

MEMO

To: Executive Board and Trusts Committee
 Acting on behalf of Diocesan Council
 From: Elin Goulden, Social Justice and Advocacy Consultant
 Date: June 25, 2020
 Re: Report on Environmental Motion and Diocesan Environmental Plan

At Diocesan Synod in November, 2019, the following motion was passed:

Motion # 15

MOVED by the Rev. Canon David Harrison and SECONDED by the Rev. Dr. Stephen Drakeford that Synod requests the Bishop's Committee on Creation Care, working through a creation care lens and in the context of our developing relationship with Indigenous Peoples, to develop and propose environmental policies and resources for all diocesan operations that reflect the need to increase the use of renewable energy services and decrease our carbon footprint. In particular, Synod requests a review of and development of policies pertaining to:

- 1. our spending practices;*
- 2. our travel policies;*
- 3. our land use and development;*
- 4. the creation of a fund to assist parishes to reduce their carbon footprint;*
- 5. the creation of a fund to assist clergy to purchase or lease zero emission vehicles;*
- 6. the curtailment of the purchase of single-use plastic products, with the intention of ending their use no later than the beginning of 2023, taking into consideration the accessibility needs of our communities;*
- 7. developing modules for clergy and lay formation on the connection between creation care and the Gospel; and*
- 8. promoting reduced consumption as part of a Christian Rule of Life.*

Synod and the diocese shall be provided with a report on the work of the Bishop's Committee on Creation Care and the progress made on these issues by June 30, 2020 and every six months thereafter until the next Regular Session of Synod. CARRIED.

The Bishop's Committee on Creation Care has been called together and its Mandate and Terms of Reference have been established. The mandate of the Committee is to call individual Anglicans, our parishes, and the Diocese as a whole to a spiritual and practical conversion that recognizes our responsibility to care for creation as an integral aspect of our worship of the Triune God, who is the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of all life.

The Committee is meeting with Bishop Andrew in early July to define its short-term and long-term goals over the next two years, including the review and updating of the Diocesan policies addressed in the Synod motion.

The experience of the COVID-19 pandemic and shut-down in our Diocese over the past few months has created new environmental opportunities and challenges for the work of the Committee. The ready embrace of new technologies for meetings and educational events, for example, offers us a chance to reconsider what is and is not "essential travel," and how we might accomplish our goals in a less carbon-intensive way. On the other hand, the need to reduce the risk of transmission of the

virus has led to a resurgence in the use of single-use, disposable items, including plastics, posing an even greater challenge for us in the days and months ahead than was envisioned when the motion was originally passed at Diocesan Synod.

Over the next few months, the Committee will examine how these new challenges and opportunities affect the progress we as a Diocese can make in pursuit of the deeper and more holistic care of God's creation. Our responsibility has not changed; how we go about realizing it, as with everything else we do as a Diocese, must take our changed circumstances into account.

Respectfully submitted,

Elin Goulden
Social Justice & Advocacy Consultant
Staff liaison to the Bishop's Committee on Creation Care.