

Anglican Communion Environmental Network (ACEN)

Report to the 16th meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC-16), Lusaka, April 2016

The [Anglican Communion Environmental Network](#) continues to connect lay and clergy leaders in parishes, dioceses and provinces as a ministry of encouragement and inspiration. We work with provincial representatives, with identifiable advocates and ministers, the Anglican Alliance, the Anglican Communion Office at the United Nations and with other Communion networks. We connect with other church denominations and with inter faith partners. We facilitate conversation and connection rather than host programmes or publish large quantities of resources. All members of our steering group are volunteers who provide ministry among other responsibilities. So our capacity to respond to emerging situations is often restricted though our motivation remains high.

During 2015 our work has been to encourage reception and action in response to *The World is our Host*,¹ a call to action by seventeen Anglican Bishops convened by ACEN Chair Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, who gathered near Cape Town, South Africa, in late February 2015. Building on the bishops' sense of urgency we have been particularly involved with divestment initiatives globally, especially in the Church of England, The Episcopal Church, and the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia. We are in continuing dialogues with as many as ten dioceses presently throughout the Communion on this issue.

We are inspired by the papal encyclical [Laudato si'](#) in which the Pope likewise speaks to the urgency of the issue. With many Anglicans he makes the connection between poverty and ecological devastation and identifies the unjust distribution of wealth as the cause of famine, food insecurity, communal dislocation, and widespread disease and communal disruption. He further cites the rise of extreme weather events, rising water levels and the destruction of environment especially in Arctic and sub-Arctic regions.

Through an international steering group of now seven members ACEN maintains a vital and growing social media presence. Globally, 22,000 Facebook users viewed the [Green Anglicans](#) Ash Wednesday post which first publicized ACEN's Lenten Carbon Fast. Green Anglicans Facebook posts frequently reach over 35,000 people each week.

We will make presentations at ACC-16 highlighting initiatives contained within *The World is our Host*. Through Dr Rachel Mash our connection with African youth is rapidly expanding and through Dr Jeff Gollhofer we continue to provide leadership in three key areas of global concern: Water, Agriculture, and Energy production, consumption and distribution. We remain grateful for the assistance and support of Revd Terrie Robinson from the Anglican Communion Office who devotes much time to ACEN work amidst her many other responsibilities. And finally we are so grateful for the leadership of our chair, Archbishop Thabo Makgoba.

¹ English: <http://acen.anglicancommunion.org/media/148818/The-World-is-our-Host-FINAL-TEXT.pdf>

Español: <http://acen.anglicancommunion.org/media/152206/La-tierra-es-nuestro-anfitrión.pdf>

Português: <http://acen.anglicancommunion.org/media/155608/The-World-is-our-Host-Bishops-Statement-Feb-2015-Portuguese.pdf>

Français: <http://acen.anglicancommunion.org/media/155605/The-World-is-our-Host-Bishops-Statement-Feb-2015-French.pdf>

We expect to gather in some form in the near future in South America with a special desire to support Indigenous communities whose livelihoods are disrupted and further threatened by external and avaricious economic and political forces. It's an old story – where the environment suffers, and humanity with it, a corrupt economics is to blame. Let justice roll, and transform the face of God's earth. Amen.

Report submitted by the Revd Canon Ken Gray, ACEN Secretary