

# Touch the Earth Gently

On April 19, 1989, the Session of the Towson Presbyterian Church adopted the following:

*"God gave people responsibility for the use and care of the earth and all life upon it. To be faithful stewards, it is necessary to co-exist with and safeguard all of God's creation.*

*In order to be faithful to God, the Towson Presbyterian Church adopts the policy that in everything we do, or allow others to do, in this church we will work toward a cleaner, safer environment. We will use, whenever possible, products made from renewable resources and will sustain an effort to find new ways to preserve God's creation."*

In 1989, we also joined a program of the PCUSA (Presbyterian Church U.S.A.) in a Peacemaking Commitment to "make peace with the earth and involve the congregation in efforts to protect and restore the environment."

## Earth Corps at Towson Presbyterian Church Environmental Stewardship

In 1993, TPC pledged to heal and defend God's creation as outlined by the Social Justice and Peacemaking Ministry of the PC (USA).

In 1998, Towson Presbyterian Church agreed to be an Environmental Justice Covenant Congregation. We promised to protect and restore creation in the following ways:

- ⇒ in our WORSHIP service,
- ⇒ by TEACHING children and ourselves about ways to treat the earth more gently,
- ⇒ by ENCOURAGING individuals and congregations to ADOPT LIFESTYLES of consuming, conserving, and sharing that promote a sustainable environment, and
- ⇒ by SUPPORTING PUBLIC EFFORTS that are just to the vulnerable and the poor.

In 2006, the TPC Session reaffirmed the above covenants and pledged to support Earth Corps in its efforts to preserve God's creation. In 2007, TPC became a member of the Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light to address challenges and opportunities in energy conservation.

### Earth Corps Members

|                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Charlie Conklin, Chair | Roger Rice   |
| Carol Appleby          | Ann Rudd     |
| Carol McCord           | Barrett Rudd |
| Ann Phillips           | Lark Schultz |

We meet the second Tuesday of every month at 4:00 p.m. in the Library. Please join us.

**“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to till it and keep it.” Genesis 2:15**

God called us to care for the earth responsibly, to share its fruits, and to preserve its beauty and keep it for future generations.

The earth has not been well cared for. Natural resources have been used without regard to sustainability. Pollution of the land, the air, and the water has affected our health and has led to loss of animal and plant habitat. Pristine and untouched areas have been despoiled. All Creation is threatened.

The Earth Corps aims to involve the congregation of TPC in carrying out these efforts to preserve and restore Creation by doing the following:

- ◆ Using reusable products instead of styrofoam.
- ◆ Recycling paper, cans, and bottles in church facilities.
- ◆ Selling fair-traded coffee to support small farmers who grow their coffee in an environmentally safe way.
- ◆ Urging members to recycle ink jet cartridges from their computers; inks are harmful, even in landfills.



**Environmental  
Stewardship,  
Action, and  
Spirituality**

- ◆ Providing special programs for the entire Church School during Earth month in which they experience nature and are inspired to treat God’s earth with respect through:
  - ⇒ Earth care discussions in church school classes
  - ⇒ Visits to local parks for educational events
  - ⇒ Reading special books to pre-school children
  - ⇒ Engaging youth in planting trees at Cromwell Valley Park
  - ⇒ Planting BayScapes garden on church grounds.
- ◆ Providing books on caring for Creation in both the Bookworm (Children’s Library) and Adult Church Library.
- ◆ Including in worship and prayer references to appreciating and respecting the earth with which we have been blessed.
- ◆ Arranging for Plumblin speakers who further articulate topics related to stewardship of creation.
- ◆ Calling attention to the websites of the:
  - Presbyterian Church U.S.A. <http://www.pcusa.org/washington>
  - National Council of Churches [www.ncccojustice.org](http://www.ncccojustice.org),
  - Presbyterians for Restoring Creation—[www.prcweb.org/index.cfm](http://www.prcweb.org/index.cfm).
  - Presbytery of Baltimore Care of Creation Task Group—<http://www.baltimorepresbytery.org/CareofCreation.htm>
  - Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light-[www.gwipl.org](http://www.gwipl.org).
- ◆ For Energy Conservation, monitoring and upgrading windows, doors, lighting, heating, and air conditioning systems in present and upcoming renovations and improvements.

