

The Creation Care team met with Church Council on June 10th and presented the attached Environmental Policies. The resolution passed and the following changes are being implemented.

Request of Creation Care Team to Church Council for “Environmental Policies Resolution”

In Psalm 24:1 we read, “The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and all who dwell therein.”

The Creation Care Team of UMCG is committed to taking this scripture seriously. Since our establishment in 2014 CCT has led polystyrene (Styrofoam) recycling efforts, written numerous *Messenger* articles on conservation and recycling, procured reusable plastic glasses for use at Third Tuesday Suppers, and recently worked with the pastors to celebrate Earth Day’s 51st anniversary through sermons and group studies on environmental responsibility.

The growing body of science on global warming and the evidence we see all around tells us there is no time to waste for more environmentally responsible action on the individual, organizational, and societal level.

CCT will continue its education efforts and service to the church with recycling activities. These are efforts which focus primarily on the individual. We also believe that as an institution UMCG should become more environmentally responsible by adopting practices which make our church “greener.”

It is in this spirit that we ask Church Council to commit UMCG to the following policies and actions.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES RESOLUTION

The Church Council of UMCG hereby adopts the following environmental goals and procedures, to be implemented as soon as possible:

- (1) Discontinue use of any polystyrene or single use plastic cups, plastic tableware, plastic tablecloths, and disposable plates at coffee hour and receptions such as those on new member Sundays or other special Sunday celebrations.
- (2) To facilitate cleaning of cups, spoons, and other items after coffee hour, purchase portable or stationary household style dishwasher for the parlor that can be used to wash relatively small quantities after such receptions. (Funds toward the cost have already been offered.)
- (3) Begin composting of vegetable waste & recycling of all plastic, glass, tin, and aluminum (including foil) from food prep in the church kitchen.
- (4) Start using recycled toilet paper, paper towels, and printer paper everywhere in the building.
- (5) Place recycling bins in all classrooms.
- (6) Install more motion sensor light switches in places like basement hallways, meeting rooms, and bathrooms.
- (7) Convert remaining fluorescent parlor, classroom, and basement fixtures to LED fixtures.
- (8) Establish more conservative temperatures for heating and cooling in frequently used meeting rooms and the offices. (For the offices this may necessitate addressing energy loss through windows.)
- (9) Perform annual environmental audit of our building to identify areas that are wasting energy or material resources. Then develop steps to ameliorate those conditions.

Passed this 10th day of June, 2021 .

The Creation Care Team of the United Methodist Church of Geneva requests that the following items **are not to be used**:

- All styrofoam, including cups, plates and takeout containers.
- All single-use plastic (any item used once and disposed of or recycled) including utensils, cups, plates, water and pop bottles (single serve and 2L) and table coverings.

Please **use instead**:

- Washable dishes including plates, bowls, utensils, mugs and cups.
- Washable cloth table coverings.
- Powdered juice mixes or aluminum canned beverages.
- Personal thermal mugs and water bottles.

While cleaning out closets and storage cabinets please put any usable styrofoam and plastic listed above in the 3 year old classroom for Hesus House to pick up.

A statement from the United Methodist Church Web Site on Creation Care

“A relationship with God's creation and a ministry of caring for and healing the earth are integral to what it means to be a United Methodist. We believe that all of creation is God's, and that we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Our natural world is to be valued and conserved because God has called humanity to be its caretakers (Genesis 1:26-31).

The Creation Care team thanks you for helping us take responsibility in making changes in our church life that will impact our earth in a positive way.

If we can help you in any way to work through these changes, please contact us.

Thank you,

Creation Care Team