



**Press Release
For Immediate Release**

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Investing in Ecology and Spirituality

Waterspirit, an eco-spiritual nonprofit, recently received a three-year gift from the 22 congregations of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, region 3.

Rumson, New Jersey -

Waterspirit, a spiritual ecology nonprofit, recently received a three-year financial award from the 22 congregations of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious in eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The Catholic women religious leaders who gave this gift represent more than twenty religious communities collaborating to mitigate the harmful impact of climate change. Although each community of Sisters educates, takes action, and advocates for the protection of the environment, they are strengthening their influence by partnering with other each other to support the work of agencies whose work correlates with their values. Waterspirit and PennEnvironment were both selected as recipients of this three-year support.

This financial award represents an investment into the ecological principles espoused by Pope Francis in his 2015 environmental encyclical, *Laudato Si'*. Globally, Catholic organizations are uniting to turn their spiritual commitments into practical action on behalf of Earth. The Sisters shared their hope that Waterspirit will use the award to continue “the good work you do with individuals, families, and organizations, helping us acknowledge and experience the gift of the natural world and to act to preserve our environment for ourselves and the generations who follow us.”

Waterspirit was founded in 1998 by Sister Suzanne Golas, CSJP. Waterspirit is honored to receive the support of these religious congregations as the organization begins its 25th year. As Executive Director Blair Nelsen affirms, “Water is sacred, yet it is threatened more than ever by climate change. People of all faiths must live in awareness of the interdependence of all Earth systems. We are grateful for this LCWR region 3 support as we put our beliefs into action on water’s behalf.”

Waterspirit offers a full slate of eco-spiritual, educational, and action-oriented programs. On February 11 they will offer a training for new volunteers, and on June 10 they will celebrate their 25th year with their annual benefit, Joys of the Sea. Upcoming events are listed on Waterspirit’s website.

Waterspirit is a nonprofit center for spirituality and ecology sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace, headquartered in Rumson, NJ, USA. More information available at: <https://www.waterspirit.org/>.

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