

# Helen Smith

Policy Advocate



As Policy Advocate, Helen leads Creation Justice Ministries' work advocating to better protect, restore, and rightly share God's lands and waters. In this work, Helen organizes faith leaders, creates policy resources, and works with partners to achieve meaningful policy change for God's planet and people. Prior to CJM, Helen worked for the National Religious Partnership for the Environment and was the preliminary editor for Journey to Transformation 2020 Lenten Study by Bishop Sharma D. Lewis. Helen has been an international volunteer building churches, schools and clinics. She has been active in the United Methodist Church throughout her life, serving as Chair of Trustees and a member of the Finance and Administrative Council, the Rappahannock River District Board of Connectional Ministries, and the Virginia Conference Communications Board. She is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University with a degree in International Relations. Helen brings the saying, "Think globally, act locally" to life. She has a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion lens in her work and centers a reciprocal relationship with God's creation in her personal theology.

# SAMPLE SPEAKING TOPICS

## OCEAN JUSTICE

- God's marine creation has long been neglected as a source of healing for God's planet and people in federal policy. As ocean policy becomes a centerpiece of the U.S. climate change approach, it's important that we place justice at the forefront. The marine creations in God's ocean depend on us to make the right decisions for both our wellbeing and their. Why should Christians care about the ocean? How does this affect churches? How can churches advocate for God's marine creation? I address all these questions and more when speaking about ocean justice.

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- Climate change does not just affect God's planet, but God's people. As we approach the intersectional nature of climate change, we have to ensure that Diversity, Equity and Inclusion are the foundation of our approach. How do we build these principles into our approach? What is the responsibility of Christians on this matter? Seek out the answers to these questions and more with Creation Justice Ministries.


## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE


- Environmental Justice seeks to comprehensively address environmental and health inequities that under-resourced communities face on a daily basis. This often has a negative impact on low-income and/or BIPOC communities in urban and rural areas. I can discuss the ways in which communities experience environmental justice and how churches and communities of faith can respond through advocacy.



Please feel free to reach out for any questions.

## Get in Touch!

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