

Policy Statement on Going Green

Policy

We accept that Little River UCC has a responsibility both in the management of Church finances and as a participant in the world's response to global warming to give constant attention to the need for rational use of limited non-renewable resources. Using energy resources efficiently deserves special emphasis, although our responsibility extends also to the use of other non-renewable resources. The theological basis for this policy is self-evident for us as stewards of our resources.

Implementation

The first step in implementing a "Think Green" policy is to make people aware of it and of the reasons for it. CSAC's selection of global warming as a primary focus area is an excellent step in that direction. It would be useful for the policy to continue to be reflected in the Public Policy and Faith program, and also in the Church School, in the worship service bulletin, in *Currents*, in postings on the bulletin board, in the Arts Committee's hall displays, and in any other way it can be brought home to people that success of the policy depends on their participation.

That means turning off lights when they aren't needed and avoiding unnecessary use of heating and air conditioning, and we need to consider greater utilization of energy-saving appliances, particularly light bulbs (the easiest near-term opportunity). It also means that the Church Council, Boards and Committees of the church, church members, and other users of the church should consider how this "Think Green" policy applies within the areas of their responsibility and how they can contribute to a resource-saving policy. The Council might request that they report their conclusions to the Council, with ideas on steps to be taken.

The church can also learn from other institutions that have experience with a "Think Green" policy. CSAC is sponsoring talks at the church by representatives of both Virginia Interfaith Power and Light and its Greater Washington counterpart in the next few weeks. Those talks should help us select specific ways in which we can implement the Think Green policy. GWIPL offers a walk-through assessment to identify energy savings opportunities.

The benefits to the church's finances seem obvious at a time when energy costs have risen dramatically and are likely to continue to do so. Dealing with them may entail substantial energy-saving capital investments. Finding the funds to do so will be a challenge, but it should be manageable if church members are made adequately aware of the importance of the policy.

This is a policy for the church, but our responsibilities as individuals are, of course, much broader, and the program of implementation should help increase awareness of the problem of global warming in our actions at home, in our communities, and in our other circles of activity.

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