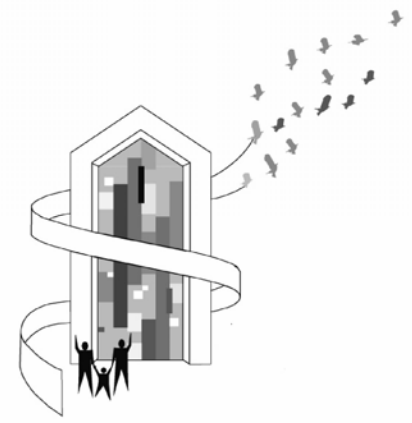


The First Congregational Church
of the United Church of Christ
Boulder, Colorado

WHOLE-EARTH COVENANT



Adopted 2002

We, as members of the First Congregational Church (UCC) in Boulder, Colorado, and the Earth community in which God's Spirit is incarnate, in response to God's love for us, pledge to love and care for everything in God's ongoing Creation.

We will practice humility in our relationships to Earth and all its systems. We will actively work toward harmonious relationships among all members of the global ecosystem. We will strive to deal humanely with population issues so that all humans can live at or above some minimum comfort level within the limits of space on our finite planet. We will strive to live within the limits of our renewable resources so that there is potable water, adequate food, and reasonable shelter for all. We will actively work to free ourselves as quickly as possible from dependence on non-renewable resources for our short-term economic well-being and from the culture of limitless consumption. We will, with God's guidance, embrace our responsibility to care for the earth.

A CALL TO ACTION

To implement our words with actions, we pledge to work to make our church a model community which incorporates respect for the environment in all our activities, and to personally examine our lifestyles to determine where we might reduce our individual impacts on this planet.

Education: We pledge to develop a strong educational program to inform ourselves and our friends and families about the limits to growth in human activities on a finite planet and the challenge to a sustainable future caused by continued increase in population and in consumption of limited Earth resources. We will provide education about the spiritual basis for our actions and practical suggestions for how to reduce our ecological footprint (the sum of areas on the planet that are required to support our personal and communal consumption of natural resources). We will also disseminate information about the ongoing efforts of our church community to live in closer harmony with the earth.

Function and Management: We pledge to manage the resources required to operate our church and homes with the intention of minimizing waste, reducing energy use, and striving to responsibly use the physical grounds of the church. We pledge to do regular environmental audits of our church buildings and grounds to measure the effectiveness of our actions.

Mission and Outreach: We pledge to make consideration of the environment a key element in decisions regarding the use of our money and talent in the larger community and our mission efforts, with particular emphasis placed on the conscious reduction in growth of Earth's population to a sustainable number.

Worship: We pledge to lift our relationship with the Earth through word and music in worship, affirming the joy and responsibility that are ours to love and care for everything in God's creation.

Implementation: A committee shall be appointed by the Church Council which will enable and oversee activities in each of these areas.