**Warren W. Willis United Methodist Camp and Conference Center**

*Environmental Action Plan*

The following document lays out the actions we will ask our staff and guests to carry out in fulfillment of our Environmental Action Plan. We intend for the actions we make now, and the ones we grow into, to live out disciplined stewardship of the resources God has blessed us with.

Each section will feature an aspect of our ministry that has an environmental impact, a principled stance on mitigating and minimizing that impact, actions we currently undertake, actions we intend to grow into, and actions in which we ask our guest to join us.

**Buildings**

Principle: We will practice environmental responsibility in these spaces through our use of energy, our maintenance regiments, and our cleaning strategies.

Actions:

1. We will provide recycling containers in each lodging facility and ask guests to reuse towels/linens during their stay.
2. We will maximize appliance efficiency through programmable thermostats, regular cleaning of air handlers and coils, weather-stripping, and low-flow water fixtures.
3. We will practice preventive maintenance plans that repair leaks and monitor for mold/mildew.

 Goals:

1. Employ the use of solar energy and other uses of natural energy sources.
2. Encourage good recycling habits, including reduction and reuse as a preferred alternative to recycling.
3. Install and program photocell sensors for all light and water fixtures.

Guest Actions:

1. We will ask guests to report any maintenance issues in their rooms or meeting spaces.
2. We request that guests keep windows and doors closed while HVAC is operating.
3. We request that guests keep the HVAC ducts/returns unobstructed.

**Landscape**

Principle: Our natural areas are sacred grounds for groups and individuals to connect with Christ in creation; we will maintain the sacredness of these spaces by following established responsible policies.

Actions:

1. We will practice Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ and maintain the flower beds and walkways with mulch.
2. We will maintain the conservation of our wetland areas and work to maintain our property’s natural lakefronts.
3. We will regularly maintain our landscaping equipment, continue to monitor the sprinkler system and keep the sidewalks clear of debris.
4. We will continue installing and programming Photocell Sensors for grounds lighting.

Goals:

1. Employ the use of Solar Energy and other uses of Natural Energy Sources.
2. Conserve our natural environment and stick to Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ practices.

Guest Actions:

1. We will ask guests to use our designated pathways and use garbage/recycling receptacles to avoid any litter around the property.

**Transportation**

Principle: We will be mindful of the ways our staff travels in the world, working to consume less fossil fuels and maintaining vehicles to run efficiently. We will invite and encourage our guests to practice these same principles.

Actions:

1. Our site director will utilize a hybrid vehicle for site-related transportation.
2. Our staff will use buses and vans for trips away from camp.
3. We will utilize teleconferencing for meetings that take place across distances.
4. All camp-owned vehicles will receive regular inspections and maintenance for efficient operation.
5. We will use electric golf carts as the staff's primary use of transportation around the whole site.

Goals:

1. Create electric car parking and charging stations.
2. Decrease our overall fossil fuel usage.

Guest Actions:

1. We will encourage guests to use different modes of transportation to minimize their environmental impact. We will recommend walking around the site, use of electric golf carts around the property, and employing carpooling, buses and/or vans for travel to and from our property.

**Food Service**

Principle: We will work to be mindful in our ordering practices and our preparation methods; we will work to minimize food waste and work to use waste responsibly.

Actions:

1. We will use reusable utensils, dishes, and flatware in the dining hall.
2. We will utilize appropriate portion sizing and preparation methods to avoid over-preparing of food to minimize our food waste.
3. Our staff will use the proper labeling and care of chemicals.
4. We will utilize air curtains on exterior kitchen doors.

Goals:

1. Start a food composting program in partnership with local farms and gardens.
2. Purchase EnergyStar® appliances.
3. Eliminate all styrofoam products and replace with post-consumer recycled materials.
4. Eliminate all single-use products.

Guest Actions:

1. We will encourage guests to use our reusable mugs/ their own personal mugs at the coffee stations around our property and return the cups to the appropriate disposal bins.
2. We will encourage guests to bring their own reusable water bottles and utilize our refillable water stations.
3. We will be moving towards requesting the help from guests to sort their food waste for composting.

**Waste Management**

Principle: We will be conscious of the direct and indirect impacts of our use of commodities and the waste we create.

Actions:

1. We will recycle all possible materials site-wide. (*reduce* and *reuse* before *recycle*).
2. We will purchase reusable goods before disposable goods.
3. We will donate all our unneeded items to local thrift stores or churches.
4. We will ban the use of plastic bags for all retail purchases.

Goals:

1. Remove all single-use products and disposable products

Guest Actions:

1. We will encourage guests to use natural lighting whenever possible as well as using recycling receptacles for all recyclable materials.

**Purchasing**

Principle: Work with our entire supply chain in order to incorporate environmentally sustainable practices into everyday business.

Actions:

1. As a site, we will limit trips to the store by bulk purchasing; using reusable bags.
2. As a site, we will purchase post-consumer recycled paper goods.
3. Train staff on our site purchasing policies (see *Green Purchasing Policy*)

Goals

1. Seek local vendors for all possible purchases

Guest Actions:

1. We will encourage guests to buy locally and to use reusable bags instead of plastic or paper.

**Education**
Principle: We will serve as an example of responsible environmental practices for both people and businesses. We will take every opportunity to teach our guests and campers the purpose behind and the goals of our actions.

Actions:

1. We will continue to properly label and store chemicals.
2. We will continue to have a formal, written and comprehensive environmental policy and action plan
3. We will have regular “Green Team” meetings and staff trainings for our staff to inform them about our different green initiatives.
4. We will post signs throughout our site to communicate our initiatives.

Goals:

1. Partner with the public for education and completion of green initiatives for our site.
2. Create a way to share our environmental successes with our community across Florida.

Guest Actions:

1. We ask that guests provide feedback and suggestions for the facility’s environmental practices.