



Many Gifts, One Spirit

The categories below describe our differing temperaments and the ways we can work together for the common good. What role do you play in caring for the planet?

Activists believe in the power of grassroots movements to disrupt power structures. They are knowledgeable about current environmental problems and take action. They may call government officials or attend marches; they may pray with those seeking justice or find other creative responses. Activists embody and explain issues that many find abstract. Because they care about what's wrong, their churches will too.

Building Geeks love energy efficiency. They save the church money and carbon. They are handy with caulk guns, furnace filters, kill-o-watt meters, ground source heat pumps and many other gadgets.

Eco-Donors give time, talent or money to creation care. They might fund a pollinator garden or provide the volunteer labor needed to tend it. Their gift could be a visionary new idea, a healthy dose of realism or the engineering skills that enable a church to install solar panels.

Faith Anchors connect environmental issues with the Christian tradition. They may study theology or ask basic questions like, "What does this have to do with Jesus Christ?" Faith anchors lead Bible studies, write church vision statements and plan creation worship services. They remind their churches why we should care about creation.

For Foodies, eating is a moral issue. They recognize that how we grow our food affects both farm workers and other species, and they eat accordingly. Some are vegetarian or vegan; others seek out sustainably raised food. Many are spectacular cooks.

Gardeners believe all the world's ills can be solved with a backyard garden. Some provide fresh produce to a food pantry or gardening know-how to their communities. Others garden just for the joy of it and find the work deeply spiritual. The long-term health of the soil and surrounding ecosystems is important to them.

The Naturalists have a deep and abiding love of nature. Beauty, solitude or wildness draws them outdoors. This is where they are most likely to experience the presence of God. They camp, hike, watch birds or walk on beaches—and sometimes skip church to do it.

Professionals choose care of the earth as their life's work. They may be land managers, farmers, environmental educators, professors, policy makers or something else. Their skills are essential for many projects.

Simple Living Stewards are known for practices such as thrift, recycling and fair-trade shopping. They express their concern for the earth at home and at church, in the spheres where they can make a difference. They avoid material clutter. Others admire their integrity and borrow their recipes for homemade cleaning supplies.

Triple Bottom Line Champions are not content just to make money. They are always looking for creative ways to succeed in the workplace while improving the lives of people and the health of the planet. Whether they are in finance or diesel mechanics, clothing retail or something else, they combine practical instincts with green innovation.

Watershed Disciples are rooted in the regions where they live. They are bridge builders and joiners who know local channels for getting things done. Watershed disciples might spearhead bike-friendly initiatives or take people on tours of the local landfill. They extend God's love beyond the walls of their church to the surrounding community and ecosystems.

Witnesses have direct, painful experience with environmental problems. A witness might live in a food desert or suffer from asthma due to air pollution. For others it might be a childhood farm that was bulldozed or a trip to an area harmed by deforestation. The firsthand testimony of witnesses is a powerful gift that motivates others.