

Part II: Stewards of Creation

Although Chicago tends to trick us, spring has sprung around the city! Put away the winter coats and get the porch furniture out, because summer is also around the corner in our hometown. During these spring and summer months we tend to eat outside more, take nature walks, host picnics at the local park, or enjoy the beautiful lakefront. We commonly take advantage of the environment during these months, without considering what we can give back to the environment. How often do we find ourselves planting a tree, picking up trash at the park, recycling our picnic tableware when we are done with it?

The call to stewardship includes a responsibility to prayerfully consider how we care for God's creation. Rather we are caring for our earth by recycling or considering occupations that lessen our burden on the environment, we are called to respect all aspects life that God has given to us. We are called to be leaders in a noble effort to ensure that our environment is maintained and protected for many generations to come. We are called to protect the homes of all of God's creatures and realize the impact of our daily lives on them. Our entire world is a gift, from the creatures in the sea to the air we breathe; it is no exaggeration that this gift is precious. I hope during the upcoming months as we enjoy and take advantage of the nice weather outside, that we also consider giving back to the environment that gives so much to us.

Stewardship Recommendation:

Think about your own church environment.

- How are you caring for your campus?
- How are your events or programs utilizing recycling practices, but also thinking of other materials that could be used again at another event?
- Do you have someone on your stewardship committee that is tasked with focusing on the environment? Consider adding this position to your team and coordinating their efforts among your ministries to ensure that we are being mindful of God's creation and our responsibility to care for it.