

## Disciples Green Chalice CERTIFICATION Program—Overview

The purpose of the Green Chalice CERTIFICATION Program is to support and recognize local Disciples congregations, ministries, and assemblies who wish to respond to God's call to guard and protect creation. This program is designed to empower current Green Chalice Congregations, Ministries, and Assemblies to expand their current creation care work, to be leaders in creation care, and to recognize how they are impacting local and global communities.

### Four-Step Process

The Green Chalice CERTIFICATION program is a four-step process that begins with commitment and education and ends with achievement and recognition.

#### Step 1: Commitment

Become a Green Chalice congregation/ministry/assembly. This involves the following actions:

1. Create a Creation Care Team\*
2. Adopt the Green Chalice Covenant\*
3. Make any three changes that help your congregation, ministry or assembly walk more gently on the earth\*

E-mail Rev. Carol Devine the above information and request examples of the work from other CERTIFIED Green Chalice Congregations\*

#### Step 2: Setting Goals

Set goals in all areas of the church, ministry or assembly. These goals should incorporate both new and existing programs, and should be set based on the church's overall achievement goals. The areas are:

- Building/Facility
- Grounds/Property
- Worship and Office Practices
- Education/Outreach/Justice

#### Step 3: Implementation

Implement the goals the creation care team set in each of the four areas (see Overview). The implementation of these goals may take 18 months to 2 years as programs as projects are created and established. During this time, the creation care team should be in contact with the Green Chalice Minister for support, ideas, and guidance.

#### **Step 4: Achievement**

The final step of the program is for a congregation/ministry/assembly to achieve its goals and to receive its certification. Certification will be awarded once the final application is received and reviewed. The CERTIFICATION application should include:

1. An easy to follow form with all of the achievements and the earned points
2. A narrative that describes the whole process and each achievement
3. The signature of the creation care team and the senior pastor
4. Contact information including an email address, phone number and mailing address.

The creation care team will be notified by email of CERTIFIED status and then will receive a certificate and beautiful plaque in the mail. The name of the congregation, ministry or assembly will be added to the growing list on the website.

#### **Certification renewal**

Congregations should renew their commitment and certification by making improvements in every area at least every 3 years.

## **Disciples Green Chalice CERTIFICATION**

The Green Chalice CERTIFICATION includes four areas in the life of the congregation/ministry/assembly in which changes must be made. A minimum of 10 credits must be achieved in each area, for a total of 40 credits. A list of the four areas appears below.

**Any credit marked with a \* is required for CERTIFICATION.**

NOTE: Congregations/Ministries/Assemblies, who do not own a building or have land, can achieve certification by earning 10 points in the other three areas.

Document the process of how each of the achievements is earned.

### **Commitment**

Create a Creation Care Team\*

Adopt the Green Chalice Covenant\*

Make three changes in any area\*

Notify Rev. Carol Devine of your commitment as listed above and your intention to begin work toward Green Chalice Certification\*

### **Four Areas:**

- Building/Facility
- Grounds/Property
- Worship and Office Practices
- Education/Outreach/Justice

### **Building/Facility: Energy Audit and Evaluation (10 Credits)**

Goal: Conduct an energy audit and evaluation to determine ways to reduce energy consumption and make appropriate changes.

- Conduct an Energy Audit of Church/Ministry/Assembly Facility (1 credit)\*
- Meet certification criteria outlined in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for Existing Buildings (9 credits)
- Meet certification criteria outlined in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for new building construction (9 credits)
- Reduce Energy Consumption (4-8 credits, Bonus credit for 30+ percent)
- Replace windows (4-8 credits)
- Create an Energy Policy to guide responsible energy use (1 credit)
- Upgrade lighting systems for energy efficiency (1 credit)
- Use occupancy sensors in appropriate areas (1 credit)
- Install a Programmable Thermostat

- Use temperature setbacks in building for energy conservation (1 credit)
- Derive a percentage of total electricity consumed from renewable sources such as wind, solar, and/or geothermal (1 credit)
- Install solar panels or wind turbines (1-9 credits)
- Install low-flow water faucets (1 credit)
- Install low-flow toilets (1 credit)
- Congregational innovation (1-9 credits)

### **Grounds/Property (10 Credits)**

Goal: To enhance the quality of life in the community while preserving resources and restoring the land.

- Use no chemicals on the landscape (1 credit)\*
- Use gray or rain water for irrigation (1-3 credits)
- Recycle lawn and tree trimmings for mulch to be applied on grounds (1 credit)
- Use native plant species in landscape (xeriscaping) (1-3 credits)
- Restore Natural Habitat (1-3 credits)
- Reduce Water Runoff (1-3 credits)
- Implement Integrated Pest Management practices into land-care plan to reduce or eliminate chemical use (1-3 credits)
- Install Rain Barrels for watering (1 credit)
- Install Butterfly garden (1-3 credits)
- Create rain gardens for storm water quality improvement (1-3 credits)
- Plant trees on church property or in community (1-3 credits)
- Congregational innovation (1-8 credits)

### **Worship and Church Practices (10 Credits)**

Goal: To reduce the congregation's ecological impacts on people, land, air, and water.

- Replace all toxic cleaners with safe cleaners (1 credit)\*
- Cleaning service (if applicable) is Green Seal Certified or meets the certification criteria for the Green Seal Environmental Standard for Cleaning Services (1 credit)
- Adopt sustainable operational and management policies (1 credit each)
- Create recycling program for paper, glass, aluminum and accepted plastics (1-3 credits)
- Reduce or eliminate use of disposable dinnerware (1-3 credits)
- Serve local foods at meals (1-3 credits)
- Serve fair trade coffee through Disciples Coffee Program (1 credit)

- Purchas Eco-Palms (1 credit)
- Provide Eco-Tips in newsletter (1 credit)
- Establish compost system for kitchen food scraps (1 credit)
- Install a bicycle rack in parking area (1 credit)
- Create operational practices related to building and energy use (1 credit)
- Regularly include creation in worship through prayers, liturgy, sermons and hymns (1-3 credits)
- Congregational innovation (1-8 credits)

### **Education/Outreach/Justice (10 credits)**

Goal: To take the lead in modeling what is possible in your Disciples community while educating the wider community as well.

- Create/Host environmental or sustainable program for children and/or youth (1-4 credits)\*
- Create/Host Environmental Educational Events/Classes (1-3 credits)
- Host gardening, cooking, and/or canning classes (1-3 credits)
- Host a Green VBS (1-3 credits)
- Partner with local organizations for Advocacy (1-3 credits)
- Create/Host a community Garden (3-6 credits)
- Save seeds from Garden, Share Seeds, Support Seedsaver organizations (1 credit)
- Host a farmer's market (1 - 3 credits)
- Provide fresh produce to a food pantry (1-3 credits)
- Raise chickens on church grounds (3 credits)
- Start a clothing closet (1- 3 credits)
- Create an educational program to highlight new practices (1-4 credits)
- Develop an Environmental Learning Center (1-3 credits)
- Develop system for repurposing, reusing or recycling items that otherwise might be thrown away. (1-3 credits)
- Support tree planting programs (1 credit)
- Participate in carbon offsets (1 credit)
- Congregational innovation (1-8 credits)