

A Practical Guide to Forming a Creation Care Group in Your Congregation

For a much more complete guide and a whole lot more, see www.webofcreation.org,
home of the *Green Congregation Program*, directed by David Rhoads

Many of the handouts mentioned below are available at
www.spas-elca.org/events/tool-kit-congregational-leaders/

1. Gather together a group of committed individuals,
and choose a name for your group that suits your congregation.
e.g., Eco-Justice Group, Caring for Creation Group, Earth Care Group
2. Do a good deal of education and thinking, asking lots of questions,
listening and respecting one another. Ground yourselves and
your congregation scripturally, theologically, ecologically, and scientifically.
See handouts: Theological and Preaching Resources;
Ten Different Portraits of Creation in Scripture
3. Include creation prayers and themes regularly in worship.
See handouts: Theological and Preaching Resources;
Lutheran, Ecumenical, and Interfaith Creation Care Organizations (ELCA)
4. Connect locally and nationally for inspiration and education.
See handouts: Local (to Saint Paul Area Synod) Supports
Government and Non-Partisan Help with Creation Care
5. Get everyone involved. Cross generational activities are best.
Let the young people lead! Let everyone know they are important!
6. Find ways to be continually present by posting, pestering, and interaction
with all other activities of the congregation.
e.g., Post in bulletins and on boards. Speak with building and grounds, worship,
hospitality committees and the like.
7. Choose specific actions and projects. For example --
Small projects: turn off lights, use water sparingly, recycle
Medium projects: get rid of all single-use plastic, community garden, compost, car-pool
Large projects: energy audit, solar energy, change over all lights
See handout: What have Pilgrims done?
8. Have fun!!!
9. Don't be too hard on yourselves. Start small to insure early success, but also
recognize that failure is part of the process. Remember, none of this is easy!
10. Remember to have hope. Ground yourselves in the promises of God.