

Core Values Decision-Making Questions

Natural Step

Language

- Do our prayers and other liturgy affirm the goodness/stewardship of God's creation?

Facility/Equipment

- What about the building shouts to the community that we are a church that cares for creation?
- How does our use of space maximize the heat and light resources?
- In what ways can we move to utilizing more 'green' cleaning and paper products?
- How do we communicate to the community why our church lawns are brown in the summer?
- How do we communicate to outside groups using our facility about our standards for use of paper products, recycling, reduced use of heat and light, etc?
- What are the ways to extend the useful life of this piece of church equipment without sacrificing quality of work or efficiency of employees?
- What are other uses for what we are about to discard?
- What other agencies or persons could utilize what we are about to discard?
- What recycle options are there for any part of what we are about to discard?

Economics

- What are the trade-offs economically for utilizing 'green' paper, cleaning products, etc.?
- How can reduction of amount of consumables used off-set potential increased cost for 'green' products?
- Are there ways to communicate about and to conduct meetings without use of consumables?
- What incentives are there from our utilities, Energy Trust and others to upgrade to less consumptive practices?

Advertising

- What symbols can be used in print media to indicate our Natural Step affiliation?
- What signage, symbols can appear in places within the church building that let folks know what we stand for?

Programs

- What programs are we offering for persons of all ages, sponsored by the church, that encourage the stewardship of God's creation?
- How can we provide or encourage shared transportation to the event?
- How does this program speak to our concern for God's creation?
- What is the impact of this program on equitable distribution of resources globally?
- What outside groups are encouraged to use space due to their compatibility with the Natural Step guidelines?
- What criteria are used to determine if outside groups may utilize space?

Food Service

- What locally produced food can be incorporated into the menu?
- Is finger food that requires no plates/utensils an option?

Purchases

- What 'green businesses' might we patronize for the products/services we need?

Staff and Volunteers

- What method of accomplishing this task will have the least impact on the natural world?
- How easy is it for employees/volunteers to reduce/reuse/recycle?