

No. 0122

(Sense-of-the-Assembly)

CONCERNING GREEN CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) EVENTS

ADOPTED by the General Assembly

Background Information

A green event is one that can be defined as environmentally friendly. Organizers of green events strive to:

- "reduce the amount of waste generated; and
- "use degradable, environmentally-friendly green products--those made from recycled content; and
- "recycle all paper, aluminum and glass; and
- "reduce the amount of giveaways distributed or carefully select environmentally-friendly giveaways; and
- "reuse items whenever possible; and
- "explore other ways to create green events, from more environmentally-friendly food and hotel services to alternative transportation.

More than 3,000 members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have signed the Alverna Covenant committing themselves to support recycling efforts. The Alverna Covenant states that

WHEREAS,
God has created the world with finite resources
God has given to us the stewardship of the earth
God has established order through many natural cycles

WHEREAS,
We are consuming resources at a rate that cannot be maintained
We are interrupting many natural cycles
We are irresponsibly modifying the environment through consumption and pollution
We are populating the earth at a rate that cannot be maintained

AS A MEMBER OF THE HUMAN FAMILY AND A FOLLOWER OF JESUS CHRIST, I HEREBY COVENANT THAT:

- I will change my lifestyle to reduce my contribution to pollution
- I will support recycling efforts
- I will search for sustainable lifestyles
- I will work for public policies which lead to a just and sustainable society

I will share these concerns with others and urge them to make this covenant.

WHEREAS, Genesis 1.24-25 states, And God said, Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind. And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Verse 2.9 goes on to say, Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food... ; and

WHEREAS one in every four mammals and one in every eight birds are at risk of extinction, according to the most comprehensive analysis of global conservation ever undertaken, a report released Sept. 28, 2000 by the World Conservation Union's 2000 Red List of Threatened Species. Extinction rates are 1,000 to 10,000 times higher than under natural conditions. (Associated Press story by Mara D. Bellaby; Sept. 29, 2000) Human over consumption has accelerated the natural rate of extinction; and

WHEREAS, as Christians we have a moral and ethical obligation toward stewardship of natural and financial resources; and

WHEREAS, how we conduct local, regional and general church events can exacerbate or reduce environmental problems. Examples of exacerbated problems include:

- "diminished landfill space;
- "air and water pollution;
- "expended energy resources;
- "global warming;
- "depleted natural resources;

Indirect consequences of our actions can contribute to:

- "poverty;
- "pervasiveness of cancers;
- "toxic poisoning of neighborhoods where people of color and low income people are concentrated; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has adopted Resolution 8315 concerning an ecologically responsible Christian Life Style, Resolution 8932 concerning recycling and Resolution 9320 For Sustainable Community;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), meeting in Kansas City, Missouri., July 13 to 17, 2001, adopt the Alverna Covenant as a way of life and also support organizing green events for general, regional and local church-related activities.