

A Resolution to Stop Using Polystyrene in Churches

Whereas, we see the despoiling of the environment as nothing less than the degradation of God's gracious gift of creation; and

Whereas, humans, in service to God, have special stewardship roles on behalf of the whole of creation and, being made in the image of God, are called to care for the earth as God cares for the earth; and

Whereas, polystyrene (Styrofoam TM) containers are used for the intermediate transport of food products for minutes but their environmental impact lasts for centuries; and,

Whereas, there are commercially available products and packaging that can replace polystyrene without economic loss to local congregations; and,

Whereas, most community recycling centers will not accept polystyrene in their recycling program, especially if the Styrofoam contained any kind of food or beverage item; and

Whereas, because polystyrene breaks apart into smaller pieces easily, many of these pieces end up being ingested by birds, mammals and marine life with devastating consequences; therefore be it

Resolved, that all congregations and ministries in the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod strongly consider stopping the use of polystyrene by the beginning of 2018 at the very latest; and be it finally

Resolved, that the AR-OK "Believe in Green (BiG) Network" work with congregations and clusters to find economical, more sustainable, and quality alternatives for polystyrene.

This motion comes moved and seconded by the AR-OK Discipleship (Stewardship) Team.