

Justice & Witness Team
Earthwise Church Recognition Series

Adopted, 2009-04-18

Revised 2011-03-17

Preface

This implements the Earthwise Congregation resolution adopted by the 2008 Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ, June 8, 2008. It was referred to the Justice Witness Team for administration.

The purpose of this Recognition Series is to encourage congregations and church groups to engage the challenges posed by climate change at whatever level their understanding and resources permit. This is recognition, not competition.

Overview

There are four ways to be recognized. These are explained later in the document.

1. Green Church
2. Earth Church
3. Earthwise Commitment
4. Earthwise Congregation

This is an annual recognition program. We are encouraging on-going activity.

- a. We assume that becoming, achieving, and maintaining a green church - Earthwise Congregation is more process than goal.
 1. No matter where you are in your Green-Earthwise congregation journey, *apply for the recognition.*
 2. Apply even if you're unsure if your process or outcomes 'fit' our expectations: *your congregation has to start some place and we are committed to being fair and flexible.*
- b. Apply every year.
 1. Apply if you are maintaining what you started and have already been recognized for (keeping going is an achievement).
 2. THE GOAL: that some day every congregation in the Minnesota Conference will be recognized as a Green-Earthwise congregation.

SHOW US WHAT YOU ARE DOING, ACHIEVING:

When applying for any recognition: DO submit at least 3 (and no more than 5) digital photographs illustrating your commitment, accomplishments, and celebrating the 'green people' in your congregation.

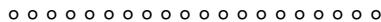
3. Earthwise Commitment -

- a. Has completed a congregation wide process of hearings and education that resulted in a vote to engage the process of becoming an Earthwise Congregation;
- b. Is achieving through the use of all the actions outlined for the Green Church and Earth Church awards;
- c. Is committed to and in the process of acting on least two energy audit recommendations.

4. Earthwise Congregation

A. **IMPORTANT -- THIS IS A MAJOR COMMITMENT** - for more complete information, please see both the actual 2008 Earthwise resolution on the Minnesota Conference website and also *The Parameters of The Earthwise Congregation* that is included with this packet.

- a. Has made the Earthwise Commitment and is doing the other actions outlined for being an 'Earthwise Commitment Congregation.'
- b. Is committed to and engaged in significant effort to accomplish in a substantive way all of the goals and objectives for being an Earthwise Congregation
- c. Maintaining the Earthwise congregation designation requires a continuing commitment and annual renewal.
- d. Please see this document: *The Parameters Of The Earthwise Congregation (as set forth in the resolution approved at the 2008 Minnesota Conference Annual Meeting)*.



Stay active. Maintain your commitment. Work at expanding your green church Earthwise commitment. Then celebrate and share your story by annually reapplying for recognition. Show everyone the changes and progress your congregation is making.

Special note: Earthwise Congregation designation requires an annual report of the continuing efforts.