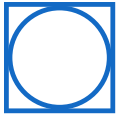


LDS

EARTH STEWARDSHIP

2018-2019 Mid-Year Report





Letter From the Chair



Dear Friends,

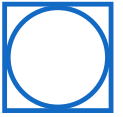
Rarely a day passes without a reminder of our need to practice better stewardship of the earth. Over the past year, LDS Earth Stewardship has expanded upon the good work of preceding years, highlighting the importance of this gospel principle as taught in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Through promotion of online Family Home Evening lessons, educational lectures, and service projects, LDS Earth Stewardship has reaffirmed that stewardship is to be practiced as well as preached.

Two particularly memorable events underscore the maturity into which this organization has grown in the last year. The first was an evening with Utah's Lieutenant Governor and his wife as they described how their rural heritage has shaped their perspectives on earth stewardship. The second was a presentation by an editor of the Joseph Smith Papers project, illuminating what earth stewardship meant to the Prophet and to early Church members. Taken together, contemporary and historical, these two events nicely capture the abiding importance of how we use and treat the earth over which we have been given dominion.

As we take stock of the past year, it is crystal clear that our past accomplishments are only a faint intimation of what we need to accomplish in the future. To put it bluntly, the world needs our message. Please join me in celebrating and supporting this vital work as we move forward.

Thank you.

Peter Ashcroft, Board Chair

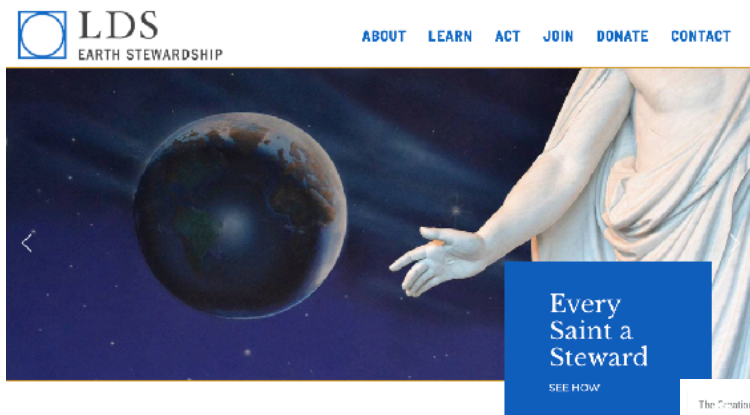


A New Look and Website

In the autumn 2018, LDS Earth Stewardship introduced a new logo and [website](#). These were developed with the intent of setting our organization apart as an educational and service-oriented group that focuses on influencing hearts and minds.



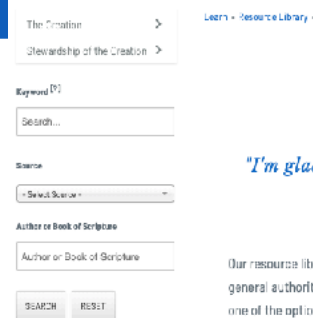
Our goal is to promote earth stewardship in such a way that it will resonate as a spiritual principle. Our logo features the “circle in the square”—a symbol of heaven and earth coming together into one. Good earth stewardship is a way to practice things both temporal and spiritual.



We honor the Creator by living and testifying of gospel principles of earth stewardship.

A highlight feature of our new website is our [Resource Library](#). Here, you can search by topic, keyword, source, or author to find quotes or scriptures among thousands regarding the earth. As new content becomes available, we add it to our library.

Our website furthers this goal in look and content. We share guidance from Church leaders, motivating ideas and projects, and resources that encourage others to be more aware of their role as an earth steward.



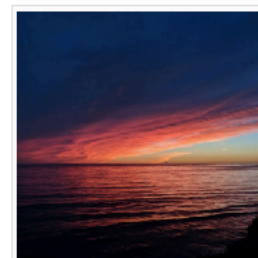
RESOURCE LIBRARY



"I'm glad that I live in this beautiful world Heavenly Father created for me."

From the Children's Songbook #228

Our resource library is a comprehensive collection of all the scriptures and quotes from general authorities regarding the creation of the earth and our responsibility over it. Select one of the options below to follow particular topics, or use the search feature to request a specific apostle, book of scripture, or subject. To suggest an addition, fill out [this form](#).



The Creation



Stewardship of the Creation




Family Home Evening Lessons

Another project we were excited to announce this year was our monthly [Earth Stewardship Lessons for Families](#). These Family Home Evening lessons coordinate with current Church curriculum, but will also serve as topical lessons that can be used at any time. With themes such as “Living Water” and “The Law of the Harvest,” these lessons tie earth stewardship directly to gospel teachings.

Each lesson plan has a hymn, scripture, quote from a Church leader, and a brief paragraph for discussion. In addition, there are activity and treat ideas and additional resources for families to use to expand their understanding of the topic.

**Earth Stewardship
Lessons for Families**



Living Water

Hymn [When I Am Baptized, Children's Songbook, 103](#)

Matt. 3:16 "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him."

John 4:10 "Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water."

(There are SO MANY scriptures about water! Check out our [Resource Library](#) to look at all of them.)

"Wherever we live in this world, we see the glorious rising sun, which bears record of the Light of Christ that fills our hearts and enlightens our minds. The mighty rivers and the meandering streams bear record that the Savior is the source of the living water that can quench our thirst for spiritual things."—Susan L. Warner

"If there is disregard for oneself, there will be disregard for one's neighbor. If there is no reverence for life itself, there is apt to be little reverence for the resources God has given man. The outward expressions of irreverence for life and for fellowmen often take the form of heedless pollution of both air and water. But are these not expressions of the inner man?"—Ezra Taft Benson

What qualities does water have that would cause Christ to use it as a comparison to Himself?

What are some of the many uses of water?

Why is it important to keep the water clean?

Activity Ideas

For younger children:
Fill two glasses with clean water, and slowly add contaminants like dirt, paint, and plastic wrap to one of them. Ask them which water is good to drink. Ask them which one is best for plants and fish. Explain that Heavenly Father wants all of His children to have clean, pure water.


For older children:
Do some research to track down the path water takes to get to the tap in your home. Where is the source? Discuss how to keep the water protected so the source stays clean. Ask what they think will happen if the source runs dry.

Treat Ideas

- If you happen to have access to CLEAN snow, make [real snow snow cones](#).
- Follow the directions for [Blue Raspberry Slushies](#) and add Swedish Fish.
- If you're up for a challenge, try this beautiful, clear Japanese mochi [Raindrop Cake](#).

(We'd love to see images of your results! Share a picture and tag us on Facebook or Instagram)

**Earth Stewardship
Lessons for Families**



In the Season Thereof

Hymn [In Our Lovely Deseret, Hymn 307](#)

D&C 89:11 "Every herb in the season thereof, and every fruit in the season thereof; all these to be used with prudence and thanksgiving."

Matt. 14:15-18 "And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals. But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat. And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes. He said, Bring them hither to me."

"To a great extent we are physically what we eat. Most of us are acquainted with some of the prohibitions, such as no tea, coffee, tobacco, or alcohol. What need additional emphasis are the positive aspects—the need for vegetables, fruits, and grains, particularly wheat. In most cases, the closer these can be, when eaten, to their natural state—without over-refinement and processing—the healthier we will be."—Ezra Taft Benson

Jesus was teaching a large crowd evening approached, the apostle food, but Jesus used the opportunity could provide more than enough

The Word of Wisdom also teaches what we need. Eating fruits and vegetables is more important in our day than it

Eating "in the season thereof" is better out of season, it has to be picked. Local food is picked when it's ripe (better about a safer food supply) from local farmers helps them be part of the community, and supports the local economy.

Activity Ideas

For young children:
Make a list of your family's favorite whole foods. Fold a paper into fourths and write "Winter," "Spring," "Summer," and "Autumn" at the top of each quadrant. Draw the foods in their natural season. Brainstorm. [Winter foods together. Visit the Seasonal Food Guide](#) to see what foods are in season in North America. There is also a link for the UK.

For older children:
Pick a fruit or vegetable, one for each season, using only locally available food.

For all:
See if there is a farmers' market in your community. (Some also have markets over the winter season.) Make a plan to visit it and become familiar with local options.

Treat Ideas

- Divide into two teams and compete to see who can create the best dessert using only items that are already in your pantry.
- Make fish tacos and discuss the miracle that Jesus performed in feeding the five thousand with only five loaves and two fishes.
- Make homemade bread. [Here's an easy recipe. Here's another one.](#)

Additional Resources

Though no longer updated, [Word of Wisdom Living](#) is a lovely resource for practical application of the Word of Wisdom.

[This 12-minute video](#) highlights members of the Church who share their experiences living the Word of Wisdom.

The [Earth's Season](#) blog discusses local, seasonal, and sustainable eating with gardening guides and recipes.

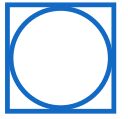
[Eat Local Week](#) is a Utah-based program to help you find locally produced food.

[This article](#) provides five "easy and cheap" ways to eat local.

[This study](#) shows that food travels 1,500 miles on average from farm to consumer. By contrast, locally sourced food traveled an average just 44.6 miles.

LDS Earth Stewardship

4



“Let’s Do Service” Projects

We believe that when we serve others it strengthens our love for them. When we encourage others to serve the earth through tending the soil, restoring native plants, or restructuring trails, this service teaches proper respect and admiration of nature. Service projects are key to fostering earth stewardship.



In September 2018, in partnership with the Sierra Club and NPS rangers, we spent two days in Zion National Park at Big Bend and Court of the Patriarchs clearing out social trails and planting native cacti and trees. The rangers gave our group a tour of the greenhouses on location, and we spent the evenings camping under the stars.

In March 2019, working with the Jordan River Commission, we cleared out space and planted trees along the river in the Galena Soónkahni Preserve in Draper, Utah. Our volunteers were educated about the beautification and restoration efforts along this river ecosystem.

In honor of Earth Day, in April 2019, we cleaned up BLM land that was previously used as a shooting range. Missionaries from the Saratoga Springs District of the Utah Provo Mission joined in the work. Afterwards, an archeologist taught our group about the Native American petroglyphs in the area.





Lectures and Forums



Our Fall Forum 2018 was an enjoyable evening hearing a rural viewpoint of earth stewardship from Utah Lt. Governor Spencer Cox and Abby Cox. Both spoke about their experiences growing up in a small town, the responsibilities that are necessary to work the land and raise the animals in their care, and their spiritual understanding of stewardship.

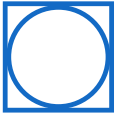
In addition, the Coxes made an effort to find common ground and understanding in environmental areas that are often divisive and to remind each of us that we are all in this together.

As part of our Earth Day 2019 activities, Matthew Godfrey, the Editor of the Joseph Smith Papers gave a wonderful address entitled “Earth Will Appear as the Garden of Eden: Joseph Smith, the City of Zion, and the Natural World.”

His lecture emphasized the importance the early Saints felt about literally preparing the ground to build up Zion and their perspective of what it meant to be a good steward over the earth.

Our live feed was seen by over 700 viewers.





Earth Steward of the Year Award

At our Fall Forum, we presented Earth Steward of the Year awards for to Merikay Smith of Germantown, Maryland; and to Pat Thomas of Salt Lake City, Utah.

Merikay Smith was honored for her work restoring native plants at the Pleasant View Historic site in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Pat Thomas was honored for creating an organization that makes sure excess garden produce goes to those in need instead of rotting on the vine.



LDS Earth Stewardship

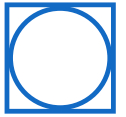
Book Club Discussions



Every two months, our book group selects a work that will spark conversation about our relationship with nature. We pose questions online and also meet together to discuss these ideas.

Our selections over the past year were *The Unsettling of America: Culture & Agriculture* by Wendell Berry; *The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate* by Peter Wohlleben; *My First Summer in the Sierra* by John Muir; and *Desert Solitaire* by Edward Abbey.

We're excited that the number of people participating has doubled, and we currently have 46 members on [Goodreads](#). We are working to improve technology to allow this discussion group to reach more people.



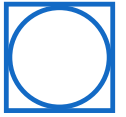
Outreach and Messaging

Our priority over the last year has been to create quality content for our social media accounts. This has largely consisted of striking images of people in nature and a short short piece of text from scripture or a quote from a Church leader. As part of these posts, we expound on the quote meaning, and direct readers to our website.

All of our social media posts are connected to our hashtag #EverySaintASteward, a catchy slogan and media tool that ties our posts together.

Significant care is taken to ensure that our outreach efforts are consistent with our messaging framework in theme, tone, and content. We are seeking to deepen the appreciation of stewardship in a way that can be embraced by Church members across the political spectrum. In this approach, LDS Earth Stewardship may be unique, making careful messaging all the more crucial.





Audience Growth

LDSES has a social media presence on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#). With a more targeted approach to our social media posts and regular newsletters, we saw an increase in those who are following our efforts (as shown in the lower graph noting our followers in 2017, 2018, and 2019).

We are looking forward to implementing new ideas to grow our numbers exponentially in the future.

As of June 2019



1297 newsletter subscribers



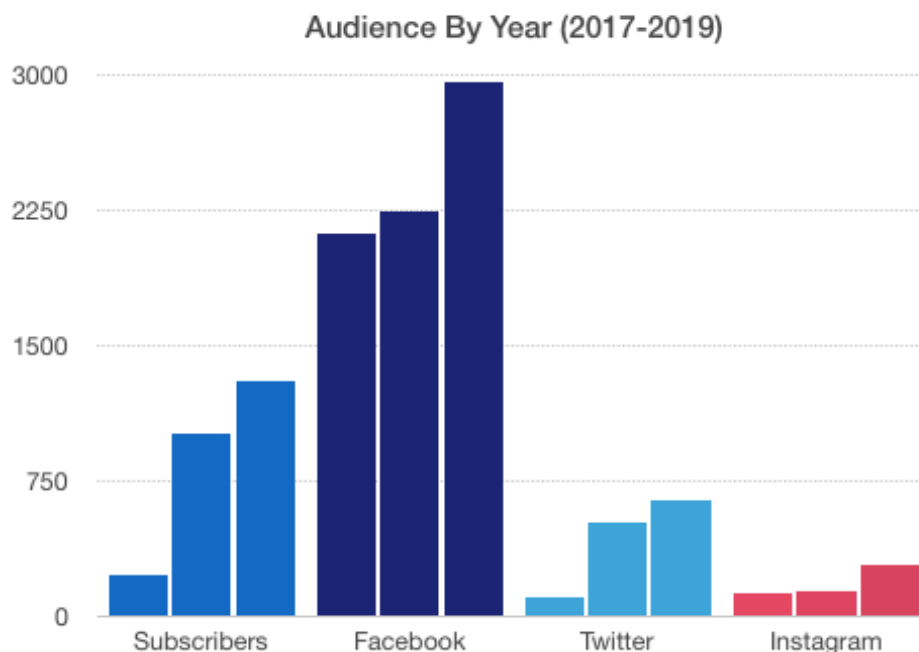
2950 followers

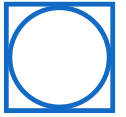


631 followers



270 followers





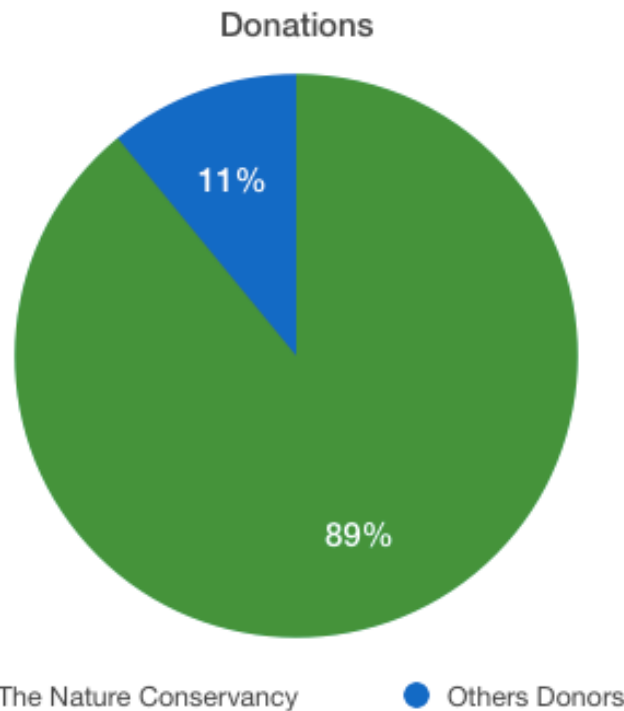
Fundraising

Our attitude of practicing good stewardship and sustainability carries over into our desire to be wise stewards over the funding given to us. LDS Earth Stewardship is thoughtful with the way we allocate monies to go towards quality service projects, lecture series, and educational materials, as well as administrative needs.

We've been fortunate to have the generous support of The Nature Conservancy and over the past year have received \$65,000 and an additional \$6,000 in matching grant funds from their organization. We also received recurring donations from the Handley Foundation and the Lawrence Dale Lincoln family. We are especially appreciative of the support we receive from these key funders as we lay down foundational strategies to prepare our organization to launch future fundraising campaigns.



additional \$6,000 in matching grant funds from their organization. We also received recurring donations from the Handley Foundation and the Lawrence Dale Lincoln family. We are especially appreciative of the support we receive from these key funders





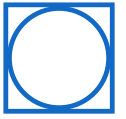
Statement of Financial Position

LDS Earth Stewardship

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of June 1, 2019

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
1000 - BUSINESS CHECKING (-S50)	102,113.09
1010 - PRIMARY SAVINGS (-S01)	7,130.78
BUSINESS CHECKING (-S50)	0.00
PayPal	4,165.79
Total Bank Accounts	\$113,409.66
Total Current Assets	\$113,409.66
TOTAL ASSETS	\$113,409.66
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
2100 - Payroll Liabilities	
2110 - Federal Taxes (941/944)	1,316.44
2120 - UT Income Tax	-73.29
Total 2100 - Payroll Liabilities	1,243.15
Direct Deposit Payable	0.00
Payroll Liabilities	
Federal Taxes (941/944)	415.84
UT Income Tax	314.82
UT Unemployment Tax	-50.00
Total Payroll Liabilities	680.66
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$1,923.81
Total Current Liabilities	\$1,923.81
Total Liabilities	\$1,923.81
Equity	
3000 - Opening Balance Equity	35,616.41
3100 - Retained Earnings	103,213.67
Net Revenue	-27,344.23
Total Equity	\$111,485.85
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$113,409.66



Our Board and Staff

Our Board of Directors is an energized group of individuals with a wide range of experiences and ideas brought together by a shared value of earth stewardship.

L-R, top to bottom: Andy Carman, Ben Abbott, Celeste Maloy, Christopher Oscarson, Darren Hawkins, James Holtkamp, Jared Meek, Merikay Smith, Par Rasmusson, Peter Ashcroft, and Shannon Ellsworth.



Day-to-day operations are in the hands of our Executive Director, Rebecca Bateman, and her assistant, Carlee Reber.

