

# Creation Care in Congregational Life

*IMAGINE THAT...* Church offices, committees and other groups consider environmental impacts when making decisions. Structures are in place to enable practices such as recycling, carpooling, buying recycled materials.

**Don't forget to invite:** Committee chairpersons, small group coordinator, pastors, office and janitorial staff or volunteers.

**Step 1:** Invite each chairperson or group represented to answer the following questions:

- What kinds of resources does your committee require in order to do its work?
- What kinds of wastes does your committee produce? How much waste is produced?
- In what ways does your committee use fossil fuel energy?
- Did you make any decisions in the past year that had a creation care angle to them?
- Are there opportunities to reduce, recycle, avoid toxins, model best practices?

**Step 2:** Rate your congregational life on its attention to creation care from zero to five. A zero indicates that no one present has ever asked any of the questions in step 1 before. A five indicates that these questions have been under consideration for some time and the congregation's life includes multiple practices that conserve or reuse resources.

**Step 3:** Here are some ways congregations might apply creation care to their congregational life. Are there practices you would like to work on?

- Communal meals include recycling, composting or dishwashing.
- Consumption of fossil fuels is considered when planning youth service trips or church gatherings.
- The church purchases recycled paper. Electronic copies are used where possible to save paper.
- Recycling bins are visible and well-marked.
- The church organizes the recycling of objects individuals might not know how to dispose of.
- The church installs a bike rack and encourages biking or carpooling.
- The maintenance crew uses non-toxic cleaning products.
- Policies such as recycling are written down and transmitted to new committee members as roles shift.
- Gifts to youth, new attenders or others are chosen carefully, recyclable or consumable.