



Located in San Jose's Japantown, Wesley United Methodist Church is a community-focused congregation imbued in both Christian and Japanese cultures. In addition to traditional church services and activities, the church offers classes such as *Mochitsuki* (steamed rice making), and partakes in the many Japanese festivals in the area.

As one might guess, being an active and responsible member of the local community is important to the church leaders and members. As such, United Methodist Church welcomed the opportunity to partake in Republic Services' Wet/Dry Program, accepting suggestions and even purchasing additional containers for inside their facilities; lining some with clear bags to help organize and sort the materials prior to being moved to outdoor containers.

During the evaluation of the waste loads, the Republic Services Recycling Coordinator identified the need to increase the Wet (organic) cart. Having a large portion of food waste coming from the church's onsite kitchen, combined with yard waste from their



gardening service and floral arrangements necessitated an increase of adding a second cart. However, after a few weeks, they realized they were quickly filling the current carts, so larger capacity carts were exchanged to help alleviate the overflow. The addition of a customizable bin rounded out their current waste needs.

Being a very motivated and conscientious customer, Wesley United Methodist Church is taking incremental but important steps in diverting organic materials, better organizing dry materials and creating additional landfill diversion by utilizing their customizable bin. Additionally, they are phasing out their use of black bags by 2013, which will save time in sorting and help reveal any potential dangers such as broken glass or containers. Many small steps help lead to large improvements when we all take part.