

REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON CHRISTIAN LIFE STYLE AND ECOLOGY

RECEIVED by the General Assembly

The Task Force on Christian Life Style and Ecology was created by the Administrative Committee of the General Board, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in response to General Assembly Resolution 7754, "Resolution Concerning A Task Force on Ecology." It is related to the Division of Homeland Ministries for administration. The Task Force was created to make recommendations on environmental stewardship and lifestyle matters to members, congregations, regions and general units of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The Task Force is pleased to report a steadily increasing concern for environmental stewardship and lifestyle issues within both the church and society. The widely publicized celebration of Earth Day 1990 resulted in a swelling of interest and action. For example, many bodies of the church have ended the practice of using disposable table service. The use of recycled material is increasingly common. The Alverna Covenant (environmental stewardship covenant created by the Task Force) was signed by more than 1800 persons in 1990. This brings the total number of signers to more than 3000.

The Task Force is distressed to report that the state of the environment is only minimally improved. Much more work needs to be done including careful attention to lifestyle adjustments, consumption reduction, production methods and amounts monitoring, reuse processes development, and recycling.

The Task Force is interested in hearing the concerns and reports of actions by Disciples on ecological and life style issues. Communications may be addressed to: Task Force on Christian Life Style and Ecology, P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

Task Force members are appointed for six-year terms and meet annually. Members of the Task Force and the year of completion of appointment are as follows:

1991

Phillip Abel, Cleveland, OH  
Melinda Mains, Bedford IN  
Jerry McCoy, Eureka, IL  
Joe Stump, Indianapolis, IN

1993

J. Gregory Alexander, Fort Madison, IA  
Franklin D. Williams, Orlando, FL  
Rene' R. Jensen, Lenexa, KS  
D. Bruce Wilson, Mesilla Park, NM

1995

Beth Blankenship, Lexington, KY  
Janet Fountain, Milton, Nova Scotia  
Richard D. Coleman, Nashville, TN  
Darryl M. Trimiew, Fort Worth, TX

General Staff  
Rolland G. Pfile

THE ALVERNA COVENANT

**Whereas:**

God has created the world with finite resources  
God has given to us the stewardship of the earth  
God has established order through many natural cycles

**Whereas:**

We are consuming resources at a rate that cannot be maintained  
We are interrupting many natural cycles  
We are irresponsibly modifying the environment through consumption and pollution  
We are populating the earth at a rate that cannot be maintained

**As a member of the human family and a follower of Jesus Christ, I hereby covenant that:**

I will change my lifestyle to reduce my contribution to pollution  
I will support recycling efforts  
I will search for sustainable lifestyles  
I will work for public policies which lead to a just and sustainable society  
I will share these concerns with others and urge them to make this covenant.