

**Rev. Dr. Susan Gilbert Zencka**  
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**Objective: To serve the community in a volunteer capacity related to the environment**

**Education**

- 2012-2015 McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL, Doctor of Ministry  
Association of Chicago Theological Schools Doctor of Ministry in Preaching
- 1994-1997 McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL, Master of Divinity
- 1982-1984 University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL, Master of Business Administration  
Majors: Accounting and Economics
- 1973-1977 The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, Bachelor of Arts  
Humanities Area Major (Course requirements for Political Science also)

**Professional Certifications**

- Ordained Presbyterian Minister, November 1997  
Certified Public Accountant, November 1984

**Employment**

- 2021-now Honorably Retired, member Mountain Laurel Presbytery
- 2023-now Lehigh County Poll Worker, at elections
- 2006-2021 Frame Memorial Presbyterian Church, Stevens Point, WI: Head of Staff/Pastor
- 2001-2006 Dyer Presbyterian Church, Dyer, IN: Pastor
- 1999-2001 Yorkfield Presbyterian Church, Elmhurst, IL: Associate Pastor
- 1997-1998 Riverside Presbyterian Church, Riverside, IL: Associate Pastor
- 1992-1993 American Bar Association, Chicago, IL: Supervisor of Grant Accounting
- 1986-1987 Chicago City Ballet, Chicago, IL: Bookkeeper (parttime)
- 1984-1986 Arthur Young & Co, Chicago, IL: Staff Accountant
- 1978-1982 U.S. Steel, South Works, Chicago, IL: Apprentice Electrician
- 1977-1978 American Dry Milk Institute, Chicago, IL: Executive Secretary

**Relevant Volunteer Experience**

- 2026 Penn State Master Watershed Steward Trainee

- 2025-now League of Women Voters of Lehigh County: Board Member, Secretary
- 2021-2022 Presbyterians for Earth Care, PCUSA: Board Member & Treasurer
- 2008-2021 Wisconsin Interfaith Climate & Energy Campaign, Madison, WI which became Wisconsin Interfaith Power and Light: Board member
- 2010-2021 Habitat for Humanity of Stevens Point: Secretary
- 2015-2021 Stevens Point Police Department, Stevens Point, WI: Chaplain
- 2007-2012 Interfaith Community for the Earth, Stevens Point, WI: Founder, Board member
- 2006-2021 Frame Memorial Presbyterian Church, Stevens Point, WI: Pastor  
While at Frame, Environmental ministry was a keystone of my work there; starting in 2006, we were one of the first U.S. congregations celebrating a “Season of Creation” each fall in worship; in 2010, the PCUSA invited our congregation to be one of 10 inaugural “Earth Care Congregations” and we were recertified each subsequent year while I was there.

**Personal experience**

- 2021-now Since moving to Allentown in 2021, we have planted over 400 native plants in our garden, along with 15-20 native shrubs, and a small orchard of dwarf fruit trees. Our garden was one of two featured last fall in the local *West End* newspaper in an article on native plants in the garden.

**Personal statement**

All my adult life, I have valued serving in volunteer capacities in the community. Before I had children, I was a Girl Scout Leader and a Sunday School teacher. My husband and I have three adult sons (all married, and among them we have 6 grandchildren and one on the way). When the kids were young, I was a Den Mother, a Room Mom, a Band Mom, a choir member. Over the years, I served in volunteer capacities in each presbytery I belonged to, and while in Wisconsin, volunteered at both the local and state level in community and environmental organizations. I care passionately about local politics, and have chosen to focus my volunteer energies on non-partisan activities which bring people together from various points of view in shared work.

I thought about being a Master Gardener or Master Naturalist, but when I saw the Master Watershed Steward program I became very excited. I’ve always lived near water: Crum Creek in Swarthmore PA; a small lake in the Poconos where my family has had a cabin since 1962; Chesapeake Bay in college; Lake Michigan for the 29 years I lived around Chicago; and while in Wisconsin, we lived between the Wisconsin River and the Plover River.

I also learned about the importance of native plants while in Wisconsin, and so have focused our home garden on transitioning to native plants, including those that can support birds and small mammals (elderberries and hazelnuts) as well as the pollinators in our yard.

Watershed are not only about the bodies of water but also about the regions and communities that those waters nourish. Living in the Lehigh Valley, and in the City of Allentown, I get to live in a city that is also a thriving bio-region. Each of us as individuals, our neighborhoods, and the city as a whole can help to nourish the vitality of our community. I want to be part of that.