

# Shantha Ready Alonso

(b) (6)

Citizenship: (b) (6) \* Veterans' Preference: (b) (6) \* Highest GS Grade: (b) (6) Security Clearance: (b) (6) Desired Location: (b) (6)

**Desired Role:** Special Advisor to the Secretary of the Interior (Director of External and Intergovernmental Affairs)

**Objective:** Advance the Biden-Harris Administration agenda for the US Department of the Interior by engaging external and intergovernmental stakeholders.

## **Executive Competencies:**

I am a relational, high-integrity, innovative, flexible, resilient, strategic, entrepreneurial leader with strong written and oral communication skills. I am eager to employ my skills in coalition-building, problem-solving, leveraging diversity, developing teams, public policy analysis, digital organizing, and group facilitation. I am proficient in written and oral Spanish, and I am a certified mediator.

**Education:** Master of Social Work, (b) (6), Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis  
Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies, (b) (6) Eden Theological Seminary  
Bachelor of Arts, (b) (6) University of Notre Dame, Psychology and English majors  
Study Abroad, (b) (6), Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

## **Employment:**

### **Creation Justice Ministries**

110 Maryland Ave. NE #203 Washington, DC 20002

Executive Director  
June 2015 - present  
40 hours per week

**Duties:** Lead a national faith-based organization whose mission is to educate, equip, and mobilize dozens of member Christian denominations on climate and conservation issues.

### **Achievements:**

- More than doubled the budget and tripled the staff in five years
  - Started in June 2015 with approximately \$40,000 in assets for the organization and a \$140,000 annual budget. Finished December 2020 with approximately \$400,000 in assets for the organization and a projected \$420,000 budget for 2021.
  - Secured relationships with more than a dozen foundations and funding partners, such as the: Packard Foundation ocean protection partnership (three-year grant of \$75,000/year), Hewlett Foundation conservation equity partnership (one-year grant of \$100,000), InFaith Foundation safe water partnership (four-year grant of 40,000/year). Other examples include dozens of mini-grants by coalition partner organizations on one-year or shorter grant cycles, which have required significant attention to detail due to frequent application and reporting requirements.

- I started as the only staff. I hired and now supervise a staff of four, as well as two volunteers.
- Re-energized member participation
  - Boosted number of denominations participating in Creation Justice Ministries by one-third
  - Grew the grassroots donor program from 19 people contributing a total of \$2,000 per year in 2015 to over 200 individual donors contributing more than \$21,000 in 2019.
  - Convened bi-annual full board meetings, handling board materials, facilitation coordination among executive committee members, and meeting logistics
- Provided Public Policy Leadership
  - Regularly crafted and released policy statements, religious leader sign-on letters, and press releases about timely policy developments on issues such as Bears Ears National Monument, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and methane pollution regulations.
  - Was responsible for representing membership on Capitol Hill, with Administration, and with coalition partners.
  - Facilitated Congressional education by organizing of Congressional briefings on Creation Justice Ministries' priorities, facilitating religious leader meetings with members of Congress and the Administration, and preparing religious leaders to testify at hearings. Examples include:
    - Prepared Presbyterian Church (USA) Stated Clerk Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson to give [testimony](#) before the US Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Hearing "Examining the Role of Environmental Policies on Access to Energy and Economic Opportunity" (April 13, 2016)
    - Prepared President of the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina Rev. Dr. James Blessingame to [speak](#) at a forum hosted by the US House Natural Resources Committee Democrats: "The Health, Environmental and Economic Risks of the Republican Campaign to Repeal the Bureau of Land Management's Methane Waste Rule" (February 1, 2017)
    - Organized and moderated Next 100 Coalition Congressional briefing on the importance of upholding recently designated national monument. The briefing was sponsored and attended by Colorado Senator Michael Bennett. (June 7, 2017)
    - Panelist, "Addressing Cost of Methane Waste and Future Policy Actions" Congressional [briefing](#) hosted by Taxpayers for Common Sense (October 24, 2016)
- Provided Program Leadership
  - Drafted and promoted the annual Earth Day Sunday resource booklet on a theme relevant to current socio-political context. Download and paper distribution counts from 2015-2020 have ranged from 1,500 to 5,000. Some who download it go on to share the content with their respective religious congregations by photocopying the bulletin insert, and using content for sermons or Sunday School, expanding the estimated program reach to 20,000-30,000 people.
  - Produced six eco-justice workshops at the annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days, a conference co-sponsored by more than 40 faith-based organizations, serving approximately 800-1,000 people (every April, 2015-2019, and I played a significant role in quickly adapting planned conference content to one large virtual COVID-relief advocacy training in 2020.)
  - Maintained an active digital organizing e-community of more than 30,000 email contacts, 5,000 Facebook followers,
  - Numerous speaking engagements, both virtual and in-person. In 2020, I averaged three to four engagements per month. Examples of speaking engagements in recent years include:

- Moderated virtual “Faith and Coastal Climate Resilience Summit” featuring House Environmental Justice Task Force Co-Chair Rep. Don McEachin and House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis Chairwoman Rep. Kathy Castor. (August 2020, attended and viewed by approximately 1,000 people, hosted by Creation Justice Ministries)
  - Delivered training: “The Doctrine of Discovery, and how it impacts the modern conservation movement” (February 2020, Green Group Diversity Cohort of approximately 200 people, hosted by Resource Impact)
  - Panel presentation: “Faith and Environmental Justice” (September 2019, Women in Environmental Leadership Convening of approximately 100 women conservation leaders from across the United States, hosted by the Smithsonian Anacostia Museum)
  - Resident Educator, Delivered one week of eco-justice education and reflection content for retreatants at Star Island Retreat Center in New Hampshire (one week in Summer 2018)
  - Delivered “Faith and Climate Reflections” at American Climate Leadership Summit (Summer 2018 and 2019, Convening of higher education, health, state and local government, and faith-based stakeholders who work on climate issues, audience of approximately 700-1,000 people, hosted by EcoAmerica)
- Developed strong coalitions and strategic alliances
  - Co-Founded and continue to serve on the Steering Committee of the Next 100 Coalition, which formed on the occasion of the 100-year anniversary of the National Park Service, and convenes more than 50 organizations to provide policy vision, networking opportunities, and communications capacity on matters of diversity, equity, and inclusion on public lands. [This coalition was instrumental in advising the Obama Administration in crafting the Presidential Memorandum issued in January 2017: *Promoting Diversity and Inclusion in Our National Parks, National Forests, and Other Public Lands and Waters*.
  - Co-chaired the Energy and Ecology Working Group of the Washington Interreligious Staff Community, which convenes more than a dozen faith-based organizations twice monthly to coordinate public policy advocacy strategy. (2015-2019)
  - Member of the US Climate Action Network Future Vision Committee, which was tasked with researching and presenting to US Climate Action Network as a whole what pathways exist for the Network to reach its objective of meeting or exceeding the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement (2018). This group laid the groundwork for another group in which I had an editing role: the committee that drafted the Vision for Equitable Climate Action; I also am a member of the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee to advance equity issues in the climate movement.
  - Founding member of the People, Climate, and Public Lands Coalition, which will launch in January 2021 and make public its “Climate Plan for Public Lands.”
- Awards, Honors, and Advisory Roles during Creation Justice Ministries Executive Director role
  - J. Irwin Miller Award for Excellence in Ecumenical Leadership conferred annually to one lay Christian leader by the National Council of Churches USA, 2020 ([acceptance speech](#))
  - Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions at Eastern Mennonite University, founding member of the Board of Reference (2017-2020)
  - Grist 50 Fixer Honored by *Grist* magazine as one of 50 environmental “fixers” to watch, 2018
  - Delegate for Creation Justice Ministries to the inter-religious, inter-disciplinary symposium hosted by the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople in 2018: “Toward a Green Attica: Preserving the Planet and Protecting Its People” in Athens, Greece

- Social Concerns Ministry Award, conferred by Broomfield Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in 2017, Richmond, Virginia

**NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby**

820 First Street NE, Suite 350 Washington, DC 20002-4243

Community Mobilization Manager

June 2013 - June 2015

40 Hours per Week

- Field Organizing Strategy: Developed and implemented field organizing strategies on healthcare, minimum wage, immigration, and civic engagement, including:
  - Facilitating a breakthrough in NETWORK's organizing strategy, which previously focused only on national electronic engagement, with occasional place-based events. In my two-year effort to make participants' experience of our organization as what I branded "more epic than episodic," I developed a state-based organizing model, cultivated local state-based volunteers, and initiated an ongoing engagement program with two grassroots state-based organizing teams (in Michigan and South Carolina.)
  - Crafting and implementing the 100 percent Voting Campaign (2014), which was the digital organizing component to the "Get Out the Vote" Nuns on the Bus tour.
  - Developed and implemented a "business roundtable" campaign to host ten events in ten cities to engage more than 65 business leaders in conversations with NETWORK's Executive Director about the intersection of Catholic Social Teachings and economic justice. Each roundtable generated at least one lead for continued program engagement.
- Maintained an e-community of more than 40,000 people. Used a combination of mass emails, social media, direct mail, text messaging, and calling campaigns to:
  - Conduct a demographic survey of NETWORK's membership, and use the data to enhance the relevance of communications to NETWORK members
  - Develop and promote the NETWORK study guide on Pope Francis' *Joy of the Gospel* encyclical
  - Evaluate the *Mind the Gap!* and *Mend the Gap!* popular education curricula on wealth inequality
  - Participate in partnerships to promote health insurance open enrollment season
- Participated in the leadership team for the re-branding of the organization, including the development of an organizational writing style guide, crafting a shared "story arc" of the organization, and updating the organization's visual identity.
- Developed and maintained department workplan and budget of approximately \$150,000.
- Served on the hiring committees for three hires.
- Supervised community mobilizing work of a team of five

**National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA**

110 Maryland Ave. NE #103 Washington, DC 2002

**Director, Poverty Initiative**

2012-2013

40 hours per week

- On behalf of the National Council of Churches (USA), sat on the national board of the Emergency Food and Shelter Program. Conducted a board site visit to the Salvation Army Pensacola, Florida.
- Managed a \$100,000 renewable annual grant from the Marguerite Casey Foundation
- Liaised with more than a dozen state councils of churches, equipping them with advocacy materials on poverty issues
- Continued responsibilities of previous role (Advocacy and Outreach Specialist)

**Advocacy and Outreach Specialist**, eco-justice and poverty programs of National Council of Churches 2011-2012

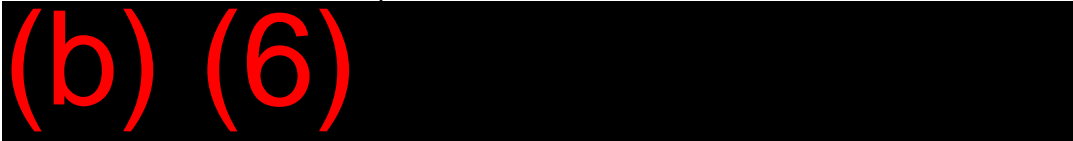
40 hours per week

- Managed mass email list of 20,000 contacts and established social media accounts for these programs.
- Created and disseminated eco-justice and poverty campaign materials
- Liaised with membership, state councils of churches, and the Washington Interreligious Staff Community's relevant working groups
- Coordinated Ecumenical Advocacy Days workshops

**Coordinator of Young Adult program, and Eco-Justice Fellow** (2009-2010)

40 hours per week

- Convened a leadership team of young adults from member denominations of the National Council of Churches USA. Facilitated young adult gathering at National Council of Churches General Assembly.



**US Census Bureau,**

Coachella Valley, California

Enumerator

Spring 2010

Approximately 20 hours per week

**Gamaliel Foundation**

Worksite at their Metropolitan Congregations United office: 4501 Westminster Pl, St. Louis, MO 63108

Policy Intern

January-December 2007

Approximately 16 hours per week

- Worked with National Policy Director to coordinate rollout of [\*"The Road to Good Jobs: Patterns of Employment in the Construction Industry"\*](#) study; Facilitated press conferences in Detroit & East St. Louis upon study's release

- Assisted with bringing a delegation of more than 50 faith community leaders to Washington DC on behalf of the Gamaliel Foundation for the Transportation Equity Network
- Assisted with individual donor campaign, database management & grant reports

**Inland Congregations United for Change**

41550 Eclectic Street, Palm Desert, CA 92260

Community Organizer, Holy Cross Associate Program

August 2005 – July 2006

20 hours per week

- Co-organized a 400-person public meeting with city council members on park improvement, which resulted in a four-million-dollar grant to the City of Coachella, California, to fund a skate park and renovate dilapidated park structures.
- Signature gathering on California “Healthy Kids” Campaign, which put Children’s Health Insurance funding on the November 2006 California ballot

**Aguas del Desierto Counseling Center**

1612 First Street Suite 1 Coachella, CA 92236

Program Coordinator, Holy Cross Associates Program

August 2005-July 2006

20 hours per week

- Designed and presented a 6-session wellness curriculum for the Coachella Valley High School Academies students as well as Our Lady of Soledad confirmation class participants covering issues such as self-esteem and healthy boundaries.
- Presented at the California Academies statewide conference about the wellness curriculum we developed.

**Children’s Defense Fund**

Juvenile Justice Intern

January 2003

40 hours per week

**International:**

- World Student Christian Federation, Vice Chair of global executive committee (2008-2014)  
Initiated work of international Solidarity and Advocacy Committee, which included assisting with coordination of student delegations to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women as well as calling attention to international water privatization issues.  
Chaired North American Visioning/Strategic Planning Committee  
Helped launch Student Christian Movement USA
- Global Peace Initiative of Women Youth Peace Leaders Council: Young adult women virtual networking opportunity, culminating in the Council’s sponsored participation in an international, intergenerational leadership conference in Jaipur, India (Spring 2008)
- University of Notre Dame Chilean Poverty and Development Seminar Student Coordinator (2003-2005)

### Other Leadership:

- US Trustee of the World Student Christian Federation (2017-present)
- Interfaith Power and Light of DC, Maryland, and Virginia
  - Steering Committee Member (2013-2016)
  - Co-chair (2017-2019)

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### Trainings:

UFacilitate Virtual Facilitation Training (2020), six 90-minute training sessions on Zoom, along with two individual coaching sessions  
The Management Center, “Managing to Change the World” two-day training (2014) Washington, DC  
Robert Benjamin Mediation and Conflict Management Services Completed Certificate during a semester-long class (Spring 2008) St. Louis, MO  
Gamaliel Foundation, “Weeklong Leadership Training” (March 2007) Illinois

### Cultural Diversity:

Washington University in St. Louis Trained in inter-group dialogue facilitation (Summer 2007)  
Notre Dame Diversity Educator – Led “intro to diversity on campus” chats for over 200 freshmen (2002-2005)

### Publications:

#### *Sampling of Opinion Editorials*

- *The Hill* 12.22.18 “Time to fix the 11.8 billion national park repair backlog” ([link](#))
- *The Day* 04.22.18 “Don’t ruin our underwater Grand Canyon” ([link](#))
- *Red Letter Christians* 04.22.18 “Sense of Place: An Earth Day Sunday Resource” ([link](#))
- *The Day* 07.16.17 “Preserve our marine monument” ([link](#))
- *Sojourners* 01.09.17 “8 spiritual treasures: The public lands legacy of President Obama” ([link](#))
- *Sojourners* 08.26.16 “As the National Park Service turns 100, its time to diversify” ([link](#))
- *The Colorado Gazette* 04.17.16 “Water stewardship is everyone’s responsibility” ([link](#))
- *The Hill* 06.13.16 “Public Coal Needs Proper Valuation” ([link](#))
- *The Hill* 09.09.15 “Finding balance between heating our homes and preserving Earth” ([link](#))

#### *Media Interviews*

- *Minnesota Public Radio* 05.24.19 “Women of Faith: Millennial Christians say loving God means protecting creation”
- *US Catholic* 10.04.17 “The creation stories you probably haven’t heard: It’s time for the church to listen to Indigenous people” ([link](#))

- *National Catholic Reporter* 03.11.17 “Bears Ears National Monument, sacred to Native tribes, faces challenges to its status” ([link](#))
- *United Church of Christ News* 12.17.15 “Paris and Beyond: An Interview with Shantha Ready Alonso” ([link](#))
- Additional media quotes can be found through searching “Shantha Ready Alonso” on Google News

#### *Books*

Contributing Author, *For Such a Time as This: Young Adults on the Future of the Church*, edited by Kathryn M. Lohre Judson Press, 2014 Valley Forge, PA ([link](#))

Contributing Author, *A Child Laughs: Prayers of Justice and Hope*, edited by Maria Mankin and Maren Tirabassi, The Pilgrim Press, 2017, Cleveland, Ohio ([link](#))

Contributing Author, *Gifts in Open Hands: More Worship Resources for the Global Community*, edited by Maren Tirabassi and Kathy Wonson Eddy, United Church Press, 2011, Cleveland, OH ([link](#))

Editor, *Toward a Global Christian Movement for Eco-Justice: Voices from North America*. 2015 available on [Kindle](#).