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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESBYTERIANS FOR EARTH CARE ANNUAL AWARDS  
AT PC(USA) 219<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2010

Since 1997, Presbyterians for Earth Care (formerly Presbyterians for Restoring Creation) has given awards annually to publicly recognize individuals and groups, institutions, and churches for their leadership and accomplishments in caring for God's creation. Individuals receive the William Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award, and congregations or institutions receive the Restoring Creation Award. On July 6 during the PEC luncheon at General Assembly this week, two individuals and a church will receive these awards.

The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Stivers, a pioneer in Christian environmental ethics, and The Rev. Kristina Peterson, the pastor of Blue Bayou Presbyterian and community based researcher and organizer on disaster preparedness and sustainable communities, will be given the William Gibson award. Stivers served as chair of the Eco-Justice Task Force that developed the report *Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice*, a landmark denominational environmental statement that was passed by the General Assembly (GA) of the PC(USA) 20 years ago and will celebrated at the 2010 GA.

Stivers is Emeritus Professor of Religion at the Pacific Lutheran University and a retired PC(USA) ordained minister from the Presbytery of Olympia. Stivers' service to the PC(USA) includes drafting an statement on energy in 1980, *Speaking Truth to Power*, and work on a new statement and energy and global warming policy, *The Power to Change* that was passed at General Assembly in 2008. He is the author, editor or co-author of several books on Christian environmental ethics. Stivers puts his values into practice on the on the local level with over 15 years of involvement in efforts to clean up Commencement Bay in Tacoma.

The Rev. Kistina Peterson has served with Church World Service in Presbyterian Disaster Relief and is pastor of a Cajun congregation in coastal Louisiana. She's also a community-based researcher with the Center for Hazards Assessment Response at University of New Orleans where she is working on a doctorate in Urban Regional Planning. The research community named her the "Mother Jones of Disasters" as she represented the voice of justice both social and environmental, in any approach taken to

both mitigate for disasters or respond to disasters. To that end, she and her husband chose to live in a coal community in West Virginia, addressing the devastating issues of exploitation of the people and the environment by such corporations as Massey Coal until Hurricane Andrew brought her to Louisiana, where she began to know, move and minister with the people of the bayous.

North Como Presbyterian Church in Roseville, MN will receive the PEC 2010 Restoring Creation Award in recognition of its years of ever-expanding programs and activities that has transformed not only the life of the church, but also the ways in which its members lived their lives outside of church. The congregation's stewardship of creation also extends into the community, offering neighbors the opportunity to garden on their lot and contribute the fruits of the harvest to the local food pantry. Their eco-justice ministry has even reached abroad, helping the people of Haiti and Africa with food preservation and clean water sourcing. All of their efforts are accompanied by an educational component, assuring that members understand the "why" of earth care in a Christian context.

Rev. William Gibson – after whom the individual award was named – was a founding member of PEC, author and eco-justice advocate. Editor of the book, *“Eco-Justice-The Unfinished Journey,”* William was a leading member of the Presbyterian Eco-Justice Task Force, Presbyterians for Restoring Creation, and the Eco-Justice Working Group of the National Council of Churches.

PEC exists to help people of faith and their congregations fulfill the 1990 call for the Church to make creation care “a central concern, to be incorporated into the life and mission of the Church at every level,” (*Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice, 1990*, adopted by the 202<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly twenty years ago this year). PEC holds national faith and environment conferences between General Assemblies. It also maintains a presence at GA, by hosting a luncheon and an exhibit booth. The 2011 national conference will take place on August 31 - September 3 at Highlands Presbyterian Camp and Retreat Center in the mountains of Colorado. The theme will be: *“God's Earth: Too Big to Fail? A Conversation between Faith, Science and Culture”*

Information at: [www.presbyearthcare.org](http://www.presbyearthcare.org).