

Subject: Supporting creation care across the church

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Anglicans profess that one way to understand mission is as “God-in-action.” As this “fragile Earth, our island home” – its waters, air, soil, and creatures of all kinds – struggles for life, we seek to find God-in-action in our commitment to the Fifth Mark of Mission --

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Our collective and individual voices must be joined by action in order to address the critical need to care for Earth as it already experiences precipitous change affecting all of life.

In the 2010-13 triennium, the Creation Matters Working Group sought to “green” Anglican spaces, according to 2010 General Synod Resolution A-180. In partnership with the Canada Green Building Council, we collected energy data from 40 Anglican parishes across Canada. Some parishes have conducted green audits with Greening Sacred Spaces, and at least one diocese has allocated \$10,000 per year for three years for green audits.

From 2013-16, we aim to build on the previous triennium’s efforts by partnering with parishes to implement changes based on energy data collected about their facilities. In early 2013, General Synod committed \$15,000 in matching grants to parishes that Creation Matters Working Group will assist to further conduct green audits.

This operational approach will be undertaken in the context of a deepening understanding of God’s creation and our place in sustaining the web of life. Parish participation in green audits can help a parish come together to focus on a concrete project that supports God’s mission in the community and beyond. Therefore, Creation Matters Working Group will continue to engage in raising awareness of ecological issues and deepening our biblical understanding, spiritual practice and liturgical life.

Objective: To assist parishes in living out of a commitment to the 5th Mark of Mission by:

- Undertaking green audits in partnership with Greening Sacred Spaces;
- Participating in the Green-Up Database in partnership with the Canada Green Building Council to establish baselines for the performance of buildings against which to measure energy efficiencies over time;
- Stimulating the creation of funds to implement environmental improvements recommended in green audit reports through a combination of grants and repayable contributions;
- Supporting the establishment and/or ongoing work of diocesan "Creation Matters" task groups;
- Providing budget for staff support and the ongoing operation of a national level Creation Matters network.

