

Highlights of FUMC Sustainability Natural Step Ministry Team 2005

This was our first year ... after becoming inspired by North West Earth Institute adult education classes to declare our intentionality of exercising sustainable practices and at the encouragement of the church council, we presented information to classes, small groups, and everyone we could think of. At an all-church vote, our congregation approved. Our statement declares: We are a congregation on a journey to Sustainability, recognizing that we are stewards of God's creation for all generations, and believing that all human needs must be met equitably. The Natural Step Framework is our guide to Sustainability.

Projects and Accomplishments:

Met as a ministry team in March, April, May, and June of 2005; minutes of meetings are on file in church office.

Earth Day Sunday – minimal paper use and tips on being more earth friendly

Meet Your Farmer event – 70 people attended

Church Newsletter Subscription by Email campaign – 57 new subscribers by email

Suggestion box for sustainable ideas on information counter

Recycle boxes at back of sanctuary for programs

Sustainability statement on printed church materials – okayed by church council June 21

Display case on shopping/gift bags: paper or plastic or... cloth?

Sponsored 2 summer classes: Make your own cloth bags, Unplug the Christmas machine

Planning for Creation Celebration in October, including Sunday a.m. prep classes

Eco Party held in August at Bateman's

Planning for future projects: brainstorming and backcasting with church program leaders; educational activities for 2005-06: NWRI Voluntary Simplicity class, Life Abundant, and more; projects involving youth

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Interfaith Network of Earth Concerns workshop on Energy Efficient Buildings for Congregations held at our church in June 2005 (served lunch as a fund raiser) 11 attended from our church, earned \$111

Composting food scraps from community center kitchen project under way

Adopt a Weed project to cut down on pesticide use on grounds, other discussions

Natural Step Training at LBCC May 11 – three attendees

Connected with church building committee to incorporate energy saving ideas in plans

Many other projects in process