

## **As a Church...**

Our church uses a lot of plastic, and the Environmental Justice Team is committed to finding ways to reduce or eliminate this.

Because the government of First Congregational Church is vested exclusively in its members, who exercise the right of control in all its affairs, it is important to have congregational conversations about this issue.

Before we act, a lot of research and investigation must be done. For example, is it really better for the environment to use glass Communion cups (which must be washed, causing another type of pollution) rather than plastic ones? Does the money raised for our missions and ministries by selling single-use water bottles outweigh the environmental consequences? Are there realistic alternatives to plastic cups, plastic plates, plastic utensils? What about our plastic table covers? Are compostable dining items a reasonable alternative?

Questions like these are not easily answered, but the Team hopes that answers will eventually be found. Eventually, some matters may be decided by Ministry Groups; some by the Church Council; and some by vote of the members. In any of these cases, it is vital to have a well-informed and involved congregation.