

The following report was compiled by ESTF member Patricia Vance.

2023 Synod Assembly Creation Care SURVEY REPORT

Q1 – Advocating for policies: 19 of the 44 survey respondents advocate for Creation Care policies at least every few months; 1 congregation does daily; 17/44 do annually; 15 said never.

Additional comments: 1) some considered recycling as advocacy; 2) one said it was mentioned frequently in sermons but no action was taken; 3) one would like more info on how.

Q2 – Sharing concerns with local businesses: 8 of the 44 who responded said “at least every few months”; 3 said annually; 30 never. *Additional comments were centered around using examples of specific issues and opportunities.*

Q3 – Expressing God’s love and care for Creation in the congregation: 30 of 44 said this expression was regularly done with sermons; 42 used prayers (i.e. prayers of intercession, etc); 14 used storytelling and newsletters; 14 respondents related God’s love and care of Creation to social issues.

Eight comments on this question centered on actions – recycling, energy efficient equipment, hands-on projects, avoiding foam, posting info around the church building, and stewardship committee efforts.

Q4 – What specific actions has your congregation taken beyond those above? [answered by 42/44]: 20 reduced use of disposable plastic; 21 investigated use of alternative energy sources; 27 did a utility audit for the church property; 17 use Fair Trade coffee at church; 31 installed more energy efficient appliances, HVAC, etc.

Q5 – Does your congregaton have a committee on environmental issues? 10/43 yes; 33/43 no. One noted that each committee addresses climate/creation aspects of their work.

Q6 – Do you have a committee on environmental justice? 5/43 yes; 38/43 no.

Q7 – The survey was taken by 13 rostered leaders and 31 lay members.

Q8 – The responses reflect the representation of 30 congregations total.

For additional information about the Environmental Stewardship Task Force (ESTF), please visit the synod’s website pages for the task force at:

<https://www.mittensynod.org/caring-for-creation-resources/>