

Environmental Stewardship Team Meeting: Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Attendance: Jenny, Linda, Pastor Brian, Cory, Jerry, Sandy

Start Time: 5:00 pm

End Time: 6:00pm

Next Meeting: **March 30**

- Visit the current recycling needs and current status:

Jenny informed the group of the issues with the recycling of coffee cup lids as they are being placed in the recycling container dirty. The team brainstormed ideas to help with this. Cory is working on setting up separate bins for coffee cup lids and communion cups. The current plastic bag receptacle will possibly be removed from the atrium as everything currently gets thrown in there. With the separate **labeled** containers we would be able to keep everything more manageable.

- Toilet bricks to save on water consumption at St. John:

Jenny spoke with John. He informed her that all the valves and 8 mechanisms have recently been replaced on all toilets in the building. Urinals in the childcare bathrooms are now auto flush. If we were to put a brick in the toilet, it would need to be waterproof. If the pressure were too low you may need multiple flushes which would defeat the purpose of the brick. It would be difficult to know if adding a brick would make a difference in water usage. However, this would be something to let the congregation know that they could try at home. Sometimes faucets get left on upstairs by childcare. Maybe replacing all faucets with automatic shut offs.

- Iowa Faith and Light Network (waiting to hear from Larry):

Cory has spoken to Larry and Jenny is to meet with CFU on February 18th. They would like to see the lighting in place. As soon as she knows anything about the rebate, she will let the team know so the congregation can be informed. Linda will email Missy for any information as well.

- Cedar Valley Trails Cleanup:

It was agreed that we will continue as a congregation in participation with trail clean up. Typically happens during Earth Week. Pastor Brian to communicate with the organizer on this.

- Metal Hangers:

Project did not go over well but Lind did take a box to Varsity Cleaners for recycling. Discussion took place to possibly get some boxes to area nursing homes as well as other churches and Cory will talk to other teachers for an Earth Day project in classrooms at his school.

- Old Business:

Map Project: Jerry has a lot of information about area recycling. He will work on a display for the Atrium.

Cards: Linda took a box of cards to the Western home for recycling greeting cards.

Iowa Faith and Climate Network: Jerry attended last month. Said it was an interesting meeting. They are still looking for churches to share their projects. Their next meeting is March 30th. Once we have information about the light rebate there is interest in presenting. Their website is iowafaithandclimate.org.

- New Business:

Spring Drug Take Back: April 26th

Hazard Waste: take back/recycle looking into the date.

