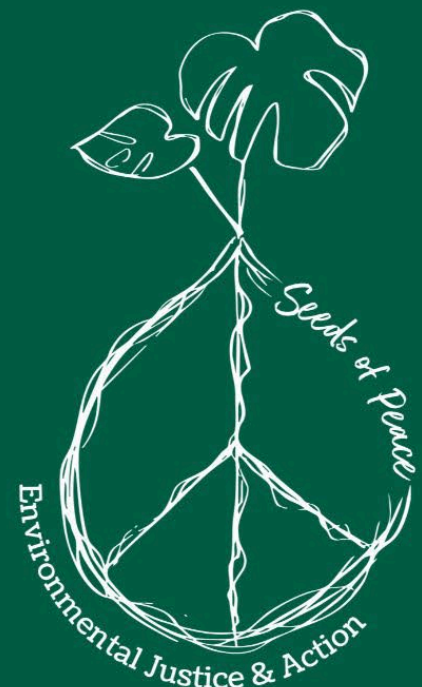




Community of Christ

2026 Peace Forum Program Book

PEACE FORUM



Schedule



16–18 October 2026

All times are Central Daylight Time USA.

***Live streamed free on CofChrist YouTube*

****Available on Zoom with registration*

Friday, 16 October 2026

8:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Registration Open (Main Foyer)
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	So That All Might Flourish – Prayer Retreat (Arrive at 8:30 a.m. to register. Gather at 9:00 a.m. in the Continents Room for transportation to the trailhead.)
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Event Store Opens (Behind Museum) Environmental Expo (Main Foyer) Creative Reuse Center (Music Room)
4:30 p.m.	Artwork Dedication (Temple Lawn, Northwest Side)
5:00 p.m.	Opening Blessing on the World Plaza
7:00 p.m.	Opening Worship and Award Presentation** (Sanctuary)
8:30 p.m.	Book Signing Reception with Light Refreshments (Upper Foyer)
8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	Event Store Open

Saturday, 17 October 2026

8:00 a.m. – noon	Registration Open
8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Creative Reuse Center Open
8:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Event Store Open
8:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Morning Devotion (Sanctuary)
9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Plenary Session with Bill McKibben*** (Sanctuary)
10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Breakout Session One*** (Various)
10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Meet the Artist – Oren Coheninyo will share about the new sculpture (Library)
Noon – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch • Pre-ordered boxed lunches, available for pick-up in the Lunch Room (Continents Room overflow seating) • Youth ages 11–18 are invited to a pizza lunch with Bill McKibben in Shalom Place Documentary Screenings During Lunch • Theater 1: Kiss the Ground Documentary, Educational Cut • Theater 2: Children-Focused Documentaries with Post-Screening Discussion
Noon – 2:00 p.m.	Event Store and Environmental Expo Open
1:00 p.m.	Prayer for Peace (Sanctuary)
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Breakout Session Two*** (Various)
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Breakout Session Three*** (Various)
4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Dinner

4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Event Store and Environmental Expo Open
4:45 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Evangelist Gathering (Theater 2)
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Stories, Songs, and Seeds of Change** (Sanctuary)

Sunday, 18 October 2026

8:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Ready to Respond Stations and Sessions*** (Various)
8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Event Store and Creative Reuse Center Open – Final Chance!
10:30 a.m. – noon	Closing Worship** (Sanctuary)

Breakout Sessions



** Indicates a session geared toward children*

++ Indicates a session translated into French and Spanish

Breakout Session One — 10:45–11:45 a.m.

Welcoming the Stranger++

Joey Williams

Continents Room

As climate disruptions force people to relocate, communities and nations face questions about hospitality, justice, and responsibility. This session will explore climate migration through the lenses of discipleship, human dignity, and global solidarity.

Spirituality of Enough++

Gina Colvin and Lachlan Mackay

Lecture Hall

Reflect on how spiritual practices and faith traditions challenge cultures of excess consumption. Participants will discuss how embracing “enough” can support ecological sustainability and economic fairness.

Climate Generosity

Panel: Noelle Gaffka, Facilitator

Theater 1

A panel conversation with young adults exploring what it means to practice climate generosity as an act of resistance. In a world shaped by extraction, consumption, and inequity, this session will highlight how choosing generosity (sharing resources, advocating for just systems, and caring for creation) can disrupt harmful patterns and cultivate hope.

Deep Roots. Prophetic Courage. Bold Climate Action.

Stassi Cramm and Ken Mulliken

Theater 2

Earth stewardship is not a secondary, secular issue; it is a core theological mandate woven into all nine Community of Christ Enduring Principles. Caring for the planet is essential to pursuing peace, ending poverty, and fully living out Christ's mission. To explore these deep roots, this session uses "fractal history" to trace how values such as the "Sacredness of Creation" have appeared across different jurisdictions in Community of Christ over time. This historical lens reveals that while our explicit climate language is new, the foundation for ecological discipleship has been present in varying degrees over time within our faith tradition. Ultimately, the Enduring Principles provide the theological mandate we need to transform faith into bold, prophetically inspired climate action.

Nourishing Earth, Nourishing Ourselves

Panel: Rick Sarre, Facilitator

Sanctuary

This panel explores how the ways we grow, choose, and share food can support the health of both people and the planet. From climate-conscious eating and sustainable farming practices to community food initiatives that cultivate belonging and opportunity, panelists will highlight how everyday decisions and local partnerships can contribute to environmental stewardship, personal well-being, and thriving communities.

Bridging the Divide

North American Climate Justice Team

Seminar Room

Grounded in the work of Katharine Hayhoe, this session equips participants to engage in meaningful, hopeful conversations about climate change. Participants will learn practical tools for communicating across differences, building connection, and inspiring action without increasing polarization.

Faithful Advocacy

Stephen Donahoe and Jeffrey Jordan, FCNL

Meditation Chapel

Led by the Friends Committee on National Legislation, this session explores how to engage elected officials in ways that reflect dignity, respect, and the worth of all people.

Participants will learn practical strategies for effective climate advocacy while grounding their approach in relationship, listening, and shared humanity.

Note: *This session is most relevant to a United States context though may be of interest to those exploring political advocacy in their own contexts.*

Earth Explorers*

World Plaza

Designed for children and intergenerational participation, this interactive experience invites participants to explore environmental initiatives around the Temple grounds. Through hands-on engagement with composting, native plants, and gardening, participants will discover simple, meaningful ways to care for the Earth in their own communities.

Breakout Session Two——2:00–3:00 p.m.

Prophetic Imagination++

Andrew Fellows, NACJT

Continents Room

In this interactive workshop, participants will practice prophetic imagination as a spiritual and creative discipline. Together, we will envision a future beyond fossil fuels, imagining energy systems and communities rooted in justice, sustainability, and hope.

Voices of Courage++

Joshua Bennet and Gina Colvin

Lecture Hall

This hybrid session brings forward global voices engaged in challenging deeply rooted systems of oppression. Participants will hear from a leader in India advocating for Dalit communities and an Indigenous leader from New Zealand, exploring how public witness can confront injustice while honoring dignity, culture, and community.

Powering Change: Going Solar at Home and in Your Community

Zac Caro

Theater 1

This practical session explores how individuals, congregations, and organizations can transition to solar energy. Participants will learn the basics of getting started, including financial considerations, partnerships, and real-world examples of solar implementation at both residential and community scales.

Choosing to Act

Elene Cloete and Krizza ria Velasquez

Theater 2

This inspiring session highlights one of the most effective approaches to alleviating the overwhelming effects of the climate crisis: collective action. Experts from Outreach International will discuss their work of community-led development, partnering with the people most affected by climate change to strengthen their agency to improve their own lives and create a more hopeful future for all.

Living the Crisis

Laner Lefort, Gaelle Chee-Ayee, and Jenny Chibwe

Sanctuary

This session brings together voices from Haiti, French Polynesia, and South Africa to speak from lived experience about the growing impacts of climate disruption. Participants will hear how environmental change is reshaping daily life and community resilience in places already bearing disproportionate burdens. Through stories rooted in culture, community, and ancestral wisdom participants will explore how identity, land, and relationship shape faithful responses to environmental change across diverse cultural and geographic contexts.

Faithful Response

Derrick Weston

Seminar Room

This session will highlight resources that help faith communities understand and respond to creation justice as a spiritual calling. Drawing on the work of Creation Justice Ministries, participants will explore how theological reflection, worship, and education can deepen commitment to caring for the Earth.

Deep Roots for Young Hearts*

Stassi Cramm, Janné Grover, Bunda Chibwe

Meditation Chapel

Hosted by the First Presidency, this intergenerational gathering invites children and the young-at-heart to explore God's preferred future through story, song, and art. Our time together follows a three-storybook journey: marveling at the gift of creation, sharing in God's dream of peace, and learning practical, everyday ways we can protect the earth. Woven together with music and thematic coloring activities for each story, this session nurtures a deep-rooted love for creation and empowers our youngest and young-at-heart members to actively participate in healing the world.

EcoConnections*

Carla Long and Erica Blevins-Nye

Shalom Place

In this interactive, intergenerational session, participants will play a game that explores how everyday economic decisions impact the climate and community well-being. Through simple choices and shared reflection, players will see how their actions create ripple effects for the future. Each participant will leave with a copy of the game to continue learning and conversation at home.

Breakout Session Three——3:30–4:30 p.m.

Answering the Call

Bill McKibben

Continents Room

Led by Peace Award recipient Bill McKibben, this session introduces Third Act, a movement empowering older adults to take meaningful action on climate and democracy.

Participants will explore pathways for advocacy that are strategic, impactful, and rooted in a lifelong commitment to justice.

Damayan++

Astroval Aquino and Krizza ria Velasquez

Lecture Hall

Damayan is rooted in the word damay which means to sympathize or share burden. Led by CORD, this session explores how communities in the Philippines are responding to increasing climate-driven disruptions through participatory development and local leadership. Participants will learn how community-based approaches foster resilience, dignity, and long-term sustainability in the face of ongoing environmental challenges.

Sacred Earth, Shared Call++

Panel: Matt Frizzell, Facilitator

Sanctuary

Leaders from diverse faith traditions engage in a facilitated conversation about how their communities understand creation and respond to climate challenges. This session invites participants to listen across differences, discover shared values, and reflect on our collective responsibility to care for the Earth.

The Land Bears Witness

Monear Shaer

Theater 1

Through his documentary Gaza Is Our Home, filmmaker Monear Shaer invites participants to consider the often-overlooked environmental consequences of armed conflict. This session explores how war reshapes landscapes, threatens access to food and water, and disrupts the relationship between people and place, while also reflecting on the human dimensions of displacement, resilience, and hope. Grounded in Community of Christ's commitment to peace and the vision of an inclusive Holy Land, participants will consider how environmental justice and peacemaking are deeply interconnected.

From Footprint to Future

Panel: Ron Harmon, Facilitator

Theater 2

What practical steps can individuals, families, and communities take to reduce and offset carbon emissions? This session will highlight economically viable solutions, from everyday choices to community initiatives, that support shared well-being. Participants will explore actions like expanding green spaces and regenerative practices.

Growing Peacemakers

Andy Kroesen and Cathi Cackler Veazey, Peace Pavilion

Seminar Room

How do we nurture children who value peace, care for creation, and understand their place within an interconnected world? Drawing on the Peace Pavilion's Peace for the Planet exhibit, this session explores how hands-on experiences, storytelling, and encounters with nature can cultivate empathy, responsibility, and environmental stewardship in young people. Participants will discover lessons from the Pavilion's history and exhibits while gaining practical ideas for helping children learn that even small acts of care contribute to the well-being of communities, ecosystems, and the Earth itself.

Voices for the Earth

Janné Grover

Meditation Chapel

In this interactive session, Janné Grover guides participants in exploring hymns that give voice to both the beauty of creation and the call to care for it. Together, we will reflect on how music forms us spiritually and sends us into the world with purpose.

EcoConnections*

Carla Long and Erica Blevins-Nye

Shalom Place

In this interactive, intergenerational session, participants will play a game that explores how everyday economic decisions impact the climate and community well-being. Through simple choices and shared reflection, players will see how their actions create ripple effects for the future. Each participant will leave with a copy of the game to continue learning and conversation at home.

Ready to Respond



Ready to Respond Stations——Sunday, 8:15–10:00 a.m.

Stories of Resistance

Host: Andrew Fellows

Location: Meditation Garden Hallway

A station where people can gather, come and go, to talk with Andrew Fellows, a climate activist from England, who will share stories of his experience at climate protests and marches in England. He can answer questions and provide some tips for anyone interested in becoming involved in climate protests.

North American Climate Justice Team

Host: Paul Bethel

Location: Temple Foyer

Join Paul Bethel and explore how we can be part of tangible action in the world.

Letters to Legislators

Host: Emily Rose

Location: Upper Foyer Alcove

Use your voice to advocate for policies that protect the earth! Stop by this station to look up your elected officials, learn how to call and share your story, and make a recycled postcard to send their office. We will even help you research climate bills moving through your state legislature. Join us to learn tangible skills to add to your activism!

Note: This session is most relevant to a United States context though may be of interest to those exploring political advocacy in their own contexts.

Mending Mindfully

Host: Emily Hartford

Location: Atrium Sitting Area

Slow down, mend, and create in this hands-on practice of healing and reclaiming. At this drop-in Ready to Respond station, you're invited to engage simple mending practices while reflecting on the ways we can repair, restore, and care for what has been entrusted to us. No previous mending experience is needed. Come for a few minutes or stay awhile as you practice practical skills, share conversation, and create something beautiful. Bring your curiosity and a willingness to work with your hands.

Creating Change Through Creativity

Host: Carrie Welch and Shannon McAdam

Location: Mission Prayer Hallway

Discover how people around the world use crafts as a form of activism, storytelling, and community action. At this interactive station, you can explore inspiring examples of craftivism and learn how simple creative projects can raise awareness, spark conversations, and make a meaningful difference. Using repurposed materials from the Creative Reuse Center, participants will have the opportunity to create a small make-and-take project while reflecting on how creativity can be a powerful tool for environmental stewardship, peacebuilding, and social change.

Climate Action Now

Host: Friends Committee on National Legislation

Location: Temple Foyer

Put your passion into action by sharing your views with your legislators. Staff of the Friends Committee on National Legislation in Washington, DC will provide some tips and tricks for effectively communicating with your legislators.

Note: *This session is most relevant to a United States context though may be of interest to those exploring political advocacy in their own contexts.*

Wild Spirituality: Practices for Sacred Connection with Creation

Host: Seth Bryant

Location: World Plaza

Explore spiritual practices that help us slow down, pay attention, and reconnect with the sacredness of creation. At this Ready to Respond station, participants will be introduced to practices rooted in wild spirituality and learn how time in nature can deepen our awareness of God's presence. You'll have the opportunity to try out several simple practices for yourself, using your senses, imagination, and attention to engage with the more-than-human world. These practices can be adapted for a variety of settings, from a wilderness trail to a neighborhood park or your own backyard. Come ready to explore, listen, and discover what creation might have to teach us.

Ready to Respond Sessions—Sunday, 8:15–10:00 a.m.

++ Indicates a session translated into French and Spanish

From Declaration to Action++

Host: First Presidency

Location: Continents Room

In this Ready to Respond session, the First Presidency will invite participants to explore the meaning and implications of our Climate Emergency Statement and reflect on what it means to live as people who have made this declaration. Drawing on the First Presidency's reflections about the significance of declaring a climate emergency, the conversation will explore questions of faith, responsibility, action, and what it means to respond to this moment as a community. Participants will have opportunities to share their own reflections and consider how this commitment might shape their choices, ministries, congregations, and communities. Come ready to listen, reflect, and discern how we can live more fully into our declaration.

Look Again: Seeing Creation, Telling Stories, Taking Action++

Host: Chad Godfrey

Location: Lecture Hall

What happens when we slow down and really look at the world around us? In this interactive session, we'll explore how photographs and videos can help us notice the sacredness of creation, tell meaningful stories about our relationship with the earth, and inspire action for climate justice. No photography or filmmaking experience is necessary, just a willingness to look again, see what might otherwise be overlooked, and discover how the camera in your pocket can become a tool for worship, storytelling, and advocacy. Participants will leave with simple, practical ways to use visual storytelling in their own communities and congregations.

Advocating with Dance

Host: Kahealani Faatuarai

Location: Lunch Room

Discover how traditional hula can become a powerful form of advocacy and action for climate justice. Rooted in deep relationships with 'āina (land) and community, hula carries stories, values, and calls to care for the world around us. In this Ready to Respond session, participants will explore how movement, music, and cultural storytelling can raise awareness, honor Indigenous wisdom, and inspire communities to respond to the climate crisis. Come experience how hula can be more than an art form. It can be a voice for justice, resilience, and the protection of our shared home.

Deep Gladness Meets Climate Action

Host: North American Climate Justice Team

Location: Theater 2

A mini-session of about 45 minutes that uses the Venn Diagram as a tool to help people identify where their own personal skills and interests intersect with the need for climate action. This will be led by Susan Oxley and Laurie Gordon.

Cultivating Seeds of Peace through Community Development

Host: Outreach International

Location: Theater 1

When our environment thrives, communities thrive. In this engaging follow-up to the breakout session led by Outreach International, we will examine the vital link between environmental shifts and chronic poverty. Participants will choose a breakout circle, dive into a real-world community journey, and discover how local agency transforms vulnerable communities into resilient drivers of peace and progress. Learn how activating a community can plant the seeds for change, and how you can get involved in building a world beyond poverty.

Climate Writing and Storytelling

Host: Graceland University Sustainability Studies

Location: Shalom Place

This session explores climate anxiety and resilience through creative writing and personal storytelling. Often, the scale and the stakes of the present crisis feel overwhelming. Stories, however, can be a core tool for climate action, helping us make abstract climate science human, local, and real and sparking action. Stories can also foster connection and community in times of uncertainty. Through writing exercises, reflection, and small group discussion, participants in this session will begin transforming heavy climate emotions into their own powerful narratives for advocacy, education, and activism.

My Journey to Net Zero

Host: Aaron Twombly

Location: Meditation Chapel

Combating climate change relies on each of us doing our part to transition to clean energy, reduce our consumption, and tell our story. In this session we'll explore real-world changes Aaron and Tracy Twombly have made in their journey to reach net-zero. Topics include added insulation, heat pumps, EV adoption, a self-installed solar array, replacement windows, changes in air travel, changes in diet, and more. Aaron will share how these changes have reduced their carbon footprint, the costs and payback periods, along with lessons learned.

General Event Info



First Aid

For any first aid and minor medical needs, check with the Temple Foyer information desk.

Emergency Information

If an emergency occurs, staff members in each location will give further information.

Creative Reuse Pop-up

Visit the Creative Reuse Center in the Music Room! This special Peace Forum pop-up invites you to discover the possibilities in materials that might otherwise have been discarded. By sharing resources rather than simply buying new, we are living out the values we profess. We uphold the Worth of All Persons and Grace and Generosity by modeling an economy where everyone can participate and resources are shared, and we honor the Sacredness of Creation by giving old materials new life and purpose. Stop by, browse the collection, and see what you might create! And a heartfelt thank-you to everyone who donated materials and helped make this Creative Reuse Center possible.

Composting

Composting is available during the event. Look for the yellow bins around the Temple and find a list of what is compostable at <https://www.compostcollectivekc.com/whatscompostable/>.



Recycling

Blue recycling bins are available throughout the Temple. Use these commingled bins for office paper, newspapers, plastics numbered 1 to 7 and aluminum cans.

Information Desk

The information desk is in the Temple lower foyer. Visit the desk for information and questions and check for lost and found items.

Temple Restrooms

All restrooms in the Temple have facilities for people with disabilities.

Women and Men

- First floor, near rotunda and museum
First floor, near Lunch Room
- Second floor, near Shalom Place
Second floor, near music room and stained glass

Single-stall Restroom

- First floor, near rotunda and museum

Online Giving

Offerings given during worship are another source of support for the Forum expenses. Offerings above the event expenses will be donated to the church's Climate Emergency Fund. To give online, use the QR code or visit <https://CofChrist.org/give>.



Care for Personal Items

Be mindful of personal items. Do not leave laptops, tablets, cell phones, coats, or bags unattended. The church cannot be responsible for misplaced, lost, or stolen items.

Hearing Assistance

See the next page.

ListenWifi Available

Assistive listening and translations are available.



ASSISTIVE LISTENING

Assistive Listening is available in the following rooms:

- Sanctuary
- Continents Room
- Lecture Hall
- Theatre 1
- Theatre 2

Select your room, then select 'ENGLISH'.



TRANSLATIONS

English/Spanish/French translations will be available in the following rooms:

- Sanctuary
- Continents Room
- Lecture Hall

Select your room, then select your language of choice.



WAYS TO LISTEN

1



YOUR OWN CELL PHONE

Connect to the 'CofCPUBLIC WI-Fi' and download the 'ListenWifi' app

2



BORROW A LISTENWIFI RECEIVER

See a Community of Christ staff member for directions to pick up a receiver.

CofCPUBLIC Wi-Fi



IPHONE App Download



Android App Download



Need help? Ask a Community of Christ staff member.