

First Unitarian Universalist Church Columbus, Ohio		
Chapter: VI. Social Concerns		Source: Social Justice Committee
Title: Environmental		
Approved by:		
Effective Date:		Date of Last Review:

Environmental (Use of products and practices that are environmentally safe) [This policy statement seems to move from the responsible use of chemicals to rules and regulations for the use of the building, which seems a different issue that perhaps requires a separate policy statement.]

Policy: Maintenance of the First Unitarian Church building and grounds should be undertaken in an environmentally sensitive manner. Decisions to be made about products and practices should, within the bounds of legal and economic strictures, take into account ecological and neighborhood concerns, as well as the health and safety of church members, friends, and visitors. [This issue has not, in recent years, been a responsibility of the Social Justice Committee.]

Procedures: Maintenance of church property, both grounds and building, is primarily the responsibility of the Grounds Committee and the Facilities Manager [?] and staff. The Social Justice Committee will participate in these matters only at the direction of the Board when conflicts arise about a particular product or practice.

If a member or members of the church object to particular products or practices on the grounds that they may be harmful either to the health and safety of individuals or to the local ecology, a formal complaint should be made to the Board. If the complaint cannot be resolved, an ad hoc committee may be formed to study the issue and present a report and recommendation for action to the Board, which will decide on appropriate action. [This is a suggestion.]

Outside groups using the church are subject to guidelines followed by the maintenance staff and volunteers.

Both outside and internal groups are subject to the following facilities-use guidelines:

- Guests should be alerted to the “no smoking” policy of the church and encouraged to use the ashtrays provided outside.
- Moderate amounts of beer and wine may be served with a meal. Alcoholic beverages may not be sold and nonalcoholic beverages must be served along with alcohol. The person or group sponsoring the event is responsible for the behavior of persons attending the event, and must observe the policies set for personal conduct in the church.
- Publicity for outside events must include the sponsoring organization’s telephone number, return address, and, if available, e-mail address. The church is willing to post information about the event on the bulletin board.
- Plastics, glass, and aluminum should be placed in recycling bins located in the kitchen. All other trash should be placed outside in the dumpster.
- Alcohol must not be left unattended.

- All items brought into the church must be removed by 1:00 AM, day of the event. This includes, but is not limited to, all food, beverages, tables, flatware, dishes, and decorations that may be provided by a catering service or the renters.
- Rice and birdseed are prohibited for wedding/union ceremonies [can't we allow birdseed?]. Bubbles, bells, and flower petals are permitted.

Application for use by an outside organization shall be sent immediately by the Office Administrator to the Secretary of the Board of Trustees or to a designated Board member for action by the Board or its designated representative. Fees for the use of various church facilities by outside organizations are set by the Board.