### Trees of Life for the Earth

In Genesis 1-2 we read that God created trees for the Earth and placed the “tree of life” in the garden. This woodland garden represents what God intended: beauty, biodiversity and abundance where trees give life for all on Earth. In the last chapter of the Bible we see the “tree of life” again producing fruit and leaves for healing the world.

Trees provide specific benefits for our ecosystem and community.

#### For our ecosystem, trees...
- Store CO\(_2\) & slow climate change
- Clean the air of pollutants
- Improve water quality
- Curb storm water runoff
- Decrease noise pollution
- Cool urban heat centers
- Reduce energy consumption
- Support wildlife biodiversity

#### For our community, trees...
- Provide food, shade, comfort & beauty
- Raise property values
- Stimulate local economy
- Enhance physical and mental health
- Increase attention, memory and focus
- Improve performance at work & school
- Reduce aggression and crime
- Promote community interaction

With all their community and ecosystem services, urban trees provide a high return on investment. For each $1 invested in trees, we receive nearly $4 in benefits.

For scientific findings on these points, see Jessica B. Turner-Skoff and Nicole Cavender, “The benefits of trees for livable and sustainable communities” in *Plants, People, Planet*. 2019; 1:323–335.
JoinTrees to Restore the Earth

Participate in the JoinTrees campaign of Mennonite Men to plant one million trees by 2030 to help restore the earth.

This campaign targets the problem of climate change with its harmful impacts on God’s earth, creatures, and people. Trees are the best and most cost-efficient means for sequestering climate-warming carbon dioxide. Trees not only sequester carbon but are critical for sustaining biodiversity and human life.

JoinTrees will involve tree planting projects on:
- Private, business and church properties
- Farm land set aside for reforestation
- Public rights-of-ways along roads and highways
- Land in city, county and state parks
- Mennonite agency and retirement center land
- Land with international programs (Ecuador & Haiti)

For the JoinTrees campaign, Mennonite Men will:
- Create a network of resources and participants
- Locate land for planting and protection
- Provide plans for tree planting and care
- Coordinate tree planting opportunities
- Receive and direct contributions for projects

Ways for you and your group to participate:
- Devote areas of your land for planting trees
- Help with site preparation, planting, and tree care
- Provide financial support for planting and caring for trees

To participate in JoinTrees, contact Steve Thomas, U.S. Coordinator of Mennonite Men and ISA certified arborist, at:
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