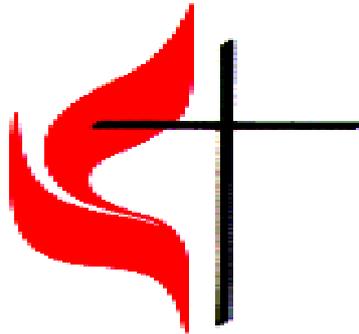


THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



PRESENTATION ON: WASTE MANAGEMENT AND THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH

Venue: Rest Haven
Date: 19 March 2016

SALUTATION

The Bishop, Administrative Assistant to the Bishop, District Superintendents, ZWAC CM Director as well as the Deputy Administrative Assistant to the Bishop, ZEAC CM Director, All Pastors and Delegates here present, I am happy to stand before you and present the above mentioned topic.

INTRODUCTION

Waste Management has become one of the topical environmental issues affecting most urban areas in Zimbabwe. Poor waste management is among the major environmental challenges, the nation of Zimbabwe is facing human beings are bound to produce waste whether being it in residential areas, workplace, churches etc. As United Methodist Church, we have a great role to play in teaching our members to promote smart and health environments wherever they are.

Waste is matter thrown away or something which is no longer useful and it has been discarded. Refuse is mainly solid waste disposed from either residential areas or work places. Refuse normally comes from domestic, work places, street cleaning, hospitals, camping grounds etc.

Failure by the local authorities to collect refuse results in urban people dumping it at open sites as well as peri-urban areas which are health hazards and cause pollution. Uncollected refuse is posing a great challenge to our cities and growth points. Refuse collection in urban areas is erratic with most of it remain uncollected especially in the high density areas. There has been a major cholera outbreak in Zimbabwe due to poor water and sanitation problems.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF REFUSE

The main challenge is for waste disposed at illegal dumpsites which is the main concern to the environment as local authority tends to turn a blind eye to it. Refuse is a health hazard if it is uncollected. The people at risk from the disposal of solid

waste include residents in areas where there is no proper waste disposal method, especially the pre-school children etc. People living close to waste dump areas and those whose water supply has become contaminated either due to waste dumping or leakage from land fill sites, are also at risk. Uncollected solid waste also increases risks of injury and infection.

Flies breed in some constituencies of solid waste and flies are very effective vectors that spread diseases. Mosquitoes breed in blocked drains and rainwater that is retained in discarded cans, tyres and other objects. Mosquitoes spread malaria which is a deadly killer disease. Rats find shelter and food waste dumps, rats consume and spoil food, spread diseases, damage electrical cables and other materials and inflict unpleasant bites. Direct handling of solid waste can result in various types of infectious and chronic diseases e.g. tuberculosis.

According to Sule (1981) solid waste creates water pollution problems as it changes the composition of air and water. The unpleasant smell coming from refuse disposals is not good for human and animals. The aesthetic value of the land is affected by refuse which can be blown by wind and spread all over. Some waste are flammable which may end up creating veld fires which harm the environment.

CHALLENGES OF WASTE COLLECTION

- Refuse is bulk and can be poisonous when not handled properly and this will affect people.
- Containers in form of refuse bins and public refuse collection points are not protected from rain and sun that makes the garbage to cause smell pollution, unsightly urban scene and deterioration of the neighbourhood and disturbance of human activities. The dumping sites are also exposed to animals like dogs, cats and others which during scavenging they scatter the wastes in the surrounding areas.

SOURCES OF WASTE

The source of waste is domestic, which is in form of flood waste, waste from weeding, garden waste, hedge cutting and unwanted household materials e.g. plastics, rubber, old clothes and papers. As people gather at some points for functions, they generate waste and throw it everywhere.

Research has shown that plastic is the most waste thrown, because most packaging of goods are wrapped in plastics, which is dumped after use.

The Role of The United Methodist Church. As a church we must become the change we wish to see in our country.

AT THE SHOP

- Buy only what you need
- Choose products with the least amount of packaging
- Ask shops to reduce packaging and refuse to accept polythene and extra plastic wrapping.

- Use and recycle your own shopping bags
- We should buy things for their usefulness, develop a habit of sharing and giving away, learn to enjoy things without owning them, develop a healthy scepticism for advertising, and think about the lifecycle of what we buy – where it comes from and where it will land up.

AT HOME

- Recycle paper, plastics, metals, glass etc.
- Fabric – make bags, doormats, wall hangers etc.
- Water management – use buckets, dishes, water glasses do not leave water running.
- Land fill in rural areas and cover
- Use plastic bottles for cooking cobra, putting salt, sugar etc.
- Boil small pieces of soap and use for washing blankets
- Use used water for watering flowers, lawn etc.
- Wave – wash it and reuse it.
- Give old newspapers to vendors or sell for recycling
- Collect papers, plastics, bottles, glass old furniture and invite companies that recycle and get a small fee.
- Compost kitchen waste for organic garden.
- Let us cook food we finish, left overs like sadza make maheu
- Pamper management: use bucket to remove the waste from the pamper and flush in the toilet, then dry and burn the pamper.
- Let us grow trees at schools, colleges and hospitals
- Build incinerators for waste disposals
- Teach poems, songs, etc.
- Provide litter bins
- Teach “Art” out of plastic bottles
- Make litter bins out of old tyres etc.

AT CHURCH

- Besides spreading the word as a church, we have a great role to play in waste management. We must lead by example at our churches
- Teach our members waste management songs e.g. “Tisarase mapepa pese pese”
- Let the children write poems, essays and recite at schools, Sunday school, sports before the activities and also during Christian Education time.
- We must have different bins at church e.g. for metal, glass, paper plastics etc. and ask different companies to collect and recycle the waste.
- Teach our members to donate what they no longer use.
- Promote use of toilets, encourage members to have toilets
- Ask for clothes, shoes, books, bottles etc. and have e.g. a dollar shop where people can come and buy at an affordable cost.
- Fifty dollar shop with stoves, fridges, plates, pots etc.
- Send books to schools for libraries
- Buy and donate litter bins written The United Methodist Church – Keep Your City or Area Clean.

- Educate our members to throw litter in bins and avoid eating while walking e.g. eating fruits, sugarcane, ground nuts and throw litter everywhere.
- Educate vendors to have litter bins
- Encourage our members to have small bins or plastic bags in their vehicles.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

- Make an effort to become more aware of environmental issues.
- According to section 4 of the Environmental Management Act CAP 20:27 of 2002, it is everyone's right to "access environmental information".

HOW?

- Follow radio programs
- Sponsored article
- Website
- Facebook
- Toll free line 08080028
- Whatsapp 0779 565 707

MANAGING WASTE AT HOME

- 4 Rs approach
- Reduce
- Reuse
- Recycle
- Rejoice

CLEAN UP CAMPAIGNS

- A clean-up campaign as a community-based, environmental campaign that inspires and empowers communities around the globe to clean up, fix up and conserve their environment.

OBJECTIVES OF A CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN

- To ensure environmental sustainability
- To promote environmental awareness
- To restore community pride
- To promote local trade and tourism
- To restore wildlife habitats
- To engage communities in long term environmental initiatives.
- To eradicate environmental diseases, such as cholera, typhoid which thrive on dirty environments

WHAT ACTIVITIES CAN BE UNDERTAKEN DURING THE CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN?

- Removing waste from public areas such as streets, parks, water ways etc.
- Education awareness programs
- Collection of recyclable materials that can be sold to local recyclers
- Tree planting

ORGANIZING A CLEAN-UP

- Police clearance
- Register with EMA, write to the Director General notifying her/him of the date and venue of the clean-up campaign.
- EMA might provide the following, depending on availability:
 1. Gloves
 2. Face masks
 3. Brooms
 4. Pokers

LASTLY WE NEED TO THINK ABOUT SUSTAINABLE BURIALS

- The coffin we choose
- Chemicals used damage the soil
- Places where we need to be buried
- Use real flowers than plastic ones which bleach in the sun and pollute the environment.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE IDEA OF CREMATION? FOOD FOR THOUGHT

As the United Methodist Church let us take a leading role in educating our members, communities and our country as a whole. It is our duty as people who were given the responsibility by God to take care of the environment. Let us be responsible people.

Thank you.

Compiled by

Tendai Gurupira (Mrs)
Coordinator Ministry with Women, Children and Youths
Zimbabwe Episcopal Area