

# What is CSCC's Bee Love Fellowship Program?

In our tradition, God calls us to care for all of creation and to love. It's really quite simple, but people struggle with finding ways to actively care and actively love. Over the past three years the world's bee population has been on dramatic decline. Seventy-five percent of the world's plant species are dependent on pollinators. Because bees are pollinators, this decline has a detrimental impact on the world's food supply. Scripture tells us that all of creation is interdependently woven together. Jesus says when one suffers, we all suffer. The bees are suffering and so we suffer too. We must attempt to do whatever we can, however small we think that act of love might be, to foster the life of the bees. In this way we share God's love with all creation. We at Central Square Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, are committed to caring for all creatures great and small, including bees.

We are seeking 6-8 individuals (all ages) to serve as "Bee Love Fellows". Thanks to a partnership and grant with The Bee Conservancy, our Bee Love Fellows will be tasked with working alongside Rev. Beth Stotts on the following projects:



- **Plant and Maintain a Bee Garden Under the Church Sign and in the Window Boxes on the Building** - One of the largest threats to bees is a lack of safe habitat where they can build homes and find a variety of nutritious food sources. By planting a bee garden, we will research and create a habitat with plants that are rich in pollen and nectar by using window boxes, flower pots, and planters.
- **Care for the Trees for Bees** - Did you know that bees get most of their nectar from trees? When a tree blooms, it provides hundreds – if not thousands – of blossoms to feed from. Trees are not only a great food source for bees, but also an essential habitat. Tree leaves and resin provide nesting material for bees, while natural wood cavities make excellent shelters. With deforestation and development on the rise, we can help bolster bee habitats by caring for trees.
- **Create a Bee Bath and Place it Under the Large Tree in Front of the Church** - Bees work up quite a thirst foraging and collecting nectar. Fellows will fill a shallow bird bath or bowl with clean water, and arrange pebbles and stones inside so that they break the water's surface. Bees will land on the stones and pebbles to take a long, refreshing drink.
- **Build a Bee Condo for Native Bees** - Did you know that, with the exception of honeybees, most bees are solitary creatures? 70% of solitary bees live underground, while 30% live in holes inside of trees or hollow stems. Species like bumble bees build their nests in undisturbed land, and we will provide a "Bee condo" – which has small tube "apartments" – allowing species like mason bees to take up residence. Our Bee Condo is provided by The Bee Conservancy.
- **Research** - Fellows will perform independent research on a topic related to bees and share their findings by giving a presentation to the fellows.
- **Gather** - Fellows will gather on various Saturdays and Sundays in May and June, from 12-2pm at CSCC to plan, to share, and to work. Fellows will also participate in World Bee Day.
- **Create an Event for WORLD BEE DAY 2021** – World Bee Day celebrations raise awareness about the threats to bees. In December 2017 the United Nations approved this day and the First World Bee Day was celebrated on Sunday, May 20, 2018. This year's **World Bee Day** is **Thursday, May 20, 2021** and the theme is **"Bee Engaged"**. Fellows will gather information and hands-on activities to share with the Greater Bridgewater Community for World Bee Day.

Central Square Congregational Church, UCC  
71 Central Square, Bridgewater, MA 02324  
508-697-6017

# Application for CSCC's Bee Love Fellowship Program



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is the best way to contact you?      (Circle)      Mail      Text      Email

Are you typically available on Saturday's and/or Sunday's in May and June from 12-2pm?

Are you a hard worker?

Have you ever worked in a garden?

Why are you interested in being involved in this program?

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## Parental Consent

If the applicant is under the age of 18, parental consent is required. By signing below, you acknowledge having read the information about this fellowship, understand the commitment your child or youth will be taking on, and you offer your consent for their involvement. If you have any questions, please reach out to Rev. Beth Stotts in the Central Square Congregational Church office at 508-697-6016.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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