**The Earth Care Team of First Presbyterian Church of Urbana invites you to attend a Three-Session Seminar Series on Sustainability and the Champaign County Land Resource Management Plan**

**The Problem: In Champaign County some of the world’s most fertile soil is being converted from farmland to other uses.** Each year between 1988 and 2005, an average of 563 acres of county farmland was taken out of production. Its new uses included 4,310 acres for residential development, 283 acres for industrial purposes, and 1,150 acres for commercial use.

**Tackling the Problem:** A Champaign County Land Resource Management Plan was adopted in 2010 after an Advisory Panelappointed by the Champaign County Board to assess the state of the environment in the county concluded that current development patterns are not sustainable and are damaging the County’s natural environment and compromising its economic viability.

**Purpose:** This three-session seminar will examine the Management Plan and its attempt to foster sustainable development in the county. It will also consider how you and other county citizens can help ensure that recommendations of the plan are followed.

**Dates, topics, and speakers are as follows:**

**March 30:** Gary Jackson, a former member of the Champaign County Board Environmental Advisory Panel, will summarize the findings of the panel and its recommendations. The report concluded that Champaign County lacked an over-all comprehensive plan, valuable soil resources were being converted to urban uses, and parkland acreage and open space fell short of national recommendations. Jackson also will provide a brief overview of the scope and content of the Land Resource Management Plan adopted by the county in 2010.

**April 6:** Dan Olson, Executive Director of the Champaign County Forest Preserve District, stewards of the county’s natural and historic resources through conservation, education and compatible outdoor recreation experiences, will consider whether the Management Plan adequately protects the preserves from the negative impacts of discretionary development in adjacent areas and minimizes disturbance of their natural quality, habitat value, and aesthetic character. He also will point out ways in which citizens can be engaged in the long-term sustainability of the preserves.

**April 13:** Susan Chavarria, Regional Planning Manager of the Champaign County Planning Commission, will explain the role of the commission in guiding development in Champaign County and review the Management Plan’s anticipated future land use patterns. She will focus particularly on aspects of the plan intended to preserve prime agricultural land and encourage urban land use that is compact and contiguous to existing cities, villages, and unincorporated settlements.

**The seminars will be held from 10:45 to 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall of First Presbyterian Church of Urbana, 602 West Green Street. The public is invited to attend.**