

September 7, 2025 – Vision in Motion event (CREATION CARE)

Members present: Makena Dohm, Jim Monroe, Jim Hinds, Barbara Oster, Barbara Wright, Doug Cunningham, John Halstead, Chris and Renna Walter, Forrest Bowling, Paul Wiemerslage, Paul Busekist, and Tina Dohm

Suggested topics and questions and the answers we received:

1. **What calls us to this particular ministry?** Being good stewards, need for community, need for profession and children, teaching... Some memorable quotes are:

“Interaction with the natural world is an act of worship and part of the spiritual life more than it less stated than church but no less important.” – Paul W.

“Growing up on a farm, care for God’s creation seems natural and good.” – Jim H.

“We only have one earth, so how do we keep it?” – Tina D.

2. **What speaks to team members as major interests?** (see bulleted items below numbered items)
3. **What other ministries might we take part in?** (see bulleted items again.)
4. **Core Team Leaders will be:** Paul W, (Pastor) Paul B and Tina D
5. **Meeting frequency:** Quarterly is manageable, evenings and possible Sundays
6. **We can motivate others to join Creation Care through** effort, personal invite, guilt, daunting trash photos, etc. ☺
7. **As long as people commit and do not over commit, we have few apprehensions and much enthusiasm!**
8. **We see Alanna’s (Ministry Coordinator) position as helping our team** with Facebook updates, website exposure, bulletin and STAR additions targeting our audience.

Other notes and suggestions I had written down (some – *in italics* – helpful for all Core Teams):

- This effort is tangible
- We are planting the seeds (both literally and figuratively) for future Green Team work
- CCare is generating energy and momentum
- Could we help with wineries/breweries recycling? (Many of them currently do not recycle, and they go through LOTS of recyclable waste.)
- Might there be access to trucks (and grants for one and other efforts) to pick up recycling in the area?
- *We need to be mindful of our volunteers’ effort and ability*
- *It will be important to have photos as both proof of our events and good fellowship moments captured*
- Adopt-a-highway possibilities
- Perhaps we can work with local DNR and other entities as parks, conservation areas and trails to show which "clean up crew" (ours and others’) with signs/memos on trailheads
- The key might be having small working groups (instead of trying to create big ones that are harder to sustain and recruit.)
- HVAC-showing our energy savings
- We are a voice for fixing the building at BLC and helping it be more efficient and green at the same time
- Shred monster site as well as Paper Gator?
- Involve our conservation district and DNR (see also above)
- Lighting-grant to replace and save

SUMMARY OF VISION IN ACTION SIGN-UP SHEETS

For God's Work Our Hands (GWOH) Sunday, September 7th, 2025 (Core Team 3)

FOCUS #3: Creation Care

Description: This focus will identify ways that Bethlehem can more actively steward our resources, building/grounds and God's Creation while also more intentionally wandering and wondering faithfully in their midst. This can include activities and spiritual practices on our property and beyond, including the establishment of a "Green Team" at BLC.

People who expressed interest at the May 18th gathering (additional members are WELCOME!):

Doug Cunningham
Kristen Rivard
Tina Dohm
James Hinds
Scott Schlagel
Steve Kramer
Lindsay Susalski
Carl Lehto
Inga Nyquist
Phil Anderson

Forrest Bowling
Barbara Wright
Pat and Patti Friedli
Pastor Paul*
Jim Monroe
Aaron Thomson
Dave Susalski
Tom Christensen
Carolyn Mann

Possible Activities/Ministries:

- 8 Participate in the Community Garden/Faith Reformed Church
- 1 Explore a program such as "Paper Gator" whereby BLC would become a recycling hub in the community
- 5 Expand projects based on God's Work, Our Hands
- 4 Continued emphasis on energy and carbon saving opportunities and measures, like the solar equipment already installed at BLC (e.g. HVAC, insulation, lighting, etc.)
- 9 Support and participate in public events such as the Cherry Festival and other civic festivals where environment care and clean up is required
- 2 Engage with community and environmental groups, support/participate in their work
- 8 Regularly schedule hikes/walks, camp outings and other spiritual renewal activities in nature