Interreligious Eco-Justice Network

Outreach Committee Charter

IREJN Mission Statement
The mission of IREJN is to bring together and to inspire, empower and equip religious communities to lend their moral voice to protect our planet, to be faithful stewards of the Earth, and to be actively engaged in environmental justice issues, with all people, especially those most affected by the impacts of climate change, global warming, toxic pollution, and species loss.

Purpose of the Outreach Committee
The Outreach Committee is established by the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network's Board of Directors to nurture and reinforce the relationships with the existing houses of worship affiliated and supporting IREJN and to draw new houses of worship into the IREJN community to help them build and strengthen their Green Teams, to provide opportunities to connect environmental issues to other equity and humanitarian issues, such as housing, public health, poverty, and environmental racism, to engage them in advocacy for environmental justice and care of Creation and to encourage them to financially support IREJN, as they able.

The Committee is chartered, on behalf of and as directed by the Board of Directors, to accomplish the following objectives:

- Be connected with existing supporting houses of worship through “touches” such as visiting the congregations at least once a year to update them on IREJN activities, offering a program to the public at their congregation, writing them a thank you note for financial support, sending them a letter or email to inform them of upcoming IREJN-sponsored events, inviting them to participate in an IREJN-sponsored action, such as a beach clean-up or Rock to Rock bike ride, a lobbying day at the Capitol or other advocacy opportunities

- Visit new houses of worship to explain the mission of IREJN, with the intention to expand the diversity of the current IREJN congregation membership, to share and explain the Green House of Worship program with them, to help them form a “Green Team”, to award them certificates for advancement in the Green House of Worship program, and to inform them of IREJN coming webinars and actions

- Touch base with houses of worship already engaged in the Green House of Worship (GHW) program every six months to offer support to them for advancing in the GHW, creating an organic garden, doing advocacy, and participating in IPL programs and initiatives.

In addition, the Committee works in partnership with the Development Committee to share information with them about new houses of worship who will financially support IREJN.
Structure and Composition of the Committee
The Committee shall be comprised of a Chair, at least one other IREJN Board member, and three additional members. Committee members should have a strong background in public relations, communication skills, and represent the diverse populations of the broader community. At least one IREJN staff member will attend meetings and provide support to carry out the work and goals of the Committee.

Committee Member Duties and Responsibilities
- Establish a public relations/outreach plan, goals and action plans each year, in concert with the IREJN staff, to support the organization’s short and long-range goals and objectives and to ensure the goals and objectives reflect the IREJN Mission Statement
- Review and be fluent in presenting the Green House of Worship program to congregations; know what the supporting elements are of the Green House of Worship program and where to access them
- Work with appropriate staff to gather information and to encourage programs in congregations about energy efficiency, gardens, advocacy, species loss, Rights of Nature, environmental justice, etc.
- Monitor and regularly report progress of outreach initiatives to the Board members, Executive Director, and where appropriate, to member congregations
- Prepare Green House of Worship awards
- Visit and present Green House of Worship awards to participating congregations
- Help to search for and evaluate potential members for the Committee

Meetings
The Committee will meet at least four times per year and more often if deemed necessary based upon the year’s goals and objectives. Meetings are called by the Chair of the Committee. The Committee will discuss ongoing projects and actions at the Board of Directors meetings.

Approved by the Board of Directors originally on April 17, 2023.