

SOLAR SYNERGY

What is solar stewardship?

"I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with sense, reason and intellect has intended us to forgo their use." – Galileo

Though Galileo was tried by the Roman Inquisition in 1633, and forced by the Catholic Church to "abjure, curse and detest" his own scientific work, he never saw a wall between science and faith. He remained a strong believer to the end of his life and argued that scientific exploration was both acceptable and noble for a man of faith.

While Galileo's case was perhaps the most famous of battles between religion and science, I would argue that we can bring a new perspective to the fore by focusing not on the tensions between science and religion, but rather the inherent links between science and spirituality. The deeper science delves into the nature of reality, the more wonder it turns up – about the enigmas of time-space; the inherent intelligence of nature and



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the human body; the "biology" of belief, to name a few. The closer science moves toward revealing a deeper reality, the closer it comes to the irrevocable evidence of an expansive, massively intelligent Creator – still, a point of debate for many, I admit.

But even if one does not want to acknowledge the existence of an "architect" of the universe, the fact remains that planet Earth is all mankind has – and the energy that science "sees" in every living thing, every stone and crystal in the universe is the energy of the Earth itself. How do we

protect and take care of the Earth that sustains us? How do we link science and spirit?

Enter Interfaith Power & Light, a science-spirit organization that I found out about only recently, despite the fact that it has been around for two decades.

Founded in 1998 as Episcopal Power & Light with the support of Grace Cathedral and a unique coalition of Episcopal churches aggregated to purchase renewable energy, IPL broadened its focus in 2000, brought in other faith partners, and formed California Interfaith Power & Light. California IPL developed a successful organizational model, engaging hundreds of congregations, educating thousands of people of faith about the moral and ethical mandate to address global warming and help pass California's landmark climate and clean energy laws. Building on this success, this model has now been adopted by 40 state affiliates, and as the extensive IPL website states, "we are

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