

*The earth is the Lord's and all that
is in it, the world and those who
live in it.*

Psalm 24.1, NRSV

A Call to Congregations

The Minnesota Council of Churches invites you to join us in honoring “the world and all those who live in it”. Call us to set up a presentation or to learn more about a healthier environment where you live and worship.



MINNESOTA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Healthy Homes, Healthy Congregations



***For concrete actions
you can take now visit:***

[http://www.mnchurches.org/programs/
education/healthyhomes/healthyhomes.html](http://www.mnchurches.org/programs/education/healthyhomes/healthyhomes.html)

*God saw everything God had
made and indeed,
it was very good.*

Genesis 1.31, NRSV

Healthy Homes, Healthy Congregations

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Minimizing toxic chemicals at
home and at church

Toxic Chemicals Around Us

We honor God when we foster healthy living for families, congregations and communities. For too long, dangerous chemicals have been used in industry worldwide. They are not only building up in the environment, but also in our homes and churches. We find them in everyday products like household cleaners, plastics, carpets and personal care items.

Children's Health

Children are especially affected by toxic chemicals. Pound for pound, children breathe more air, drink more water, and eat more food than adults. When they play, they put things in their mouths. As a result, children have an increased chance of being exposed to toxic chemicals. But the sad reality is that most chemicals have not been tested for safety in adults, much less children.



What Families & Congregations Can Do

Many positive actions can be taken to create a healthy environment for children, congregations and communities. The Minnesota Council of Churches' program **Healthy Homes, Healthy Congregations** seeks to empower people to minimize the impact of toxic chemicals.

Healthy Homes, Healthy Congregations offers:

- Presentations on toxic chemicals and their effects on health, as well as positive actions you can take to minimize their impact at home and in congregations.
- A clearinghouse of resource materials and Internet sites on toxins and their effects on health.
- Referrals to a specific denomination's worship, Bible study and educational resources.
- Opportunities to advocate for a safer environment..
- Training and individual consultation for those who want to develop environmental health programs in their congregations.

Impact on Low-Income Communities and Communities of Color

Toxic pollutants and chemicals disproportionately threaten the health of low-income communities and communities of color. According to the report, *Toxic Waste and Race at Twenty: 1987-2007*, issued by the United Church of Christ, "people of color make up the majority of those living in neighborhoods within 3 kilometers (1.8 miles) of the nation's hazardous waste facilities."

