

**FLORIDA CONFERENCE
CREATION CARE CHURCH RECOGNITION APPLICATION FORM**

To be recognized as a CREATION CARE CHURCH at Annual Conference, complete and mail this form before January 31 of the year to be recognized.

Mail to: **Florida United Methodist Conference Creation Care Task Force**
c/o Director of Justice & Outreach Ministries, 450 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave., Lakeland, FL 33815-1522

NAME OF CHURCH _____

NAME OF PASTOR _____ DATE _____

NAME OF REPORTING INDIVIDUAL _____ PHONE _____

FOUR ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS

The four Environmental Areas are:

- Environmental Witness
- Environmental Education
- Environmental Services
- Environmental Action

Each congregation participating in the program should establish a Green Team, an environmental stewardship ministry team, consisting of people from the congregation who are interested in leading and carrying out environmental stewardship activities in the four environmental areas to preserve God's created order.

FOUR RECOGNITION LEVELS

Creation Care Church recognition levels are established as follows:

- Bronze Recognition - 1 environmental stewardship activity in each of the 4 environmental areas;
(4 environmental stewardship activities/year)
- Silver Recognition - 2 environmental stewardship activities in each of the 4 environmental areas;
(8 environmental stewardship activities/year)
- Gold Recognition - 3 environmental stewardship activities in each of the 4 environmental areas;
(12 environmental stewardship activities/year)
- Platinum Recognition - 4 environmental stewardship activities in each of the 4 environmental areas;
(16 environmental stewardship activities/year)

Circle the Recognition Level (above) that your church is applying for.

1. **Environmental Witness Activities** - Circle & briefly explain the witness activities that are ongoing at your church, and which new or different activities were added this year. Use space below for brief explanations.
 - Speak & write about importance of people being involved in environmental stewardship
 - Sermons, resolutions, petitions to congregation, district, and conference
 - Devotions; classes for church groups and committees
 - Speak before community groups about the church's environmental stewardship
 - Other - list with brief explanation.

If necessary, attach another sheet with this application. Be sure to include your church's name.

2. Environmental Education Activities- Circle & briefly explain the education activities that are ongoing at your church, and which new or different activities were added this year. Use space below for brief explanations.

- Educate yourself
- Buy environmental resources for church library
- Educate your congregation
- Newsletter articles on environmental issues
- Hold an Environmental Fair
- Have a simple environmental audit of your church that would address the following:
 - Energy usage patterns
 - Current conservation practices
 - Church's level of compliance with local recycling procedures
 - Policy for using non-disposable materials, environmentally friendly cleaning supplies, etc.
 - Landscaping policies that direct use of native species, landscape chemicals, etc.
- Current religious education programs relating to environment for children & adults
- How does your worship integrate creation care?
- How is creation care a part of your overall social action program?
- Other - list with brief explanation

3. Environmental Services Activities - Circle & briefly explain the service activities that are ongoing at your church, and which new or different activities were added this year. Use space below for brief explanations

- Become an Energy Star Congregation - get with utility companies for energy audits
- Install water saving devices
- Plant native trees and shrubs
- Emphasize reusable instead of disposable
- Have recycling center(s) within church building to collect recyclables
- Recruit volunteers to wash cups & dishes
- Make racks for Sunday coffee mugs at church
- Do environmental clean-up projects (in church or community)
- Other - list with brief explanation

4. Environmental Action Activities- Circle & briefly explain the action activities that are ongoing at your church, and which new or different activities were added this year. Use space below for brief explanations

- Provide access information about environmental justice issues, i.e. a church website or newsletter
- Post copy of UMC's stewardship of the natural world (The Book of Resolutions, 2008)
- Support a Compact Fluorescent Light bulb (CFL) Project
- Develop plan for proper disposal of church's hazardous waste and toxic materials
- Other - list with brief explanation

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