



Steps To Form a Green Ministry

Overview

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1. Definitions

- **Eco-Justice** (NCC) All ministries designed to heal and defend creation, working to assure justice for all of creation and the human beings who live in it.
- **Creation Care** (EEN) Caring for all of God's creation by stopping and preventing activities that are harmful (e.g. air and water pollution, species extinction), and participating in activities that promote reconciliation of all of creation to God. Other terms: Green Ministry, Green Sanctuary; Consistent with Judeo-Christian, Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim & other religious teachings
- **Green Team** The group that leads Creation Care efforts in a congregation. Also known as: Caring for Creation Group, Green Ministry Team, Earth Stewardship Team

2. 5 Steps to a Green Team

1. Prepare & Organize
 - a. Secure commitment from congregational leadership
 - b. Recruit a team of 5-10 worker bees (well-connected, with time & passion)
 - c. Research your faith tradition & denomination's teachings (IPC's Menu for Action has many of these collected for you already. Visit www.interfaithchesapeake.org/menu_for_action)
 - d. Write a Mission Statement to guide your group's work
2. Hold First Meeting
 - a. Get to know each other
 - b. Discuss everyone's hopes and dreams
 - c. Listen to each other – everyone should feel they are important and offer essential skills – this will help with buy-in down the road
 - d. Remember – our Creator brings us together for a reason – everyone has a role, not just the leader/facilitator
3. Develop an Action Plan
 - a. What enhancements can be made at worship/celebration to expose your community to the morality of caring for Creation?
 - b. What can be introduced into the Religious Education program? (IPC's Resource page: www.interfaithchesapeake.org/materials)
 - c. What actions can be taught to your fellow members about Sustainable Living at home and work?
 - d. What ways can Church Operations demonstrate sustainable living?
 - e. Diving deeper – how can your community be a voice for Environmental Justice and Public Advocacy?



- f. Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake can help you with all of these things. Once your group decides which direction to go, contact us for support if needed.
4. Develop Communication Plan
 - a. How will you communicate your goals, activities and progress to the congregation?
 - b. Identify available communication vehicles: Newsletter, Bulletin, email, Website, Worship, Local Media
5. Review Plans Annually
 - a. What did we accomplish? – Celebrate your accomplishments! Even the small ones!
 - b. What's still left to be done? – Identify the barriers and discuss how to overcome those – IPC can help you with overcoming barriers
 - c. What are our goals next year?

3. Advice and Resources:

- Be visible, inclusive, have fun, and love one another at all times
- Recruit reliable people, and welcome even those who are not as effective but have energy
- Start with win-win projects (save money with energy changes or stormwater fee reductions)
- Emphasize simple living and curing “affluenza”
- Don't start with the sacred coffee hour!
- Track and publicize your progress
- Check out free programs available to you from IPC:
www.interfaithchesapeake.org/programs
- Check out the Menu for Action for a multitude of ideas and connections to other partners: www.interfaithchesapeake.org/menu_for_action
- IPC Prayer cards can help you get your meeting started, plus the flip side highlight the 5 major ways a congregation can heal Creation.
- Call any of the IPC staff for ideas and support 410-609-6852

*** IPC is starting a mentor program to pair successful Creation Care groups with those just getting started. Are you willing to serve as a mentor to other congregations? Let us know! 410-609-6852.*