

New Year's Resolution – Make the Switch!

Join others around the state and make the switch! Help your congregation switch to reusable coffee mugs to save energy, money, and the planet. Metro Community Church in Davenport did it, and you can too!



Americans throw away **25 billion** styrofoam coffee cups every year. Like most plastics, styrofoam is an oil-based product. Fossil fuels are heavily involved in the product itself, as well as in the process of manufacturing it. Paper cups are not much better. They are coated with polystyrene (another oil-based plastic) that stops the cups from degrading.

A thorough study by researchers at Trinity College in Dublin looked at the lifecycles of disposable vs. reusable coffee cups and determined that you would only have to use a ceramic mug 25 times to be more environmentally responsible than disposables.

Metropolitan Community Church in Davenport has recently made the switch to reusable coffee cups and their congregation welcomed it.

"It's part of our obligation to care for creation," says Pastor Rich Hendricks, "God expects us to be good stewards of all of our resources."



When they moved from their previous building to their new one, the congregation decided they wanted to make their building as environmentally responsible as possible within their budget. Their new building is a remodeled video store with lots of light and

good insulation. In the process of remodeling they upgraded to a newer, more efficient heating system, improved some of the lighting, and installed a double layer of window glass. They creatively designed the second layer of window glass with beautiful stained glass.

Congregant Emily Mathews suggested that the congregation switch from disposables to renewable coffee cups as an easy and concrete way to “green” coffee hour. The governing board approved the idea and included the cost of a dishwasher in their building loan. A second dishwasher was donated.

Once they were in their new building Emily presented a short “Eco Friendly” talk during the worship service. She asked the members of Metro to contribute ceramic coffee cups and started by donating 2 of her own. Emily reports that overall the switch was received quite well and members were motivated to take part. “I believe folks have been happy about the change. We still need to encourage people to wash up after themselves,” says Emily, “That is a constant!”

But the congregation is pleased to be contributing to the health of the planet by this easy step of making the switch to reusable coffee cups.



Coffee cup facts from: <http://www.ecopedia.com/environment/reusable-coffee-cups-a-simple-step-for-a-huge-impact/#sthash.4RBklasp.dpuf>
and
https://www.tcd.ie/GreenPages/documents/refiller_cup_comparison.pdf