

**Provided by the Eco-Justice Team of the
Congregational Support Network,
Presbytery of the Cascades**

**CARING FOR CREATION:
GOOD EARTHKEEPING IDEA # 1
Set up a Caring for Creation
Corner to Inform and Inspire**

WHAT: An idea for putting creation stewardship into action in your congregation. "Caring for Creation Corner" as demonstrated in a bulletin board, table or magazine type stand. This can be a place to inform, promote, sponsor and solicit volunteers for eco-justice events and concerns.

WHY:

- Providing accessible, easy to act on information helps people act on their stewardship values.
- Having a place set aside to provide practical information on a regular basis supports lifestyle changes and is a visible demonstration of your congregation's commitment to creation stewardship.

HOW:

1. Contact your custodial, building committee, librarian, session and make arrangements to discuss or present the idea.
2. Locate a bulletin board either free standing or a wall space for one. Locate a small table that can be put with it and a magazine rack may also be useful.
3. Begin a series of announcements during services and in your newsletter about the "Caring for Creation Corner" center. This is also a good time to begin a series of short useful tidbits in the newsletter under this heading that include information about recycling, energy efficiency, new situations of eco-justice concern, announcements about eco-justice events and new bulletin board changes as they come.
4. At Westminster Salem, we separated the board into two sections. Two-thirds of it focused on stewardship of creation themes and one-third with volunteer opportunities and needs. Boxes are placed on the table to collect items for

organizations such as the local food bank, military, SOS, and Humane Society. Also displays with handouts and flyers such as for Crop Walk, workshops, recycling, water conservation, mass transit information are included on the table.

5. The bulletin board themes are rotated depending on the season, church eco-justice forums being presented and Presbytery themes. You may wish to take pictures of these along with some of the information and keep them in a folder to use again.

6. The bulletin board could also be used as a sequential study board presenting a series over a month with lessons and information on the table. (See Keeping and Healing the Creation study topics p. 84-98 for ideas)

7. Keep it current and relevant and remind the congregation and session of its location and topics and they will begin to count on it.

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RESOURCES: Contact your local utility or local government to get free brochures. Also contact your local Oregon State Extension office for resources on best environmental practices. Presbyterian Eco-Justice Task Force, Keeping and Healing the Creation, Presbyterian Distribution Service, #033-89-101. Especially pp.74-75, 84-98. Presbyterian Church, USA. National Ministries Division, For the Beauty of the Earth, Church and Society July/August 1996. "Healing Creation Where We Are: by Nancy Corsen Carter. Presbyterians for Restoring Creation. www.prcweb.org.

