

CHURCHES AS GUARDIANS OF CREATION: TAKE 10 STEPS IN 2010

Program of the Stewardship of Creation Ministry Team Social and Ecumenical Ministries Committee Presbytery of West Virginia

Theological Foundation –

Caring for Creation has a biblical basis in Genesis – from the Beginning. Creation is GOOD, because God the Creator declared it so. Thus, all creation has value in and of itself - not simply utilitarian in terms of what use we humans can make of it. The creation does not exist apart from God. Rather, it is a created reality owing its existence to God's divine will and action. We, who love God, cherish what God has made.

We humans were created by God and placed in the garden to “till and keep it”. The original human vocation included caring for the creation so that it would provide sustenance to all living things.

Churches As Guardians of Creation: Take 10 Steps in 2010 program –

In seeking to live faithfully, congregations are urged to seriously consider action steps toward being “green” churches. Find ways to make a positive difference in using resources. What can your congregation do to reduce, reuse, recycle, and rethink?

The Congregation Survey celebrates the steps your congregation has already taken and provides ideas for steps to take this year. The Stewardship of Creation Ministry Team (SCMT) is available to provide resources and support for your efforts. The SCMT will also celebrate your accomplishments with you and the Presbytery of West Virginia.

Stewardship of Creation Enablers –

The Presbytery of West Virginia has two Stewardship of Creation Enablers, Robin Blakeman and Marcia Leitch. They are designated by the presbytery to be resource persons to the presbytery and congregations. They serve as educators, motivators, and facilitators of action to protect God's Creation. They are to assist congregations and other groups within the church to gain the knowledge and skills to sustain long-term, spiritually-vital commitments to God's Creation.

Resources –

Besides the Stewardship of Creation Enablers, the Resource Center for the Presbytery has many helpful resources for worship, education, and action steps.

Also, on the Presbytery of West Virginia website, visit

<http://www.wvpresbytery.org/Ministries/StewardshipofCreationMinistryTeam/tabid/103/Default.aspx> for websites of other organizations and resources.

Stewardship of Creation Enablers' Contact Information –

Robin Blakeman, rbrobinjh@gmail.com, 304-840-4877

Marcia Leitch, jimarcialeitch@gmail.com, 304-466-0982

Return Completed Surveys to:

Marcia Leitch

P.O. Box 226

Talcott, WV 24981

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Congregational Survey

Church _____ **Your Name** _____

Below are some examples of how congregations can be “green” – more faithful to caring for all God’s creation. Please check the examples of steps your congregation has already taken. Or check the examples of steps you would like your congregation to take this year.

Steps Taken / 2010 Steps

- / Recycle (paper, plastics, aluminum, steel, catalogs, cardboard, glass etc.)
- / Reduce energy with energy efficient office equipment, appliances, heating & cooling system, replacing old furnaces with geothermal heat pumps, installing on-demand water heaters, increasing insulation, etc.
- / Use Energy Star compact fluorescent light bulbs (cfl) or LED lightbulbs
- / Use power strips for office equipment to turn off all equipment when not in use
- / Use recycled paper products (office paper, paper towels, toilet paper, etc.)
- / Use non-toxic cleaning supplies
- / Earth Sunday worship service
- / Educational programs, classes, workshops on stewardship of creation
- / Landscape with native plants; plant trees for shade and wind protection; involve youth in clean-ups and tree and shrub plantings that attract birds and butterflies
- / Grow organic vegetables and fruits on church grounds to distribute to shelters
- / Use email and website for communications
- / Use Fair Trade products (coffee, tea, hot chocolate, nuts, etc.)
- / Use washable dishes instead of paper products and Styrofoam
- / Do an energy and environment audit
- / Develop a Caring for Creation committee
- / Weatherize windows and doors
- / Encourage and organize carpooling
- / Replace asphalt lots with porous surfaces
- / **Other steps** _____