



## Proposed Resolution

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### **RESOLUTION TITLE: Becoming Better Stewards in Caring for the Earth**

Please refer to Resolution Guidelines in preparing this information.

1. State the purpose or proposed action of this resolution.

*To commit to finding ways of becoming better stewards of God's creation.*

2. The mission and/or teaching ministry of the Conference will be impacted in the following way by this resolution:

*To give focus to and make a witness for issues of sustainability and care of creation in solidarity with the Penn Central Conference that penned the language for this resolution.*

3. Identify to whom this resolution is addressed and who will implement it on behalf of the Rocky Mountain Conference.

*Churches, Associations, & the Conference; to be implemented by all the people.*

4. Indicate estimated costs and where the money will come from.

*Costs dependent upon each church, association, and conference as deemed appropriate and/or necessary.*

5. A report back may be called for. If so, to whom, by whom, how and when?

*A report back may be called for by the JPMT or Board of Directors of the RMC to local congregations and the conference. This can be done at the 2008 Annual Meeting or anytime afterward, to be presented at subsequent Annual Meetings if appropriate and/or necessary.*

Submitted by : *Justice & Peace Ministry Team, Rocky Mountain Conference (JPMT)*

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## **Resolution: Becoming Better Stewards...**

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WHEREAS God created the earth and all that is in it, and designed nature to be in harmonious balance; and

WHEREAS God created humankind to be God's supreme expression of love, and assigned humankind to tend the garden and be caretakers and stewards of the created order; and

WHEREAS Our failure to lovingly care for the earth and seek its renewal is a form of human sinfulness, needing repentance, God's forgiveness and restoration to God's intended harmony; and

WHEREAS The earth is presently suffering from increased carbon-dioxide emissions which many believe is cause by or increased by human activity, waste and irresponsibility; and

WHEREAS Studies show that taking actions now to significantly reduce heat-trapping gasses (previously called greenhouse gases) can slow global warming to protect future generations; and

WHEREAS We recognize that this is not a political issue, but a moral issue; and

WHEREAS We are convinced that "because we can't fix everything" is no excuse for doing nothing.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the delegates to the 34th Annual Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ, meeting in Rock Springs, Wyoming, on June 13, 14, 15, 2008, commits itself as a church and through its many agencies and congregations to dedicate ourselves to "living green",

BY Encouraging change in our own homes and offices, local churches, institutions of higher learning, health and social service agencies, and with all who are in covenant as the UCC, to improve our stewardship of the earth by working on the following agenda in the ensuing years;

BY Reducing our use of fossil fuels for heating and air conditioning by use of timed thermostats and ceiling fans and seeking alternative sources of energy such as solar, wind-powered or other renewable sources of energy;

BY Using florescent light bulbs wherever possible and replacing older refrigerators, washers and furnaces with more energy-efficient models;

BY Reducing waste in homes, offices and churches at "coffee hour" and meal functions by replacing paper, plastic, and Styrofoam products with washable alternatives;

BY Encouraging use of electric, hybrid and higher mileage automobiles, trucks, lawnmowers, tractors and snow removal machinery;

BY Strategic planting of trees and bushes to provide shade for roofs on institutional buildings, churches and members' homes to reduce the need for air-conditioning;



## **Resolution: Becoming Better Stewards... (cont'd.)**

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- BY Planting trees for reforestation and reoxygenation of the planet (a wonderful project for Youth Groups!)
- BY Encouraging electronic distribution of newsletters and reports as much as possible to reduce the use of paper, copying machinery and postage used by producing and mailing these items to parishioners, members of committees and other interested individuals;
- BY Turning DOWN the thermostat in winter and turning UP the thermostat in summer by only a few degrees for further conservation;
- BY Replacing water heater tanks with more efficient ones or with “on demand” systems placed near sinks, not only to prevent heating and re-heating the same water when it is not used often, but also to reduce the loss of water that flows down the drain while waiting for hot water to travel from water heaters to sinks;
- BY Carpooling, biking, walking, or choosing public transportation whenever possible, and encouraging bus routes to have stops by our churches, especially on Sunday mornings;
- BY Choosing locally grown foods or organically grown foods, which eliminate the need for long-distance hauling, extra processing and packaging;
- BY Encouraging and increasing our efforts at recycling, following local community guidelines and collection center standards, and seeking increased capacity for recycling even more items;
- BY Choosing “green hotels” and sustainable environment tourist companies when traveling;
- BY Being advocates for the earth with global and local governments and corporations;
- BY Celebrating Arbor Day and Earth Day in worship and study, to recall our interconnectedness with all life on the planet; and
- BY not limiting ourselves to the specific suggestions listed in this resolution, but through prayer, study, research and network sharing, to find further ways of “living green”; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that creative ideas and information be shared with our churches and institutions to encourage other changes and improvements through conversation and through the website of the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ (<http://www.rmcucc.org/>), to encourage greater success by all of us in the succeeding months and years.

END OF RESOLUTION