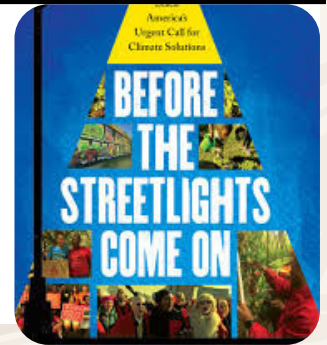


ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE RESOURCES

A Curated Reading List for Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day 2026

Before The Street Lights Come On: Black America's Call for Climate Solutions by Heather McTeer Toney (Broadleaf Books, 2023)

Former EPA Regional Administrator and climate activist Heather McTeer Toney argues that those most affected by climate change are best suited to lead the movement for climate justice. She explores why Black Americans are uniquely qualified to lead national conversations around racial disparity and climate solutions. A powerful call to center frontline communities in climate action.



ECOWOMANISM

African American Women and
Earth-Honoring Faiths

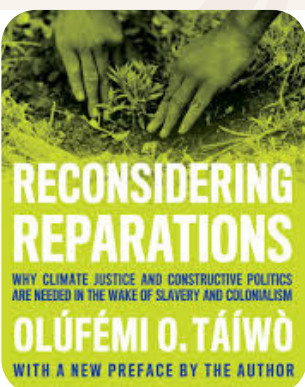
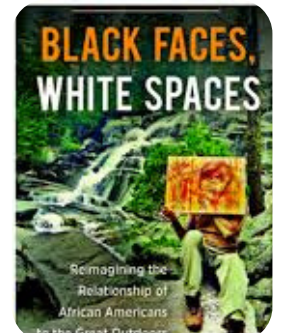


Ecowomanism: African American Women and Earth-Honoring Faiths by Melanie L. Harris (Orbis Books, 2017)

Professor Melanie Harris introduces the groundbreaking concept of ecowomanism, examining how African American women make distinctive contributions to environmental justice through their theological reflection, spiritual activism, and religious understanding of earth care

Black Faces, White Spaces: Reimagining the Relationship of African Americans to the Great Outdoors by Carolyn Finney (University of North Carolina Press, 2014)

A cultural geographer examines why African Americans appear underrepresented in environmental movements and outdoor recreation. Finney argues that legacies of slavery, Jim Crow, and racial violence have shaped cultural understandings of the great outdoors and determined who can access natural spaces. Essential reading for understanding the racialization of nature in America.



Reconsidering Reparations: Why Climate Justice and Constructive Politics Are Needed in the Wake of Slavery and Colonialism by Olufemi O. Taiwo (Oxford University Press, 2022)

Georgetown philosopher proposes a future-focused approach to reparations emphasizing climate justice. Instead of only addressing past wrongs, Taiwo advocates tackling climate change directly, linking environmental destruction to systems that fostered a global racial empire. A groundbreaking work linking decolonization, racial justice, and climate action.

Love God, Love God's World: A Creation Care Curriculum: Session 8- A Better World is Possible: Communities Organizing for Change by Jemonde Taylor

This powerful curriculum, created by the Reconciliation, Justice, and Creation Care team, presents a comprehensive introduction to ecospirituality and ecojustice. Session 8 explores how Black faith communities organize environmental and climate justice. Rev. Taylor guides participants through understanding systemic environmental problems using grassroots organizing strategies that center marginalized communities.



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE RESOURCES

Historical Foundations

Warren County PCB Protests: The Birth of Environmental Justice

The 1982 protests in Warren County, North Carolina, a predominantly Black rural community, against dumping 60,000 tons of PCB-contaminated soil, started the environmental justice movement. Over 500 arrests occurred over six weeks, including civil rights leaders like Rev. Ben Chavis. The protests sparked a global movement connecting environmental and racial justice.

Key Resources: – [UNC Libraries Exhibition: We Birthed the Movement: The Warren County PCB Landfill Protests, 1978-1982](#); – [NPR Throughline: How everyday people started a movement that's shaping climate action to this day](#); [NCpedia](#): PCB Protests historical overview.



Theological and Spiritual Resources

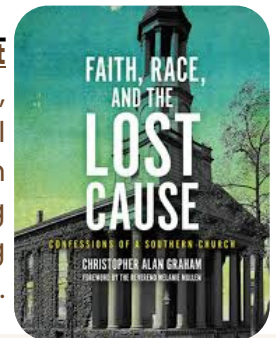
Bishop Michael Curry Sermons

Look to the Rock(2019)-Presiding Bishop Curry's powerful sermon on resilience and ancestral wisdom during times of crisis Love God, Love Your Neighbor – Curry's consistent message connecting Christian love to social justice.



St. Paul's Richmond History Reconciliation Project

The groundbreaking work at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Richmond, Virginia, where the congregation confronted their church's Confederate memorial windows and hosted annual Confederate commemoration services. Through the History Reconciliation Initiative, the community engaged in truth-telling about the intersection of white supremacy and environmental violence, learning how institutional reckoning opens space for justice work.



Organizing and Action Resources

Building Hope: Creative Maladjustment in Climate Action

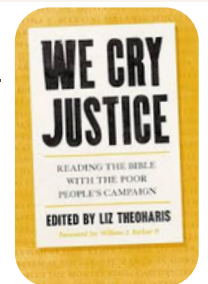
Drawing from Dr. King's 1967 speech to the American Psychological Association about creative maladjustment, this framework helps activists understand how to channel righteous anger and efficacy into sustained environmental justice work.



We Cry Justice: Daily Bread

by Melanie Mullen (from We Cry Justice: Reading the Bible with the Poor Peoples Campaign).

Exploring how communities like the California ICE detention facility hunger strikers used the Lord's Prayer as a tool for environmental and immigrant justice organizing. Shows how biblical texts become resources for contemporary justice when communities center the voices of those most affected.



Act Like an Ancestor

Doing all we can to shape the world we want our moral descendants to inherit, and have faith that they will continue the long struggle for justice.