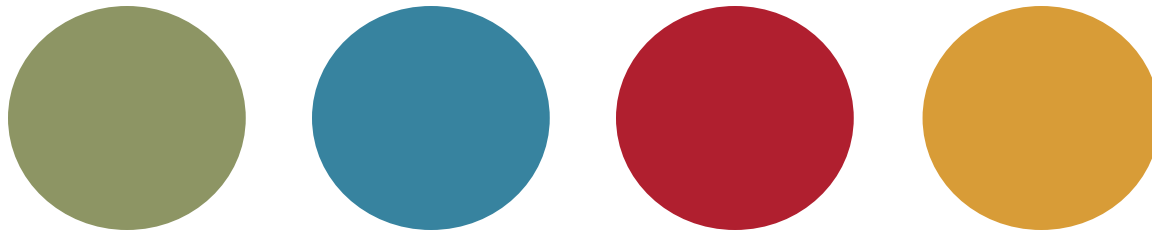


Creation Care Team

Startup Proposal



LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church

Presented by Jason Reiffer, Jim Reiffer

13 December 2010

Why form a **Creation Care Team** at LaGrave?

How will a **Creation Care Team** be structured?

What will a **Creation Care Team** do?

Who will serve on a **Creation Care Team**?

Why

form a **Creation Care Team** at LaGrave?

Biblical Mandate – Love God (creation care)

- **Creation is good**

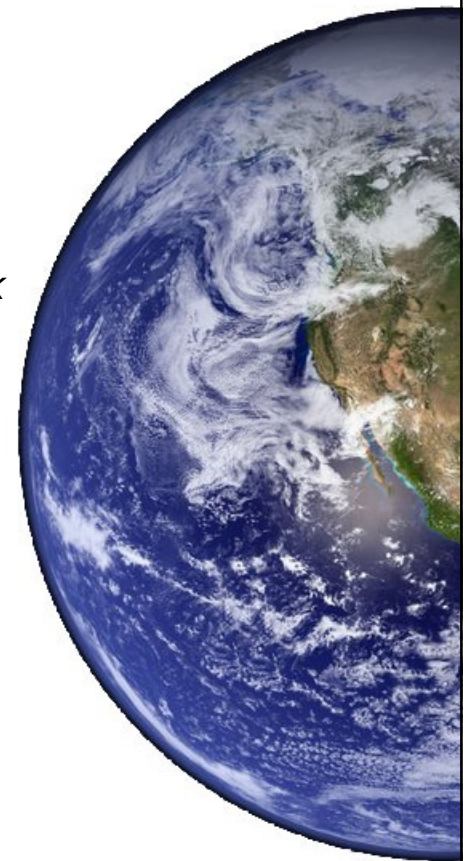
“God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.” –Genesis 2:31

- **We are to care for creation**

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.” –Genesis 2:15

- **God loves all of His creation**

“I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you – the birds, the livestock and all wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you – every living creature on the earth.” –Genesis 9:9-10



Why

form a **Creation Care Team** at LaGrave?

Biblical Mandate – Love God (creation care)

- **None of creation is ours, not even our bodies**

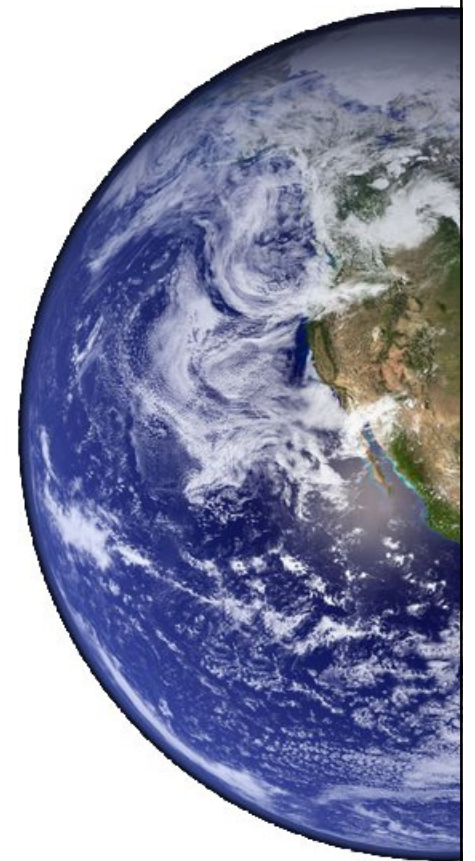
"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." –Psalm 24:1

- **God cares about all creatures**

"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father." –Matthew 10:29

- **God reveals himself through creation**

"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities...have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse." –Romans 1:20





form a **Creation Care Team** at LaGrave?

Biblical Mandate – Love your neighbor (everyone is our neighbor)

“The impact of the average U.S. citizen on the environment is approximately

3 times that of the average Italian,
 13 times that of the average Brazilian,
 35 times that of the average Indian,
 140 times that of the average Bangladeshi,
 and 250 times that of the average sub-Saharan African.”

UNICEF, The State of the World's Children



“Despite significant improvements in environmental protection over the past several decades, over 1.3 billion individuals worldwide live in unsafe and unhealthy physical environments. Hazardous waste generation and international movement of hazardous waste and toxic products pose some important health, environmental, legal, political, and ethical dilemmas.”

Robert D. Bullard, Ph.D. Environmental Justice Resource Center, Clark Atlanta University





Why form a **Creation Care Team** at LaGrave?

Part of the LaGrave's 2011-2015 Long Range Plan

"We will seek to be faithful stewards of Creation and the resources God has provided us."

– Goal 2, Objective 3, under the heading *Discipling*

Pragmatic Reasons

- Lower operating and life-cycle costs
- Improved health, safety, and welfare
- Improved productivity, attention span, and ability to learn

Intangibles

- It's a great story and churches should be leading the way
- The environment is becoming a primary concern, especially with our youth
- Good press – News media LOVES it
- Fosters a "green-aware" congregation



Why form a **Creation Care Team** at LaGrave?

“unChristian”

By David Kinnaman & Gabe Lyons of The Barna Group surveyed the attitudes of unchurched young people ages 16 to 29 representing a generation of 78 million people:



- 38% have a “Bad Impression of present-day Christianity”
- 17% have “Very Bad” perceptions of the Christian Faith
- 49% have a negative reaction to the word “Evangelical”
- 87% characterize the Christian Church as “Judgmental”
- 85% characterize the Christian Church as “Hypocritical”

Why form a **Creation Care Team** at LaGrave?

Did you know?

- Grand Rapids leads the nation in the number of LEED-certified buildings per capita.
- Grand Rapids ranks fifth overall nationally in the number of LEED-rated buildings, surpassing cities like Chicago, San Francisco and New York.
- GRAM is the first LEED gold-certified art museum in the country.
- Rapid Central Station is the first LEED-certified transit facility in the country.
- Keystone Church is the first LEED-certified church in the nation.





How will a **Creation Care Team** be structured?

- The **Creation Care Team** will function as a sub-committee of Facilities
- Volunteers will be solicited who have interest and/or expertise in creation care
- Funds for projects will be drawn from the Facilities budget upon their approval
- Meeting schedule and frequency will be determined by the **Creation Care Team**

What will a **Creation Care Team** do?

- **Assess** current conditions
 - Energy use
 - Material use
 - Carbon footprint
 - Attitudes
 - Etc.
- **Evaluate** options
- **Make recommendations** and bring motions to Facilities for consideration and/or approval
- **Educate** the congregation regarding various creation care topics



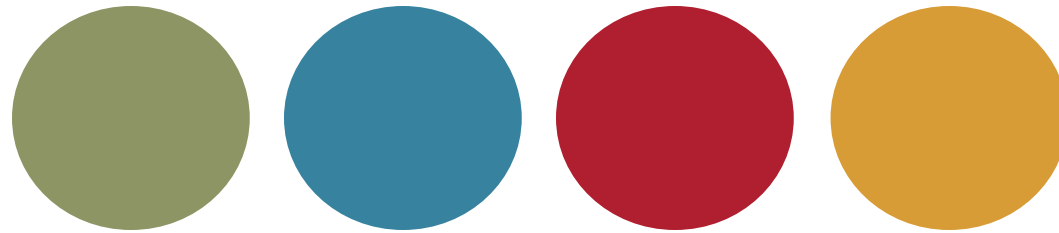
Who

will serve on a **Creation Care Team**?

- **Jason Reiffer** – Council Member, Facilities Committee Co-Chair, LEED Accredited Professional
- **Jim Reiffer** – Council Member, Biology + Environmental Teacher
- **Volunteers** – from bulletin announcements, SOS service opportunity sheets, personal invitations, LaGrave News, etc.

Motion

From Facilities Committee



That LaGrave Avenue CRC form a Creation Care Team, a sub-committee reporting to Facilities Committee, that seeks to find ways for LaGrave and its members to be faithful stewards of creation and the resources God has provided us.