

SW2024-05 Proposal: Creation of a System of Information-Sharing within SWRC

Origin: Social and Ecological Justice Commission

1. What is the issue? (describe in broad terms)

Currently many social justice and environmental concerns are happening worldwide. There is a deep need for information on these issues to be shared quickly with communities. This information may involve swift actions that need to be taken to promote justice (such as needs for resources or calls for political responses to refugee or food and shelter crises) or ongoing lifestyle changes that are required as a response to global situations (such as those needed to reach net zero emissions of greenhouse gases or increase biodiversity and carbon absorption).

Faith communities are ideally-placed to respond as conduits of information within communities because they have spaces to gather, hold positions of influence, and have human resources to activate in information-sharing.

2. Why is this issue important?

The climate and biodiversity crises are now at the stage where they impose risk on human civilizations. Continued disregard for these situations will impact all other aspects of social justice on the planet: wars will increase, income inequality and human displacement will increase, food shortages will increase, wide-spread abuse of the powerless by the powerful will increase.

The solutions also exist and have been studied extensively. People are also looking for leadership on how to respond to the global environmental and social justice issues. Anxiety is leading to tension and stress in our youth and they need to be prepared for the future and know that the adults in their life are working towards a sustainable and equitable planet.

3. How does this proposal help us to live into our church's commitments on equity?

This proposal initiates three things:

- a specific contact within each faith community who can share information with the faith community.
- directions that guide faith communities to respond in a variety of ways within their community (recognizing that the means to act will differ from community to community)
- ongoing restructuring of the information-sharing in response to situational changes via mandated responses between faith community contacts and the Social and Ecological Justice Commission

4. How might the Regional Council respond to the issue?

It is proposed that the Regional Council

- request that each faith community provide (and update as needed) contact information for a Social and Ecological Justice response person (SEJRP)

- create a communication piece that goes out quarterly to each faith community SEJRP and that the content of this piece
 - be vetted by the Social and Ecological Justice Commission for accuracy and validity
 - contain current information needed to guide social and ecological justice actions
 - contain clear and attainable directions on how to share this information to allow for appropriate and powerful responses to current crises
 - include a range of responses that reflect the different conditions within the faith communities
 - encourage ongoing updates from faith communities about the effectiveness of the communication/responses
- request that each faith community give a quarterly update on how information-sharing is working and suggestions for improvement and that these be forwarded to the Social and Ecological Justice Commission.