

Chicago Northwestern District

2019 LEAD

Ministry in Motion

Green Church Workshop

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One Earth Film Fest (OEFF)
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One: Because we find the glory of God not only in a believer's heart but also in creation, we remember our faith in action for eco-sustainability.

Many:

We believe in God, who created the earth.

We believe that humans are part of the natural systems of creation.

We believe that the sins of humanity toward creation are not outside of God's redeeming grace

**We promise to protect God's gifts
of land, air and water.**

**We promise to care for God's creatures,
plants and seeds.**

**We promise to see the natural world
and the spiritual world as God's domain
and act accordingly**

One: May God's Word and Holy Spirit guide us in caring for creation wherever we exist as the Church.

Many:

Amen!

Resolution for Commitment to Creation Care

Actions:

Encourage each congregation in the Northern Illinois Conference to form a Green Team to plan and monitor creation care improvements within their congregation noting seven areas of concern (energy, resource management, transportation, food, toxic chemicals, water, and community outreach) by offering a certification celebrated at the June Annual Conference session; and

Encourage each congregation in the Northern Illinois Conference to conduct an energy audit of their buildings from organizations such as Faith in Place and Elevate Energy to identify sources of energy waste and potential saving of energy-related improvements and to make the needed energy upgrades by adding a question to the Local Church Trustee Report regarding such audits; and

Encourage all United Methodists in the Northern Illinois Conference to become Styrofoam free and assist their communities in reducing Styrofoam use and recycling at designated locations by supplying information on locations and ideas about collection drives.

Rational

Our scriptures clearly claim that God, not humanity, is the owner of creation (Lev. 25:23; Psalm 24:1); and that God created humans to care for creation on God's behalf (Genesis 2:15).

We also know from science that climate change is unequivocal and primary human-induced (Climate Change 2014 Synthesis Report 2014 Summary for Policy Makers found at http://ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/syr/AR5_SYR_FINAL_SPM.pdf); and that Styrofoam (polystyrene) is a product that will never biodegrade, breaks down to small pieces which animals eat, and currently makes up 30% of the landfills;

Further, our tradition states in the Social Principles of the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2016 that human developments are driving "misuse and overconsumption of natural and nonrenewable resources" and that "this continued course of action jeopardizes the natural heritage that God has entrusted to all generations;" *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* "The Natural World" (§160), the Social Principles; and

It is the experience of the Eco-Sustainability Task Force after four Green Fairs and four years of surveys and conversations that our congregations are asking for more guidance in caring for creation.

Submitted by the Task Force on Eco-Sustainability, Rev. Nancy Rethford and Mr. Dick Alton co-chairs; and *The Board of Church and Society* Rev. Scott Himmel and Ms. Britney Cox co-chairs

One Earth Film Fest

Go All In For the Planet

Earth Day Mini-Festival

April 22- 27 (Monday- Saturday)

Show one of the following films for \$20

- **Happening: A Clean Revolution:** Visit the renewable energy technology taking place across the USA
- **Before The Flood:** Actor Leonardo DiCaprio meets with scientist, activists and world leaders to discuss the dangers of climate change and possible solutions. See the dramatic changes happening around the world
- **Sustainable:** How our agriculture and food systems are changing to make a viable future.

Email Richard Alton at richard.alton@gmail.com to receive more information for this Earth Day special for your congregation