



# DOES THE EARTH CHARTER SPEAK TO YOU?

The Earth Charter and the New Story

# SUMMARY OF KEYS POINTS

- “We stand at a critical moment in Earth’s history, a time when humanity must choose its future.”
- “[I]t is imperative that we, the peoples of Earth declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations.”
- “The protection of Earth’s vitality, diversity, and beauty is a sacred trust.”



# SUMMARY OF KEYS POINTS

- The global situation is “perilous—but not inevitable.”
- “The choice is ours: form a global partnership to care for Earth and one another or risk the destruction of ourselves and the diversity of life.”
- “[W]e must decide to live with a sense of universal responsibility, identifying ourselves with the whole Earth community as well as our local communities.”



# THEREFORE...

- “We urgently need a shared vision of basic values to provide an ethical foundation for the emerging world community. Therefore, together in hope we affirm the following interdependent principles for a sustainable way of life as a common standard by which the conduct of all individuals, organizations, businesses, governments, and transnational institutions is to be guided and assessed.”





# THE MEADOW ACROSS THE CREEK

“This early experience, it seems, has become normative for me throughout the entire range of my thinking. Whatever preserves and enhances this meadow in the natural cycles of its transformation is good; whatever opposes this meadow or negates it is not good. My life orientation is that simple. It is also that pervasive. It applies in economics and political orientation as well as in education and religion. ”



*The Great Work: Our way into the future* by Thomas Berry (1999)

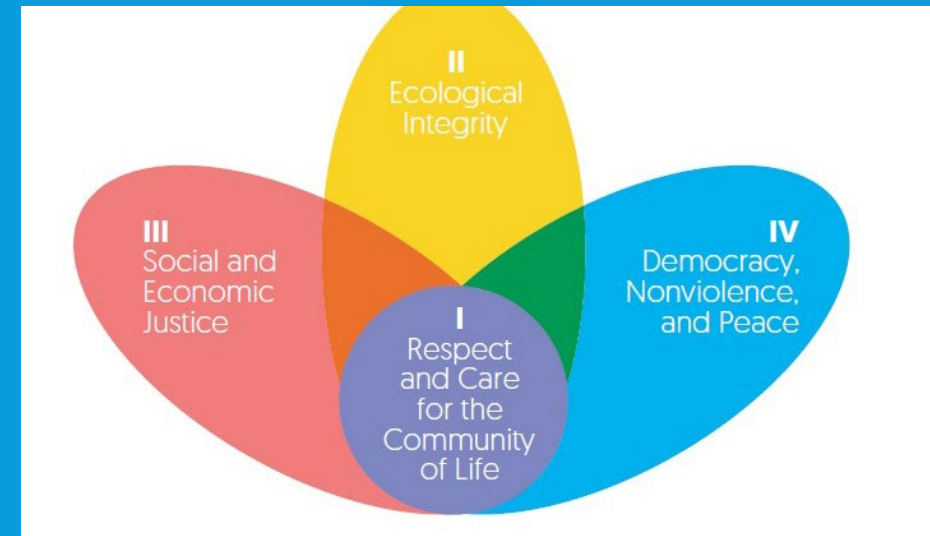
# FOUR PILLARS

I. Respect and Care for the community of Life

II. Ecological Integrity

III. Social and Economic Justice

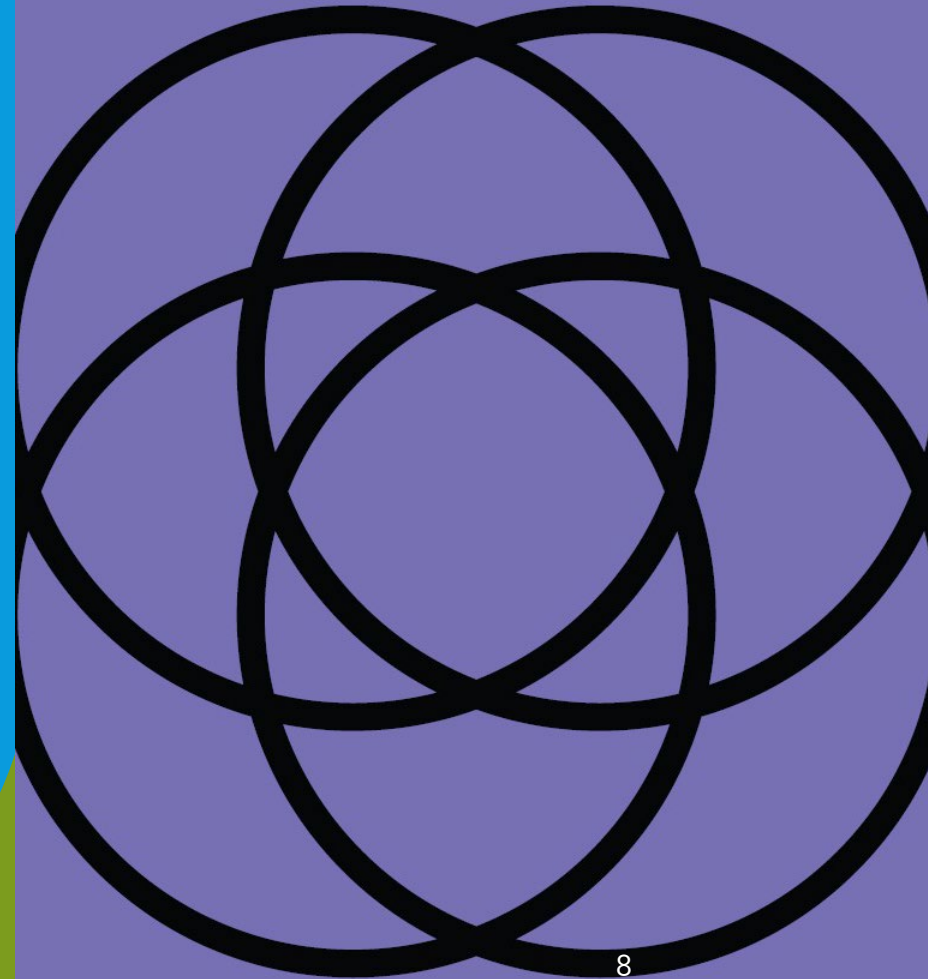
IV. Democracy, Nonviolence, and Peace





# I. RESPECT AND CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY OF LIFE

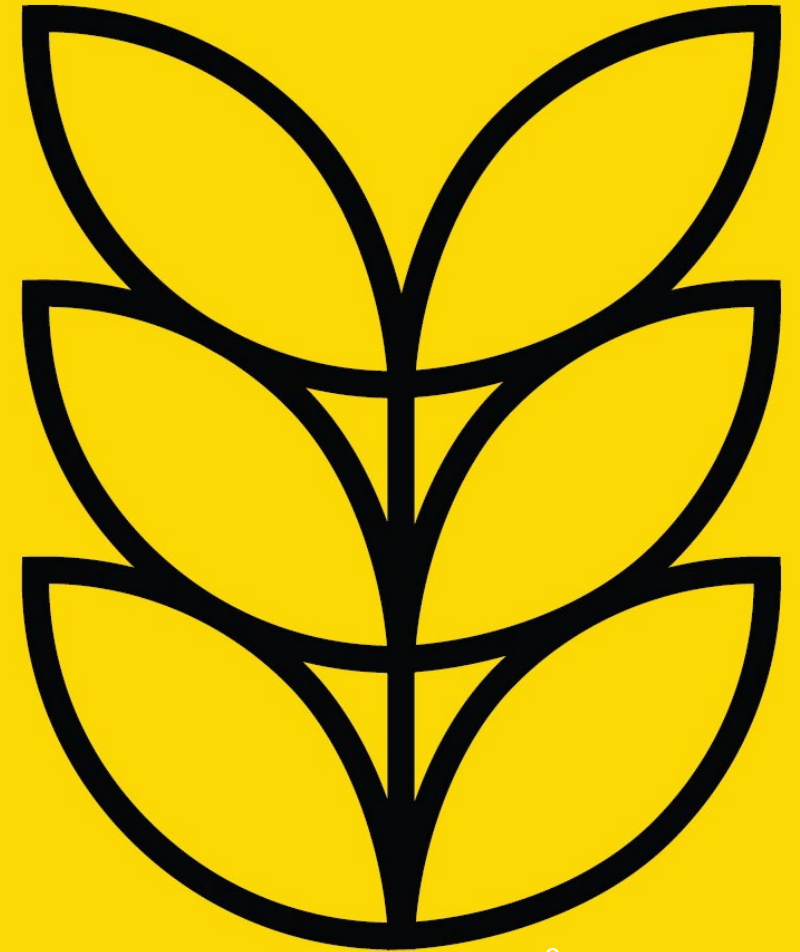
1. Respect Earth and life in all its diversity.
2. Care for the community of life with understanding, compassion, and love.
3. Build democratic societies that are just, participatory, sustainable, and peaceful.
4. Secure Earth's bounty and beauty for present and future generations.





## II. ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

5. Protect and restore the integrity of Earth's ecological systems, with special concern for biological diversity and the natural processes that sustain life.
6. Prevent harm as the best method of environmental protection and, when knowledge is limited, apply a precautionary approach.
7. Adopt patterns of production, consumption, and reproduction that safeguard Earth's regenerative capacities, human rights, and community well-being.
8. Advance the study of ecological sustainability and promote the open exchange and wide application of the knowledge acquired.



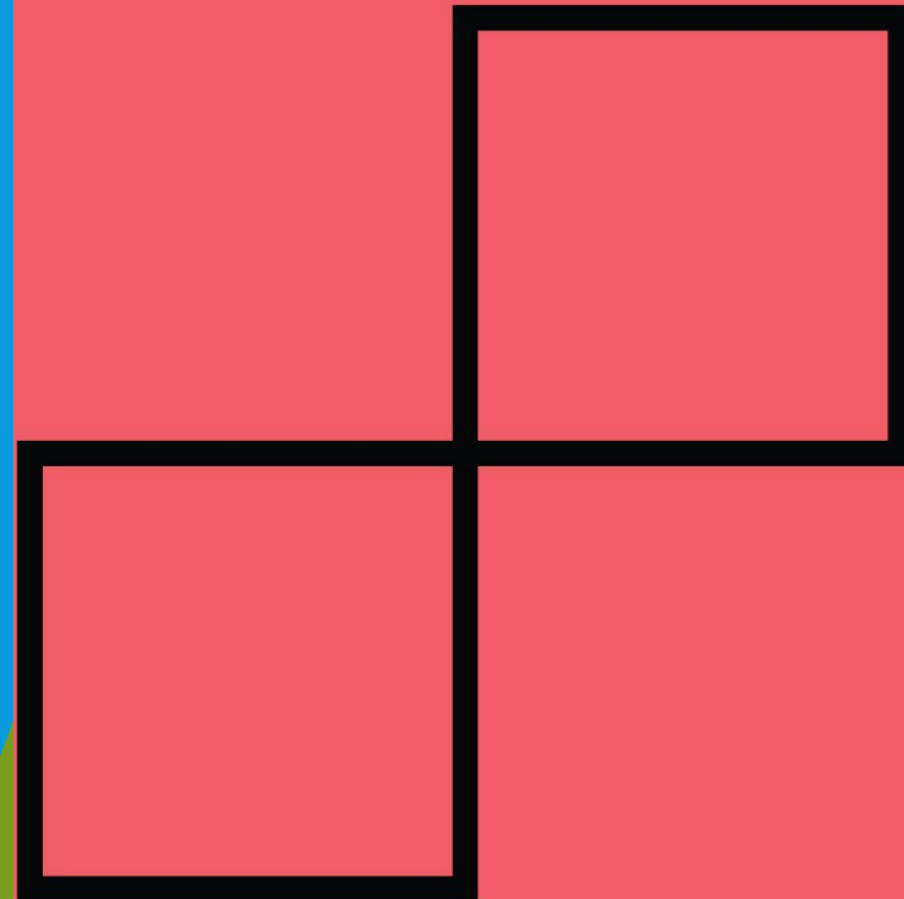
# III. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

**9. Eradicate poverty as an ethical, social, and environmental imperative.**

**10. Ensure that economic activities and institutions at all levels promote human development in an equitable and sustainable manner.**

**11. Affirm gender equality and equity as prerequisites to sustainable development and ensure universal access to education, health care, and economic opportunity.**

**12. Uphold the right of all, without discrimination, to a natural and social environment supportive of human dignity, bodily health, and spiritual well-being, with special attention to the rights of indigenous peoples and minorities.**



# IV. DEMOCRACY, NONVIOLENCE, AND PEACE

**13. Strengthen democratic institutions at all levels, and provide transparency and accountability in governance, inclusive participation in decision making, and access to justice.**

**14. Integrate into formal education and life-long learning the knowledge, values, and skills needed for a sustainable way of life.**

**15. Treat all living beings with respect and consideration.**

**16. Promote a culture of tolerance, nonviolence, and peace.**



# THOMAS BERRY AND THE EARTH CHARTER

Thomas Berry identifies four movements that have arisen which oppose the pathology that is so ruinous to the planet. These are:

- Ecological Economics
- Religion and Ecology
- Greening of Education
- Earth Jurisprudence

[Thomas Berry, *The Great Work* (1999), p. 75-76]





# THOMAS BERRY AND THE EARTH CHARTER

Berry's "movements" are similar to the four pillars of the Earth Charter

- Ecological Economics == Pillar III: Social and Economic Justice
- Religion and Ecology == Principle 1.b: Affirm faith in the inherent dignity of all human beings and in the intellectual, artistic, ethical, and spiritual potential of humanity
- The Greening of Education == Principle 14:.. Integrate into formal education and life-long learning the knowledge, values, and skills needed for a sustainable way of life.





# THOMAS BERRY AND THE EARTH CHARTER

Berry's "movements" are similar to the four pillars of the Earth Charter

Earth Jurisprudence == Principle 12. Uphold the right of all, without discrimination, to a natural and social environment supportive of human dignity, bodily health, and spiritual well-being, with special attention to the rights of indigenous peoples and minorities.



# EARTH JURISPRUDENCE

- Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth, April 2010.
- State of the Planet: News from the Columbia Climate School, April 2021
- Earth Law Center
- Center for Earth Jurisprudence
- Herman Greene and the Center for Ecozoic Studies



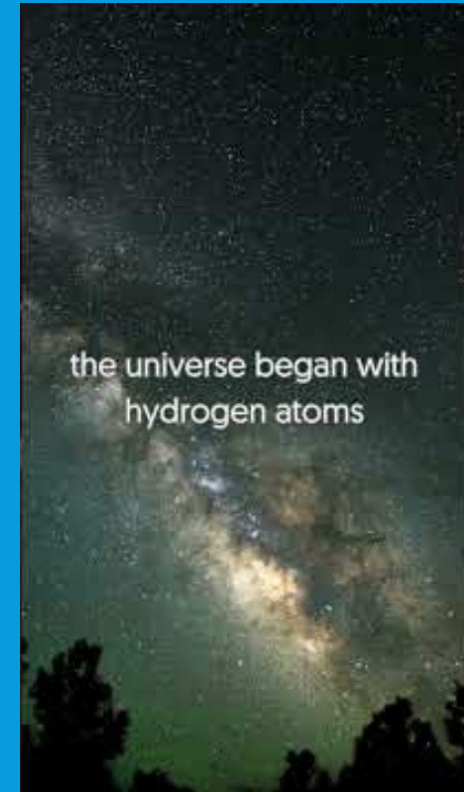
# MARY EVELYN TUCKER AND THE EARTH CHARTER

- Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology
- Ecological Civilization



# BRIAN SWIMME AND THE EARTH CHARTER

From Stars to Consciousness



# HOW DOES THE EARTH CHARTER SPEAK TO YOU?

- How is the Earth Charter congruent with the New Story for you?
- What are barriers to putting the pillars and principles into action?
- What's missing? What would make it even more compelling?

