

# Youth Carbon Analyst Program

## *2020 Orientation Meeting*

*Because  
the church building is a  
testimony to the witness of  
the church*



*we are  
counting greenhouse gases  
for net zero emissions  
in our Presbytery*

All ages are welcome to learn how to support high school and college students seeking a faithful response to the climate crisis in National Capital Presbytery!

*Featuring a climate science talk by*

**Dr. Elizabeth Dahl**

of Loyola University Maryland

Climate change is a problem that can be hard to talk about. To solve problems though, we need to talk about them. During this program we'll talk about some basics of climate change science including the causes and effects of climate change, how we are experiencing climate change, and steps we can all take to help solve the problem.



*The season of transformational Climate Action has arrived.*

Jan 25, 2020

11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

*with lunch included @ Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church*

*10123 Connecticut Ave., Kensington, MD 20895*

Register via email to Dave Grace ([dce@warnermemorial.org](mailto:dce@warnermemorial.org))

*Event Description:*

The event will begin with Dr. Elizabeth Dahl's climate change talk – which she is offering to various communities in our region. We will then have lunch and hear a review of the Youth Carbon Analyst Program's pilot year in 2018-2019, featuring the inaugural youth carbon analysts Simon Winter and Hannah Wilson-Black. Lastly, we will facilitate participation from the group before we outline opportunities for participation in YCAP this year.

*Speaker Bio's:*

**Dr. Elizabeth Dahl** is an Associate Professor of Chemistry at Loyola University Maryland. Her PhD is in Earth System Science and she specializes in marine and atmospheric chemistry and analytical chemistry. At Loyola she teaches courses in the environmental studies program and advanced analytical chemistry for chemistry majors. She also conducts research with undergraduates in environmental chemistry and advises the Environmental Action Club. When she isn't working, she's usually getting her two kids to their activities & spending time with them.

**Simon Winter** (YCAP '19) is a 1<sup>st</sup> year student in Environmental Studies at University of Maryland Baltimore County. Simon is a Sondheim Scholar and Honors student, and interested in studying climate justice throughout the world

**Hannah Wilson-Black** (YCAP '19) is a 1<sup>st</sup> year student pursuing a major in Environmental Studies at University of Chicago.

**Dave Grace** is the coordinator of YCAP and is Director of Christian Education at Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church in Kensington, MD. He holds masters degrees in Environmental Management and Divinity from Duke University. At WMPC, Dave works with all ages to equip the congregation for faithful service in today's changing climate.

*Background*

In the 2006 General Assembly, Presbyterians resolved to seek to lead "Carbon Neutral Lives." Fourteen years later, it is now time for that seeking to bear fruit worthy of repentance. In 2008, the PC(USA) proclaimed the "Power to Change", asking the U.S. government to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) 20% from 1990 levels by 2020 and 80% by 2050. It is now 2020, and U.S. GHGs have likely increased, rather than decreased. Further, the GHG reduction timeline proclaimed in 2008 is now inadequate to sufficiently limit global temperature increase brought about by new and lingering GHGs (cf. UN Emissions Gap Report 2019). Today, the impacts of failure to see beyond the horizon of nonrenewable, fossil fuels and the failure to mobilize around an urgent date for reaching net zero GHG emissions are increasingly unconscionable. Thus, in 2018 the PC(USA) proclaimed that "The Earth is the Lord's" and urged courageous moral leadership on climate with transformational, incarnational climate action. Therefore, YCAP is counting GHGs to outline pathways to net zero GHG emissions in the National Capital Presbytery and the PC(USA). We ask for your help.

*Project Listings:*

1. Creating a Building Energy-Use Portfolio for NCP
  - a. Background: Using real data for two churches and publically available data on church size for the remaining eight churches, the inaugural youth carbon analysts estimated the GHG emissions of the Earth Care Network at a range of energy use intensities.
  - b. Outputs: The analyst/s will work with the YCAP team to produce a Portfolio for the ~100 church properties in the presbytery using the EPA, Energy Star tool called Portfolio Manager (PM), yielding:
    - i. A PM Portfolio that will serve as the basis for later data input via voluntary reporting from churches.
    - ii. A rough estimate of the total GHG emissions of NCP churches.
2. Assessing Renewable Energy Options for NCP
  - a. Background: Catholic Charities, working with Dan Misleh of Catholic Energies and others, recently installed what is said to be the largest solar array in Washington, DC ([here](#)). The UCC – a full communion partner of our denomination – has recently accepted the Architecture 2030 challenge ([here](#)).
  - b. Outputs: The analyst/s will work with the YCAP team to consult with partner churches and organizations to analyze a range of options for large scale greenhouse gas reduction activities that may be pursued by National Capital Presbytery, yielding:
    - i. A set of recommendations for a suite of renewable energy technologies to be implemented at presbytery scale.
    - ii. A stakeholder engagement plan to deploy these technologies.
3. Advocating for Climate Justice in NCP
  - a. Background: The benefits of planning for greenhouse gas reductions at the scale of the presbytery are numerous when considered in engineering and financial terms as well as in terms of a climate justice perspective. However, the benefits to individuals in congregations or their sessions may not be immediately obvious, particularly given the tendency to adopt a ‘fiduciary responsibility’ mindset that can easily be limited to the particular church. Yet, stewardship of the financial resources of a congregation is an important task and, thus, possibilities for co-benefits in GHG reducing activities throughout the presbytery should not be left unconsidered. Financial arguments aside, the Church is committed to climate justice so intersections between inequality, racism, xenophobia, environmental quality and climate impacts, mission spending, GHG reduction activities and potential, and varying congregational budgets deserve more attention. YCAP

should focus on climate justice as a moral imperative in its planning and not merely rest on a paradigm of financial benefit at the congregational scale.

- b. Outputs: The analyst/s will work with the YCAP team to ensure a climate justice commitment guides YCAP planning, yielding:
  - i. A set of guiding principles for seeking climate justice in the work of YCAP developed in consultation to the NCP Immigrant Ministry Network, Refugee Ministry Network, Anti-Racism Team, the ‘local expression’ of the Self Development of People, and other networks/teams.
  - ii. A work plan to complete a study document exploring climate injustice as it pertains to National Capital Presbytery and the planning of YCAP.
4. Sharing Climate Action Journeys in NCP
  - a. Background: Every congregation has its own story about how it practices Earth Care and there is a great value to sharing these stories to inspire and equip other congregations to act on the climate crisis. Presbyterians for Earth Care shares stories about [‘Earth Keepers’](#) and in 2016 recognized predecessor project for YCAP, which included a biodiesel bus tour to highlight and share these congregational stories in collaboration with partners. In the DC metro area, the local Interfaith Power and Light chapter shares these stories in [a number of ways](#): such as a ‘solar congregation’s map,’ a ‘learning from solar congregation’s booklet,’ and a ‘solar congregation’s list-serv.’
  - b. Outputs: The youth carbon analyst/s will work with the YCAP team to identify ways to enable the sharing of ‘climate action journeys’ among congregations in the National Capital Presbytery – considering partnerships to support this work, yielding:
    - i. A written or digital media report that shares the ‘climate action journeys’ of at least three churches in National Capital Presbytery.
    - ii. An event that raises attention about this report, possibly in collaboration with other youth carbon analysts working on other areas.