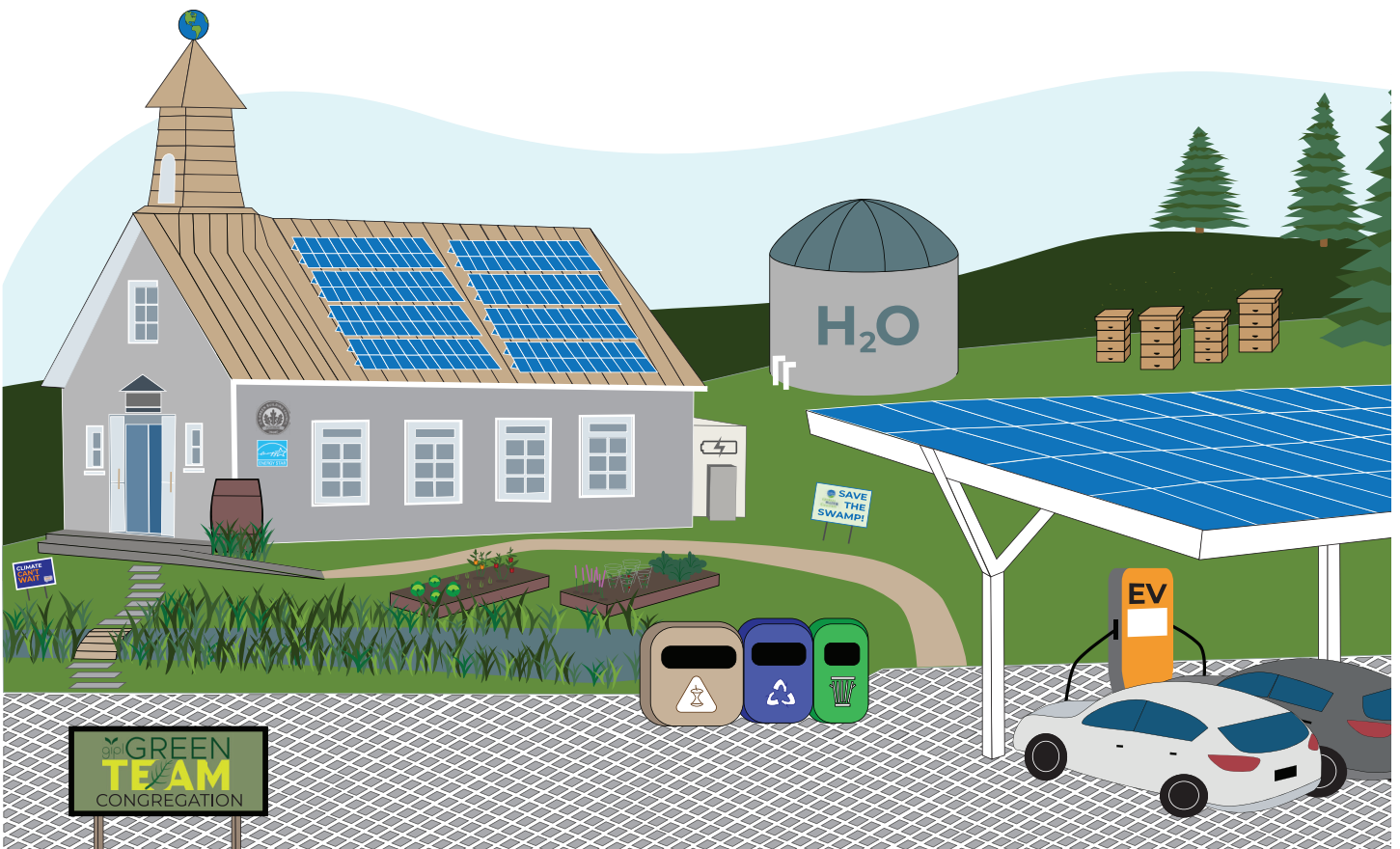


Oak Grove United Methodist Church  
Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024

# ROOTED IN RESILIENCE

gip GREEN TEAM SUMMIT



# WELCOME!



Thank you for joining us for our 2024 Green Team Summit! Since 2003, Georgia Interfaith Power and Light (GIPL) has worked to inspire and equip communities of faith to organize, implement practical climate solutions, and advocate across Georgia on issues of climate change, environmental justice, and community resilience. I am delighted that you have come alongside us in this work today, and I thank you for being a vital part of this interfaith community of environmental activists!

**Our theme for this year’s summit is “Rooted In Resilience.” In 2023, as a part of our 20th Anniversary, GIPL went through a strategic planning process with a primary question in mind: “What will the next 20 years require of us?”** After discernment and community conversation, we decided while it is true that we must continue to take action to limit greenhouse gas emissions, we must **also** prepare our communities to weather the effects of a warming world. **In short, to be more resilient.** This is not easy work. This work requires that every single one of us plunge our hands into the soil, wherever we are, to grow something **new!**

To date, GIPL is in partnership with over 100 Green Teams, many of you present today, as well as hundreds more who participate in GIPL events, workshops, and programming annually. We believe you and your faith communities have the power to change the world and lead Georgia in collective resilience, and GIPL is here to help!

In partnership with Drawdown Georgia, GIPL will continue to expand our practical climate solution programming. In addition to our current programs in energy efficiency (Power-Wise), rooftop solar (Solar-Wise), Zero-Waste, water efficiency (Water-Wise), and electric vehicle (EV) charging, **we will also be adding two new programmatic initiatives in 2024: A ReWilding Program and a Resiliency Hub Track for congregations.**

We will also continue to advocate for policy change to rectify systemic environmental injustices and build civic resilience. Presently, we are seeking permanent protections for Georgia’s Okefenokee Swamp, the largest blackwater swamp in North America, and the Blake Plateau, the largest known deep-sea coral reef in the world, just off Georgia’s coast. We are also actively involved at the Public Service Commission (PSC), seeking policies that invest in clean energy and lower the cost of electricity to billpayers. At the federal level, we are currently petitioning the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to release the strongest possible regulations for fossil fuel power plants to protect the health and well-being of Georgians. **You may sign our Biden/Regan petition by scanning the QR code on the back of your nametag or by visiting [gipl.org/actnow](https://gipl.org/actnow).**

It is my prayer that together we will continue to be people who see all that is possible. The way that the world is, is not how it must be. *We have* changed it and *will continue* to change it together! Indeed, we are a prophetic people, people who seek the flourishing of every living thing, and people who continue to testify to a way of being that seeks life in the face of injustice.

**Thank you for your presence here, in your congregation, and in your community. May you be rooted in resilience today and in the days ahead!**

*Codi Norred*

Codi Norred, M.Div.  
Executive Director  
Georgia Interfaith Power & Light



**Can you spot at least 10 resilient features of the congregation on the front cover?**

- [1] Evidence of Green Team [2] Evidence of Energy Efficiency (Power-Wise)
- [3] Solar Panels (Solar-Wise) [4] Battery Storage (Solar-Wise) [5] Cistern and Sustainable Water Management (Water-Wise) [6] Zero-Waste Receptacles
- [7] Electric Vehicle Charging [8] Permeable Pavements (ReWilding)
- [9] Rain and Community Garden (ReWilding) [10] Evidence of Advocacy

# AGENDA

**10 A.M.** | Welcome & Opening Remarks

**10:15 A.M.** | Keynote Address by Dr. Debra Rienstra

**11:15 A.M.** | 10-Minute Break

**11:25 A.M.** | Panel Response to Keynote

**12:25 P.M.** | Lunch & Networking

**1:15 P.M.** | Power-Wise Awards

**1:30 P.M.** | Workshops - Round 1 (*options listed on page 8*)

**2:30 P.M.** | 10-Minute Break

**2:40 P.M.** | Workshops - Round 2 (*options listed on page 10*)

**3:45 P.M.** | Closing Remarks

**4 P.M.** | Dismissal

## ABOUT GIPL

Georgia Interfaith Power & Light (GIPL) was founded in 2003 by Rev. Woody and Carol Bartlett as part of the national Interfaith Power & Light movement.

They believed strongly that faith communities have the power to change the world, and a mandate to care for the Sacred Earth and all its inhabitants.

They envisioned a Georgia where all people would live safely in a healthy environment, a stable climate, and resilient communities.

Today, GIPL's purpose is to live out this vision.

**Our purpose is to inspire and equip people of faith to engage the issues of climate change, environmental injustices, pollution, and resource depletion, in pursuit of a society in which every living thing can flourish. We are a collaborative, interfaith organization that exists at the intersection of environment, science, and faith.**



## MISSION

Georgia Interfaith Power and Light (GIPL) inspires and equips communities of faith to organize, implement practical climate solutions, and advocate across Georgia on issues of climate change, environmental justice, and community resilience.

## OUR CORE VALUES

### STEWARDSHIP

We advocate for the responsible use and protection of the natural environment, building an interconnected relationship with nature so that all may flourish.

### JUSTICE

We strive for the equitable treatment of all people on Sacred Earth, as well as the enactment and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies to that end.

### COMMUNITY

We believe our vision will only be achieved through communities that are well-connected, diverse, and rooted in action.

### PEACE

We facilitate and lead a community of action founded in our common call to care for the Sacred Earth. How we live in creation should be rooted in sharing and sustainability. Ultimately, we believe that being in right relationship with each other and with the whole of the sacred earth is foundational to individual, community, and societal peace.

### AWE

Our reverence for the natural world and a connection with the divine provides our inspiration. We take the time to develop a spiritual connection with nature and to experience the divine as it speaks through nature.

# KEYNOTE

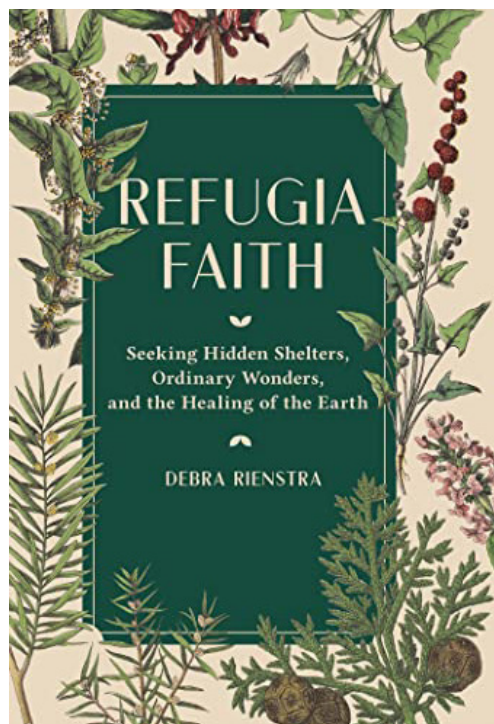
## Dr. Debra Rienstra



Rienstra is a professor of English at Calvin University, where she has taught since 1996, specializing in early British literature and creative writing. She is the author of four books—on motherhood, spirituality, worship, and eco-theology/climate change—as well as numerous essays, poems, and academic scholarship. She writes bi-weekly for The Reformed Journal blog, writing about spirituality, climate change, pop culture, the church, the arts, higher ed, and more.

Her most recent book is “Refugia Faith: Seeking Hidden Shelters, Ordinary Wonders, and the Healing of the Earth” (Fortress 2022). Refugia Faith combines theology, nature writing, and biological principles to consider how people of faith must adapt faith and practice for a climate-altered planet.

Rienstra was raised in Michigan and holds a BA from the University of Michigan and a PhD from Rutgers University. She and her husband, Rev. Dr. Ron Rienstra, have three grown children. Learn more at [debrarienstra.com](http://debrarienstra.com).



Copies of “Refugia Faith: Seeking Hidden Shelters, Ordinary Wonders, and the Healing of the Earth” are available in the lobby for a suggested donation of \$17. The price covers the cost of the book to GIPL.

**AD**

Global Ministries | [umcmmission.org/environmental-sustainability](http://umcmmission.org/environmental-sustainability)  
The United Methodist Church

**AD**

**JUSTICE IN ACTION**

*Upcoming Events:*

- Georgia Legislative Update** with Local Elected Officials, tomorrow, February 4, 6:00pm dinner, 6:30pm program Ward Fellowship Hall, Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church
- Interfaith Gun Violence Prevention Rally** at the Capitol, February 28, 9:30am
- Snack in a Backpack**, Thursdays, Youth & Activities Building, Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church, Sign up here: [bit.ly/snack-backpack2024](http://bit.ly/snack-backpack2024)

Visit [www.glennumc.org/justice-at-glenn](http://www.glennumc.org/justice-at-glenn)

# RESPONSE PANEL

How are local faith communities becoming more resilient? Why does this matter? In response to the keynote address, local faith leaders and a climate scientist will consider in conversation the important role congregations can play in community resilience. Panelists will talk about what it means to have resilient faith, how their congregations are implementing practical climate solutions to become local resiliency hubs, and why building resiliency is critical in a climate-changed world.

**Avery Davis Lamb** (*moderator*) is Co-Executive Director of Creation Justice Ministries, a national Christian environmental nonprofit. He serves on the board for The Center for Spirituality in Nature and is a Fellow with the Re:Generate Program at Wake Forest Divinity School and the Foundations of Christian Leadership Program at Duke Divinity School. Avery holds a Bachelor of Arts in Biology and Sustainability from Pepperdine University, and a two Masters degrees from Duke University; one in Environmental Management in Ecosystem Science and Conservation and one in Theological Studies.



**Rev. Brendolyn Jenkins Boseman** is Senior Pastor of Hudson Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church in Augusta, Georgia and a board member of GIPL. She is the first female national co-chair of the African American Ministers Leadership Council and African American Ministers in Action. She is also the Executive Director of the Imani Group, a local social justice nonprofit, and is recognized globally for her activism in the area of Environmental Justice, having attended United Nations Conferences on Climate Change as a delegate.

**Mark Papier** is the Principal Meteorologist for AT&T, a member of Ahavath Achim Synagogue in Atlanta, and a board member of GIPL. He holds a Bachelor of Science from Rutgers University in Meteorology and Environmental Science Physics as well as a Master of Science in Geological and Earth Sciences from Georgia Tech. Prior to working for AT&T he spent over 19 years at the The Weather Channel as an award-winning Storm Specialist and On-Camera Meteorologist.



**Maher Budier** is a civil and environmental engineer by training and a father of four. He is one of the founders of Amana Academy Charter school and the Roswell Community Masjid (RCM). He has served on both of their boards as well as Executive Director of RCM. Maher is a Board Source certified Board Governance Trainer and a graduate of the University of Texas, Austin and the University of Central Florida.

AD

## Capitol Conservation Day!



Join us at the Georgia State Capitol on Tuesday, Feb. 27 from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. to meet with legislators about timely water legislation!

Register: [gipl.org/ccd24](http://gipl.org/ccd24)



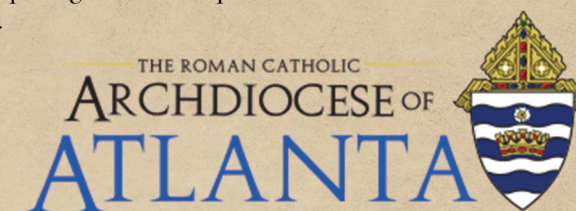
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## We are answering the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor!

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta is taking urgent and impactful action on the Pope's plea to "cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents."

Our Laudato Si initiative was created in 2015 to build greater environmental solidarity among North Georgia Catholics, weaving together social, environmental, and economic justice into our way of life.

From energy, water and waste audits to solar projects, from zero waste events to environmental advocacy, we are taking action as parish communities and passionate individuals and embarking on a new path toward a more sustainable future. We look forward to working with all people of goodwill to help care for our common home.



# WORKSHOPS - ROUND ONE

# NOTES

## GREEN TEAM 101

*Room 104*

This workshop, for new Green Teams or Green Teams who are relaunching, will explore strategies for building your Green Team, organizing and mobilizing members, and engaging your congregation. During this workshop, participants will receive access to Green Team resources, learn about GIPL's practical climate solution programs, and have an opportunity to ask questions of GIPL staff. This workshop is taught by GIPL's Program Coordinator, Ayesha Abid.

## INFLATION REDUCTION ACT: FUNDING AND RESOURCES

*Room 103*

This workshop will explore practical climate solutions that faith communities may implement to "green" their spaces and incorporate sustainability practices into the life of their congregation. Participants will learn about energy efficiency and electrification, solar, and zero-waste solutions from experts in the field. Panelists for this workshop include Rev. Jenny Phillips with the General Board of Global Ministries with the United Methodist Church, Bryan Jacob with the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, Dustin Mason and Suzanne Haerther with the U.S. Green Building Council. The panel will be moderated by Hannah Shultz, GIPL's Program Director.

## ADVOCACY IN THE 2024 GEORGIA LEGISLATIVE SESSION

*Room 102*

One of the most important ways that faith communities can take climate action is through advocating for change at a systemic level. During this workshop, participants will be briefed on the Georgia Water Coalition's priority issues for the 2024 Georgia legislative session and how they can get involved through letter writing, lobby meetings with their representatives, and other advocacy actions. This workshop will be taught by April Lipscomb, Senior Attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center.

## WHERE IS YOUR WATER?

*Room 207*

When you are thirsty, must you walk to a well or do you turn on the tap? What aquifer nourishes you? To whom does it belong? The question of one's source of water begs us to examine environmental justice. In this workshop, writers Christina Toney-Schmitt and Shay Alexi Stewart-Willis lead a poetic exploration of water featuring poetry readings and creative writing exercises.

## ACTIVISM AND BIOMIMICRY: HOW TO BUILD RESILIENT AND REGENERATIVE MOVEMENTS USING LIFE'S PRINCIPLES

*Room 101*

Biomimicry is defined as "the conscious emulation of nature's genius," and Life's Principles are six main principles and 21 sub-principles, which comprise the deep patterns found in nature that have created conditions conducive to life on Earth for 3.85 billion years. Using the Life's Principles worksheets, workshop participants will be inspired by nature's strategies and leave with tools to help design a holistic framework for their project or organization. This workshop is led by Beth Remmes, GIPL's Coastal Outreach and Resiliency Coordinator.



# THANK YOU, SPONSORS!

## COMMUNITY SPONSORS



## TABLE SPONSORS



## NONPROFIT SPONSORS



## INDIVIDUAL SPONSORS

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Mark Papier  
Michael Petelle

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