



Massachusetts

Interfaith Power & Light

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Promoting environmental justice and care of creation with the community of faith in Massachusetts

May 2006

NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Issue 3

“It’s time for the choir to start singing”: MIP&L’s 5th Annual Forum in Honor of Earth Day

On **April 26, 2006**, MIP&L held its 5th Annual Forum in honor of Earth Day at **Eliot Church of Newton**. More than 30 people were in attendance. The evening began with greetings and an opening



Bishop Steven Charleston delivers the keynote at Eliot Church in Newton.

prayer by **Vince Maraventano**, member of Eliot Church.

The keynote speaker was the **Right Reverend Steven Charleston**.

Bishop Charleston is the President and Dean of Episcopal Divinity School (EDS) of Cambridge, MA. He lived up to his reputation as “one of the best preachers in the Episcopal Church.” Bishop Charleston noted that we are coming upon an era when environmental justice issues and concerns will be considered among the very most important. “This is *your* time,” he said to the crowd of faith-based environmentalists. “And it’s time for the choir to start singing!”

Prior to Bishop Charleston’s keynote talk, there was a PowerPoint presentation on global warming and **clean energy** by **Eric Olson** of the Massachusetts Climate Action Network (MCAN). MCAN and MIP&L, along with Clean Water Action, are working on a public awareness campaign for clean energy with grant funding from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC).



Eric Olson gives his talk.

Several awards were presented as well. The following organizations and individuals received awards:

Massachusetts Climate Action Network

(awarded for their public awareness campaign on Clean Energy Choice)

Clean Water Action

(awarded for their public awareness campaign on Clean Energy Choice)

The Green Decade Coalition/Newton

(Community Leadership Award)

Whole Foods Market

(awarded for Renewable Energy Certificates

purchase – 100 % offset for all activities)

Cape Wind

 (Clean Energy Vision Award)

NStar

 (Energy Efficiency Award for work with

congregations, particularly the Roman Catholic



Mayor David B. Cohen of Newton accepts the award on behalf of the City.

Archdiocese of Boston)

Senator Pamela P. Resor and Representative Frank Israel Smizik

(Prophetic Witness for the Commonwealth Award, for

bringing forth legislation to sign Massachusetts on to the



Lynay Smith accepts an award on behalf of Whole Foods Market from MIP&L President Tom Nutt-Powell.

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, RGGI)

City of Newton

 (Green Municipality Award)

Bishop Steven Charleston

 (Faithful Advocate Award)

Hear the choir sing: The full text of the awards is available at www.MIPandL.org. ■

The Choice Is Yours: Clean Energy Choice

You have the power of choice - which do you want?

Clean Energy



**A Healthy Environment
Environmental Justice
Care of Creation**

OR

Dirty Energy



**Toxic Pollution
Environmental Injustice
Degradation of Creation**

To help you in honoring the “Earth Day season” in your congregation and community, **MIP&L has prepared a 4½ minute PowerPoint presentation** for your use. (The slides advance themselves.) Download it at www.MIPandL.org, or e-mail lhoke@MIPandL.org and ask us to send it to you. This PowerPoint presentation will give you suggestions on ways to take up this Mutual Ministry of environmental stewardship in your corner of the world. **Show it at your congregation this May** at coffee hour -- use a lap top and/or a projector.

This Earth Day month, you can make a choice that helps the earth and its inhabitants. If you would like to choose clean energy, go to our website (www.MIPandL.org) and click on the “Clean Energy Choice” button. You can also go to www.CleanEnergyChoice.org to learn about the matching grant program – for every dollar you spend on clean electricity, there is a match of up to one dollar for your community and up to one dollar for low income communities in Massachusetts. This match is from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative. **Truly, this is a win-win-win! It is, quite simply, the right thing to do. ■**

MIP&L at the Harvard Sustainability Conference

MIP&L Program Director Lara Hoke had the opportunity to participate in the April 29 Harvard Green Campus Initiative conference (*Harvard Vision 2020: A Bridge to Campus Sustainability*) as a co-presenter on a workshop addressing issues in Religion and Ecology. The other co-presenter was Martha Gay Kirkpatrick, a student at Harvard Divinity School who is preparing for ordination as an Episcopal priest. Ms. Hoke was able to talk about some of the wonderful work being done by MIP&L member congregations, as well as discussing some of the foundations for faith-based ecology from various world religions. She also spoke about clean energy choices. Ms. Kirkpatrick highlighted her personal journey to faith-based environmentalism from a Christian perspective. The workshop was organized by Harvard students Lara Melina Freeman and Allison Iris Rogers. *Did you know that Harvard Divinity School offsets 100% of its electrical usage with Renewable Energy Certificates?* Kudos! ■

This newsletter was prepared by in the course of performing work funded in part by the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative as part of the Renewable Energy Trust.



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