Guidelines for Creation Care at Christ United Methodist Church

Christ United Methodist Church is a community of disciples committed to living our faith in our actions.

Alongside the clear scriptural imperative to care for the earth (see Genesis 2:15 and Psalm 104 for two examples), our reconciling statement and land acknowledgement compel us to be intentional stewards for all of creation.

> *With open hearts, open minds and open doors, we welcome people of all races, nationalities, theologies and abilities. We welcome people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We offer a safe and compassionate place to reconcile faith, identity, hope, understanding and mutual respect.*
>
> *We welcome you and name the sacred power of the Wahpeton people on whose land we stand.*

While we cannot reverse much of the harm that has been done by human ignorance, greed and sin, we can covenant to do better. The following practices shape how our congregation works for the flourishing of all creation. We encourage all groups within and renting space from our church to join us in our creation care practices.

Interior Spaces

- We actively recycle. Signs on recycling bins indicate what can be recycled. This is reviewed periodically to ensure we are following best practices.
- We compost coffee grounds and other appropriate organic waste.
- We recycle and reuse. Several times a year we offer things through the buy nothing community and rummage sale to keep “stuff” out of the landfill. Thrift on 5th has partners to redirect clothing from being part of the waste stream.
- We reduce our reliance on single use products. This includes paper plates, cups and plasticware. Two dishwashers and volunteers are able to maintain our supply of ceramic coffee cups and dishes. We also have cloth rags and towels available.
- Our cleaning staff works to minimize harsh chemicals
- We pursue efficient energy use. Installing LED bulbs, motion-activated light switches and updating with high efficiency equipment when feasible.

Green Spaces

- We are intentional in the plants we grow seeking choices that attract pollinators, require less water and maintenance.
- We limit our use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers to maintain a cleaner water supply, safer spaces for children and animals to play and avoid overkill of beneficial organisms.
- We are seeking to reduce rainwater runoff through creating a tree canopy and rain gardens.
- We are increasing our use of battery powered lawn equipment.
- We utilize best practices to maintain a welcoming landscape. Our building follows the city ordinance of no smoking within 15 feet of an entrance, and we provide ample bicycle parking space.

Future Intentions

- We seek certifications (like bicycle friendly business and MN Interfaith Power and Light Climate Justice Congregation) to keep moving our vision forward and to encourage learning within the congregation
- As we make upgrades to our building we are intentional in reducing our carbon footprint and chemical output through upgrading HVAC efficiency and pursuing alternative energy sources.

We continue to link faith to action through providing systemic change, practical action and spiritual-relational connections.