



October 16, 2023

Dear Bishop Hauptert-Johnson:

Global Ministries EarthKeepers is a program to train and support United Methodist laity and clergy in addressing local environmental concerns and the systemic structures that give rise to those concerns. It is a response to the call to practice social and environmental holiness in the Council of Bishops' 2009 document, "God's Renewed Creation: A Call to Hope and Action."

The following individual(s) in your episcopal area completed an EarthKeepers training in 2023:


Benjamin Blevins ben@highlandpartners.org
Rev. Gary Heaton garyheaton@vaumc.org

During their training, the EarthKeepers discussed eco-theology and United Methodist entry points into environmental stewardship. They articulated their callings to this ministry, identified community assets and local environmental concerns, and developed project plans to address those concerns. The training was led by staff from Global Ministries, with resources from other United Methodist agencies.

Global Ministries will commission this cohort of EarthKeepers in an online commissioning service on Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 8 p.m. ET. Please join us via livestream at www.facebook.com/GlobalMinistries. I encourage you to highlight and support the work of EarthKeepers within your conference and invite people to participate in the service. A press release is attached to support you in sharing this good news.

The ministry of Global Ministries EarthKeepers is vital to the health of God's creation. If you would like more information about this program or would like to recommend others, please contact the Rev. Jenny Phillips, director of Environmental Sustainability, at jphillips@umcmission.org.

Sincerely,



Roland Fernandes
General Secretary