

# God's Grace in Action Afternoon

## Experiential Learning Track: Care for Creation – Urban Gardening and Restoration Work

**Date and time:** Thursday, August 11, 2016 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

**Location:** Off-site

### Overview

The Make It Right Foundation emerged in 2007 as a response to the destruction of Hurricane Katrina and the lack of a just response to the disaster within New Orleans's Lower Ninth Ward. Actor Brad Pitt rallied together community leaders, green building industry experts and significant funders to rebuild the area as a model of sustainable homes, which are expected to work with nature's forces (see photo above). As the Lower Ninth is still recuperating, the grounds surrounding the residential areas are being made new to work in concert with the natural habitats, creatures and the needs of the ever-evolving community. Master Gardener Constance Fowler (at right) has been ensuring this happens while encouraging visitors from around the world to experience and help the transformation. Join us for the afternoon to give Constance a hand, learn from this neighborhood's experience, and explore how the same restoration of land and people can occur in your community.



*Spend the afternoon making **MORE** right!*



### The site and work



We'll be working in a median – cleaning, pruning, weeding, mulching (and anything else Constance needs of us!). The area is near the entrance to the Lower Ninth Ward and the Make It Right homes. Hundreds of volunteers have already been on site to work along this area so we will be building on efforts already well in progress. We'll have a thorough safety talk from Constance, but before you decide to take one of the few spots for this special afternoon please consider the following:

- It's New Orleans in August. It will be hot, humid and possibly rainy.
- This is dirty work – but there is something for various levels of stamina.
- If you are allergic to grasses, red ants, or are particularly sensitive to heat and the sun, please consider another option.



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God's work. Our hands.

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YEARS OF GOD'S  
GRACE IN ACTION

- Pack your favorite head covering that attaches well to your head – it can get gusty.
- Bring CLOSE-TOED shoes that you won't mind getting mucky.
- We'll have the tools, gloves and water. *You bring your own sunblock.*



## The reason

While it is clear that we will be helping this community continue to rise from the ashes, we will, in fact, be leaving with greater gifts and tools to transform our homes as well. We invite you to spend time before that day to pray, converse, read and explore your relationship with God's creation. How does your church community relate to the land it's supported by, the water that sustains it, the ground that receives our waste, the gifts of nature's life-giving forces that God provides us as part of our daily bread?

We will have time as a small group to discuss our intentions, challenges and experiences with this ministry as we eat our box lunches on the way from the convention center to the site. But we expect this experiential learning will provide a spark that will lead to more effective efforts on your home turf well beyond our few hours together.

To help your prayerful discernment of what this sort of resurrection action can look like in your sphere, check out the resources on [LutheransRestoringCreation.org](http://LutheransRestoringCreation.org). There you will find a great deal of theological writings, lectionary responses, testimonials and other resources from fellow ELCA communities integrating care for creation into the life of their church. For help finding the information right for you, contact Phoebe Morad, national programs coordinator, at 617-599-2722.