Call to Stewardship and Justice”

Indigenous Peoples:

[Resolution #6025](#), “Globalization and its Impact on Human Dignity and Human Rights”

[Resolution #3321](#), “Native People and the United Methodist Church”

[Resolution #3334](#), “Regarding Native American Culture and Traditions as Sacred”

Faith & Facts: Clean Water

FAITH & FACTS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

CLEAN WATER

What does the Bible say?

And God said "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together God called the Seas. And God saw that it was good. **(Genesis 1:9-10)**

You shall worship the Lord your God, and I will bless your bread and your water. **(Exodus 23:25)**

Water shall flow from [Israel's] buckets, and his offspring shall have abundant water. **(Numbers 24:7)**

When you drink of clear water, must you foul the rest with your feet? **(Ezekiel 34:18)**

To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. **(Revelation 21:6)**



What does The United Methodist Church say?

All creation is the Lord's and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God's creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings. **(Social Principles ¶160)**

We believe water is a sacred gift from God. We further believe water is a basic human right and not a commodity to be traded for profit. **(2106 Book of Resolutions, #1033, Caring for Creation: Our Call to Stewardship and Justice)**

Water is an integral part of God's radical expression of God's love for all humanity. Water cannot be monopolized or privatized. It is to be shared like air, light, and earth. It is God's elemental provision for the survival of all God's children on this planet. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, #1029, "Protection of Water")**

The people called United Methodists shall urge all governments to make transparent, community-centered decisions about water use. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, #1029, "Protection of Water")**

FAITH & FACTS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

CLEAN WATER

What do the facts say?

- Worldwide, 780 million people lack access to safe and clean water and over 2.5 billion lack access to proper sanitation. Over 1900 children die every day from diseases related to lack of clean water and sanitation.¹
- Less than half of the populations of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique and Papua New Guinea have access to clean water. Two out of every five people without access to clean water live in Africa.²
- Average water use (in gallons) per day: U.S.: 100, Europe: 50, Sub-Saharan Africa: 2-5.³
- More than 2400 miles of streams and headwaters have been buried as a result of mountaintop removal coal mining in the Appalachian region of the United States.⁴
- Gallons of water needed to produce one pound of wheat: 25.
Gallons of water needed to produce one pound of beef: 2500.

1 UNICEF, 2 World Health Organization, 3 World Water Council, 4 Earthjustice

What do you say?



Take **ACTION** for justice...

Be mindful of your use of water: turn off the tap while brushing your teeth, take shorter showers and be sure to look for and fix leaks in your home.

Save money and protect creation: use a reusable water bottle rather than one of the 200 billion disposable plastic bottles used each year.

Advocate for clean water. Tell your elected officials to invest in public infrastructure to ensure clean water is available for all. Support efforts to protect headwaters, rivers and water bodies from pollution.

Join the environmental justice network to receive tips, resources, and legislative updates at <http://action.umc-gbcs.org/joinnetworks>.

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For more information contact:
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Faith & Facts: Climate Justice

FAITH & FACTS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

CLIMATE JUSTICE

What does the Bible say?

God saw everything that God had made and indeed, it was very good. (Genesis 1:10)

Praise God, you highest heavens. (Psalm 148:4)

There is no faithfulness or loyalty, and no knowledge of God in the land... The land mourns, and all who live in it languish; together with the wild animals and the birds of the air, even the fish of the sea are perishing. (Hosea 4:1,3)

The earth dries up and withers, the world languishes and withers; the heavens languish together with the earth. The earth lies polluted under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed laws, violated the statutes, broken the ever-lasting covenant. (Isaiah 24:4-5)

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)


What does The United Methodist Church say?


All creation is the Lord's and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God's creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings. (Social Principles ¶160)

The adverse impacts of global climate change disproportionately affect individuals and nations least responsible for the emissions. We therefore support efforts of all governments to require mandatory reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and call on individuals, congregations, businesses, industries, and communities to reduce their emissions. (Social Principles ¶160.D)

As we continue to call for bold leadership and advocate for policies rooted in justice and sustainability, we understand that God is calling each of us to respond and that as a denomination we cannot hope to transform the world until we change our way of being in it. (2016 Book of Resolutions, #1035, "Climate Change and the Church's Response")

A transition to energy efficiency and renewable energy sources will combat global warming, protect human health, create new jobs, and ensure a secure, affordable energy future. (2016 Book of Resolutions, #1001, "Energy Policy Statement")






FAITH & FACTS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

CLIMATE JUSTICE

What do the facts say?

- Carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping pollution, mainly from cars, power plants and other industrial sources that burn gasoline, coal and other fossil fuels, are collecting like a blanket in the atmosphere. (In the last century, carbon dioxide levels in our atmosphere increased by more than 25%.)
- Average global temperatures have increased by 0.8°C (1.4°F) since 1880.¹
- Fifteen of the hottest sixteen years on record have occurred in the 21st Century and 2015 recorded the hottest global average surface temperatures ever – a full 1°C above pre-industrial levels.²
- Scientific models predict a further temperature increase during this century of between 2°C and 7°C with further melting of the polar ice caps and a potential rise of global sea levels between one and two meters.³
- By 2020, between 75 and 250 million people on the continent of Africa are projected to be exposed to increased water stress due to climate change. Worldwide, that number is projected to reach 1.8 billion by 2080.⁴ By 2050, agricultural yields in Africa are expected to decline by as much as 35%.




What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

Lower your impact and find ways to reduce your carbon footprint.

- Choose modes of transportation that reduce or eliminate your fossil fuel consumption.
- Use longer lasting CFLs or LEDs to reduce energy use and CO₂ pollution.
- Conserve energy: turn off the lights, reduce air conditioner use, and investigate using "green energy" such as wind or solar power.

Raise your voice: Contact your elected officials and urge them to address the global climate crisis now! Ask them to support investing in a clean energy future, reducing emissions and providing adaptation assistance for those struggling to survive in a changing climate.







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Faith & Facts: Indigenous Peoples

FAITH & FACTS CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS		FAITH & FACTS CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS	
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES	<p>What does the Bible say?</p> <p>So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27)</p> <p>What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor. (Psalm 8: 4-5)</p> <p>But they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid, for the Lord of hosts has spoken. (Micah 4:4)</p> <p>I am the vine you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you do nothing. (John 15:5)</p>		INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
	<p>What does The United Methodist Church say?</p> <p>Indigenous peoples demand respect of their right to their culture, spirituality, language, tradition, forms of organization, ways of knowing and doing, and their intellectual properties. (2016 Book of Resolutions, #6025, "Globalization and Its Impact on Human Dignity and Human Rights")</p> <p>The United Methodist Church condemns the Doctrine of Discovery as a legal document used for the seizing of lands and abusing the human rights of indigenous peoples. The United Methodist Church will work toward eliminating the use of the Doctrine of Discovery. (2016 Book of Resolutions #3321, "Native People and the United Methodist Church")</p> <p>The culture and traditions of indigenous peoples are sacred. This is why The United Methodist Church is committed to promoting the "American Indian Religious Freedom Act, which declared that it was the policy of Congress to protect and preserve the inherent right of Native Americans to believe, express, and practice their traditional religions." (2016 Book of Resolutions #3334, "Regarding Native American Culture")</p> <p>United Methodists are calling for an "act of repentance" that "truly honors what indigenous people feel about how they have been wronged and where restitution and forgiveness might come from and what it will look like and entail." Beyond repentance is the need for "acts of justice," with "efforts to undo and correct the injustices and misunderstandings of the last 500 years" of colonialism. (2016 Book of Resolutions, #6025, "Globalization and Its Impact on Human Dignity and Human Rights")</p>		
	<p>What do the facts say?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous peoples go by many names. Some names are chosen, others imposed. In the United States, native peoples include <i>American Indians</i>, <i>Alaska Natives</i> and <i>Native Hawaiians</i>. The <i>Sami</i> people live in Norway, Sweden, Finland, and the Kola Peninsula in Russia. In Africa, many terms are used, including <i>tribal peoples</i>. In Latin America, the term used is <i>pueblos indigenas</i>, while in the Philippines, they are called <i>katutubong mamamayan</i> or in southern Philippines, <i>Lumad</i>. There are more than 350 million indigenous peoples in at least 70 countries around the world. In the U.S. there are 565 federally-recognized tribes and dozens more that are vying for federal recognition. Federal recognition bestows some basic rights and protections that would otherwise not be available. "Indigenous communities, peoples and nations are those which, having a historical continuity with pre-invasion and pre-colonial societies that developed on their territories, consider themselves distinct from other sectors of the societies now prevailing in those territories, or parts of them." The two most comprehensive global instruments protecting indigenous peoples are the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention of 1989 by the International Labour Organization (ILO C169). 		
	<p>What do you say?</p> <p>Take ACTION for justice...</p> <p>Organize an event around our "act of repentance," focused on a "process of healing relationships with indigenous persons throughout the world" (BOR #3324). Invite representatives of indigenous peoples to come and speak.</p> <p>Advocate for the repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery and for policies that uphold the rights of indigenous persons.</p> <p>Facilitate a small group reflection in your church using resources from the Native American Comprehensive Plan. Consider partnering with one of the more than 140 United Methodist congregations in the United States that are made up primarily of Native American members.</p> <p>Pray for the evolving work of the United Methodist Global Working Group of Indigenous Peoples: a collaboration among general agencies and indigenous peoples' groups.</p>		
<p>CHURCH & SOCIETY The United Methodist Church</p> <p><small>Living FAITH. Seeking JUSTICE. Pursuing PEACE.</small></p>		<p>General Board of Church and Society 100 Maryland Ave, NE Washington, DC 20002 © 2016 General Board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church</p>	

Scripture Passages to Check Out

Genesis 1:9-10; 1:27

Exodus 23:25

Numbers 24:7

2 Chronicles 7:14

Ezekiel 34:18

Psalms 8:4-5; 148:4

Hosea 4:1,3

Isaiah 24:4-5

Micah 4:4

John 15:5

Revelation 21:6

Questions to Talk About

1. How is water important to you and your daily life?
2. Look at the last two pages of the book, featuring many indigenous people. Learn about the indigenous people who live near you today and the people who lived in your place long ago.
3. Discuss the ways in which the Earth and all its creatures are related.

These Questions and Further Resources From:

We Are Water Protectors Activity Kit, Adapted from the Inspired Community Engagement Guide by Jessica Ellison, Download at WeAreWaterProtectorsBook.com

We Are Water Protectors Activity Kit



Download Activity Kit::

https://edelweiss-assets.abovethetree.com/MM/supplemental/We%20Are%20Water%20Protectors%20Activity%20Kit_Final.pdf

Join Us Next Week!



**Wednesday,
July 14**

2:00 PM

YouTube

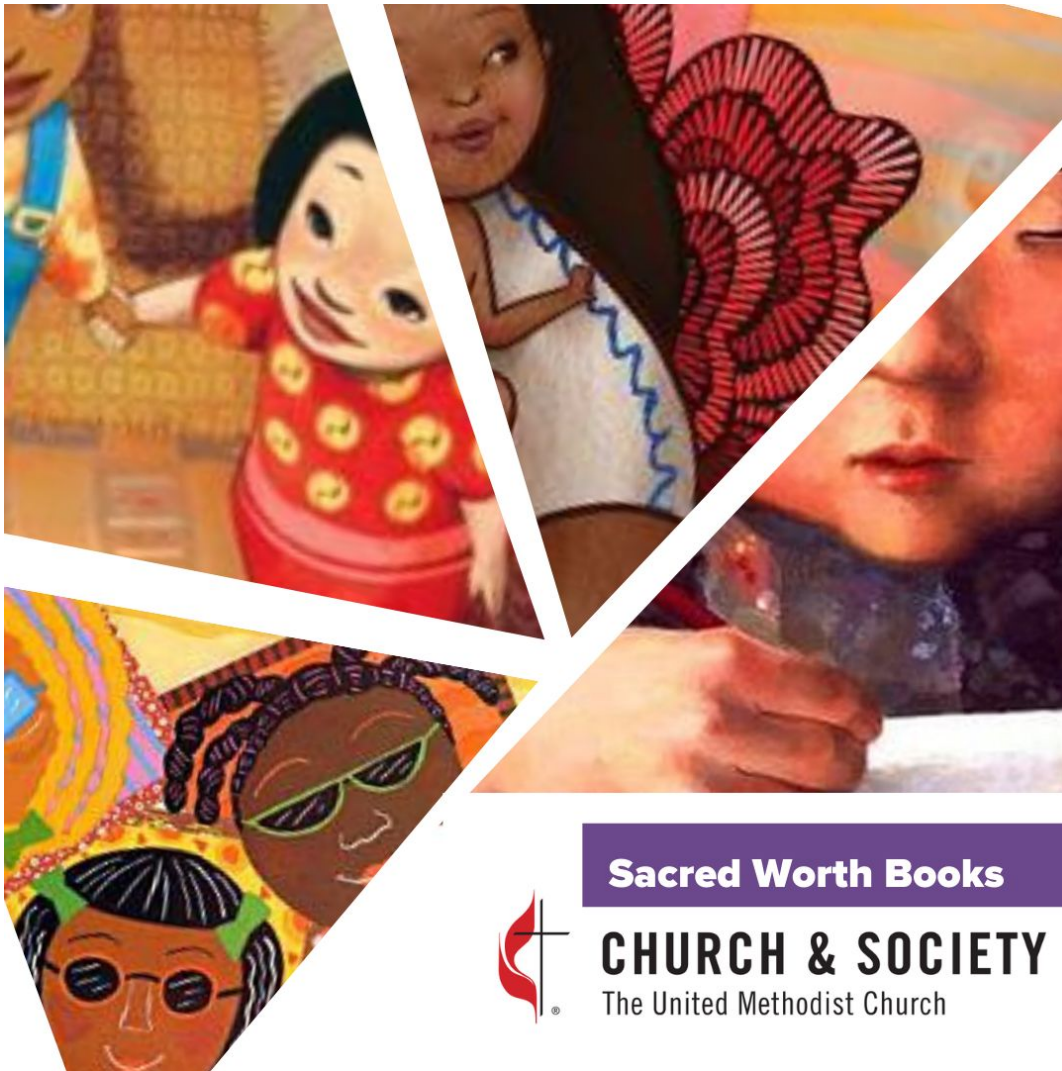
Just Ask!

by Sonia Sotomayor,
illustrated by Rafael
Lopez



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