

Report to the Anglican Communion Environmental Network The Episcopal Church

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Economic and Environmental Affairs

I started in this position in November 2008. It was a new position at that time. Some of you know Martha Gardner. She represented The Episcopal Church (TEC) within this network. She worked as a part-time consultant. The fact that TEC created a full-time staff position dedicated to these issues is encouraging and exciting. I also think the title chosen for the position is instructive in and of itself and recognizes that if we are to create a more compassionate and sustainable world we will need a more compassionate and sustainable economic system.

The report below is divided up into the following sections:

- Executive Council and General Convention Connections
- Partnerships
- Current Initiatives
- A Possible Model Partnership?
- Educational Activities
- Grants
- Bio-Sketch
- Resources
- Overview of GreenFaith's Green Certification Program

Executive Council and General Convention Connections

Every three years TEC gathers at General Convention (GC). GC passes resolutions which set policies and direction for the church. Executive Council meets (three or four times every year) in between GC and also passes resolutions. The following two resolutions connect to my work presently and also to our areas of mutual ministry within the Communion.

Carbon Footprint Study

In February of 2008 Executive Council passed a resolution, portions of which I copy below:

...the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, recognizing the challenge of global warming and our need to do our part in reducing carbon emissions, directs appropriate staff...to obtain bids to calculate our "carbon footprint;"

...this examination should include the full range of church operations, including the Episcopal Church Center and its regional offices and program operations, the Executive Council, the General Convention and all CCABs (Committees, Commissions and Boards) and all travel involved in the operations of the national Church;

...these bids also include what it would cost to reduce carbon emissions by at least 15-20 percent by the year 2020 (or sooner), and at least 80 percent by the year 2050 (or sooner), including strategies of behavioral and technological changes, and carbon

offsets, as well as a clear understanding of the short term costs/savings and long term costs/savings.

TEC worked with Cascadia Consulting to establish our footprint. So, we now have a measurement: 3,400 mtCO₂e (metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent), the amount emitted by 650 cars on the road for one year (in the US) or from the electricity used by over (American) 400 homes in a year.

56% of our emissions come from air travel; the next largest contribution, 33%, comes from energy usage in our buildings, primarily electricity in the Episcopal Church Center headquarters in New York City. Church management recently decided to purchase 100% of that building's electricity from energy supplier Green Mountain Energy which supplies electricity from renewable sources such as solar, wind and geothermal.

This is a significant and positive step for the church. Hopefully, steps to address/reduce air travel, and developing guidelines for doing so, will be seriously considered as well.

The church's carbon footprint will be measured every three years.

Genesis Covenant

The Genesis Covenant was "memorialized" at our 2009 General Convention. Some of you may have heard of this covenant, initially proposed by Bishop Stephen Charleston. Most simply stated, the covenant commits those who adopt it to "reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from every facility [they] maintain by 50 percent in 10 years."

The commitment applies to places of worship, offices, schools, camps, retreat centers and other facilities. Of course, the passage of the Genesis Covenant can not mandate that all Episcopal facilities commit to the covenant. It does signify that TEC recognizes the reality of climate change and supports strong action to mitigate those emissions for which its facilities are responsible.

Two dioceses have been particularly active in their efforts to implement the Genesis Covenant: the Diocese of Chicago and the Diocese of Olympia (western Washington State). For example, Chicago has asked each of its parishes to conduct an energy audit and benchmark/measure their energy use. Both dioceses have decided to use the Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star Portfolio Manager tool to measure and track energy use. And both dioceses are sponsoring workshops to train parishes in the use of that tool.

By the end of 2011 a downloadable "Getting Started on the Genesis Covenant" resource will be available on the Episcopal Church's website.

Other Resolutions

The following links provide summaries of other eco-justice resolutions (you can search by topic, such as "environment" or "economic justice") passed by either General Convention or Executive Council over the years:

<http://www.episcopalarchives.org/e-archives/acts/>
http://www.episcopalarchives.org/e-archives/executive_council/

Partnerships

GreenFaith

GreenFaith, an NGO located in New Jersey, features a strong two-year, holistic "Green Certification Program" for congregations. TEC recently (launched in October 2010) partnered with them and is providing tuition subsidies for Episcopal congregations participating in the program. So far eight congregations and one camp and conference center have applied, been accepted and started the process. Please see the end of this document for a one-page overview of the program. See www.GreenFaith.org

EcoPalms

While not officially "Fair Trade Certified", EcoPalms are harvested sustainably. In addition, participating communities are paid a premium price for these palms. TEC helps promote this opportunity; last year about 110 Episcopal congregations purchased EcoPalms for Palm Sunday. See www.EcoPalms.org

NCC Eco-Justice Office

The National Council of Churches' Eco-Justice Office is one with whom we interact closely. Members of a number of mainline Protestant denominations as well as the Orthodox Church are actively involved in the Eco-Justice Working Group which significantly guides the work of the eco-justice office itself. I'm a member of the working group as is DeWayne Davis who works in TEC's Office of Government Relations in Washington, DC.

The office itself engages in a good deal of advocacy in Washington, DC -- particularly on energy, climate change, and environmental health and justice issues. They also produce an Earth Day Sunday resource with sermon helps, educational resources, prayers and hymns -- which many denominations then use within their own circles. They have also produced a number of good resources over the years. Check it out at www.nccecojustice.org

Earth Ministry

Earth Ministry (www.EarthMinistry.org) is another leading NGO working in the faith-based creation care field. In the "Eco-Justice Immersion Experience" for young adults described below, EM will be providing the advocacy training and linking us to green teams and their parish-based work throughout the diocese.

Current Initiatives

Eco-Justice Immersion Experience for Young Adults

20 young adults (aged 18-30) from across TEC will be gathering in Seattle at the end of August for a six-day eco-justice immersion experience. The event is sponsored by my office and the office for young adult ministry. We are very excited about this time together which will provide:

- Advocacy training
- Education (emphasizing eco-theology and sustainable economics)

- Opportunities to tour places impacted by ecological degradation and interact some with the people that live in those communities
- Time to interact with "green teams" from around the Diocese of Olympia and worship together
- Time to take a day hike together
- Time for the young adults to discern if/how they might feel called to eco-justice leadership within the church

Eco-Justice Survey

A survey was just sent out less than two weeks ago to find out about eco-justice ministries in TEC. We have over 500 responses so far. The survey is designed to find out who is engaged in these ministries, what they are doing, and what would be supportive to them. I have a copy of this survey -- I can e-mail a copy of it to you as it might be helpful to see the kinds of questions we asked.

Creation Cycle

TEC's Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music has been charged (by General Convention) with developing a "liturgical Creation Cycle of the Pentecost Season from St. Francis' Day to Advent, for the purpose of affirming the sacredness of God's creation, of spreading hope about God's reconciling work in creation and an understanding of environmental stewardship and ecological justice." The resolution goes on, directing the commission to "develop prayers and other liturgical materials celebrating a Pentecost Season Creation Cycle for inclusion in the next edition of the Book of Occasional Services."

What this means practically is that there has been some official recognition of the importance of the liturgy in forming us as people of faith in terms of how we relate to the rest of God's creation. The standing commission is in the process of selecting prayers and Scripture readings and so on. The hope is that these would become widely used between St. Francis day and Advent. It's not yet clear if these additional readings/prayers/resources would be in the Book of Occasional Services or elsewhere.

Stewardship: "Core Competencies" of Lay and Clergy leaders

TEC's Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development invited me to attend their last meeting at which they worked on developing core competencies for stewardship leaders.

Though only in draft form at this point, those competencies include the following:

- Have an informed theological position about social, ecological and economic justice
- Speak to the vision of a Biblical economy (oikonomos) in tension with a global economy
- Articulate the tension between current consumer culture and following Christ
- Embrace interconnected relationships of all persons and creation
- Understand our central call to steward the well-being of the entire created order
- Speak to the impact of our lifestyles on all of God's Creation

These core competencies are only words at this point, admittedly. But it was encouraging to me that this group so fully included care for creation and economic justice as part of what good stewards need to be about/know about. Hopefully these core competencies will be adopted broadly and then inform stewardship education and development throughout the church.

A Possible Model Partnership?

Floyd Lalwet, from the Philippines, and I met a couple years ago. I had described the Genesis Covenant (see below). He said knowing that some Episcopal brothers and sisters in the United States were working to address greenhouse gas emissions might well be an encouraging story to tell the villagers with whom he works. Because, he said, those villagers sometimes question why they should engage in environmental/creation care work when those responsible for the problem (those who over-consume like we do in the United States) seem to do so little.

So we hatched the idea of a pilot partnership between the Diocese of Olympia (a diocese that had begun to work on the Genesis Covenant) and the Episcopal Diocese of the Southern Philippines. Though still in the development phase, the idea is that those churches in the Diocese of Olympia that take on a commitment to "greening" their church, those that commit to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, would be partnered with churches, or perhaps schools, in the Philippines. In recognition of their work, the Filipino church/school would also engage in environmental action -- planting trees has been discussed.

A couple members of the Diocese of Olympia's Genesis Covenant Task Force plan to visit the Philippines this September. They will plan with their Filipino counterparts how this project would get started. Our hope is that a pilot program can be launched. Bishop Greg Rickel, of the Diocese of Olympia, also plans to visit the Philippines in February of 2012.

Again, though in its infancy, I've been involved in this because I'm excited about this as a possible model from which the rest of us can learn. Could eco-justice, or perhaps climate justice, become an issue around which the Anglican Communion can work together? Could churches in the US be inspired by connecting, through relationships with Anglicans in some other part of the world, their actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with people directly impacted by those emissions?

Educational Activities

Education is certainly one of my priorities. I do a good deal of speaking and teaching. It is my sense that more and more of the networks/groups within TEC see their areas of concern and eco-justice. Recent invitations, for example, have included:

- The Episcopal Urban Caucus
- Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development
- The Episcopal Network for Stewardship
- The Episcopal Network for Economic Justice
- Episcopal Camp and Conference Centers

My job also includes some writing. Above I mentioned the "Getting Started on the Genesis Covenant" resource, which is one example.

Grants

Jubilee Health and Nutrition Grants

The Episcopal Church supports a network of ministries designated as "Jubilee" ministries. These ministries address issues of social and economic injustice, broadly speaking. This past

year, for the first time, Jubilee grants included monies to support community gardening projects, many of which sought to provide food for communities with little access to healthy food ("food desserts"). Offering these grants is one practical way that the connections between economic, social and ecological issues are being recognized.

Bio-sketch

Michael Schut serves as the Economic and Environmental Affairs Officer of The Episcopal Church, following 11 years on the staff of Earth Ministry. He has edited and partially authored three books/study guides: *Money and Faith: The Search for Enough*; *Food and Faith: Justice, Joy and Daily Bread*; and *Simpler Living, Compassionate Life: A Christian Perspective* (which won the second best spiritual book award by the Catholic Press Association in 2000). He coordinates and provides resources for various eco-justice programs in the church and speaks and leads workshops/retreats connecting faith, justice, economics and ecology. He represented the Episcopal Church on a Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships White House Task Force on Environment and Climate Change. Michael has worked with homeless men, served as a Park Ranger, and led wilderness backpacking trips. He received his M.S. in Environmental Studies from the University of Oregon in 1993 and his B.S. in Biology in 1987 from Wheaton College in Illinois. He likes to backpack, climb, sing, read, and spend time with his nephew, Carter. He lives in Seattle.

Resources

TEC's website is admittedly not very user-friendly. A new website is being developed. The environmental ministries pages can be found here: www.EpiscopalChurch.org/environment

I include below a list of resources I often highlight in my work. Some of it will not be applicable to your locality but I include it in case you are interested.

Episcopalian Resources/Networks

- The Episcopal Ecological Network: www.eenonline.org.
- The Episcopal Network for Economic Justice: www.enej.org has excellent resources.
- The Episcopal Public Policy Network: raise your voice in DC: www.episcopalchurch.org/eppn.htm.

Environmental Justice (EJ) Resources

- Two good EJ resource centers: www.ejrc.cau.edu; www.ejnet.org
- WEACT – www.weact.org (NYC)
- Urban Habitat – www.urbanhabitat.org (Oakland)
- Delco Alliance for EJ – www.ejnet.org/chester (Philadelphia)
- Little Village Environmental Justice Organization – www.lvejo.org (Chicago)
- Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice – www.sneei.org
- Deep South Center for Environmental Justice - <http://www.dscej.org/> (Louisiana)
- NCC has an environmental racism study guide: www.nccecojustice.org/resources
- Farmworker Justice, which does some faith-based work: <http://www.fwjjustice.org/>

Good General Info (and to find Community Supported Agriculture Farms in your area):

- Biodynamic Farming and Gardening Association: www.biodynamics.com
- The USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program: www.sare.org
- Local Harvest: www.localharvest.org/csa/

Organizations

- Earth Ministry is an excellent group: www.EarthMinistry.org
- Interfaith Power and Light (www.theregenerationproject.org): A Religious Response to Global Warming)
- The National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Working Group: www.nccecojustice.org
- Faith and Money Network, formerly Ministry of Money: www.ministryofmoney.org
- Eco-Justice Ministries has a good summary of resources available: www.eco-justice.org

Books

- Cobb, John B., Jr. *Sustainability, Economics, Ecology, and Justice*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1992.
- DeWitt Calvin, *Earth Wise*
- McFague, Sallie. *Life Abundant*. Minn: Fortress Press, 2001.
- McKibben, Bill. *Deep Economy*. New York: Times Books, Henry Holt and Company, 2007.
- Myers, Ched. *Biblical Vision of Sabbath Economics*. DC: Tell the Word, Church of the Savior, 2001.

Michael Schut's books include an anthology of essays with community-building study guides.

- *Simpler Living, Compassionate Life: A Christian Perspective*
- *Food and Faith: Justice, Joy, and Daily Bread*
- *Money and Faith: The Search for Enough*

The Episcopal Church's Collaboration with GreenFaith's (GF) Green Certification Program -- 50% Tuition Subsidies Available

Highlights:

- a two-year holistic program to "green" your parish's operations, education, worship
- includes an emphasis on environmental justice advocacy and education
- often leads to energy and financial savings
- GF provides expert and accessible staff support via phone, e-mail and six programmatic webinars
- TEC's Office of Economic and Environmental Affairs is providing 15 tuition subsidies, as is GreenFaith; total of 30 available, all of them cover 50% of the tuition
- the next application deadline is December 1

Summary of Programmatic Requirements

1. Spirit Requirements

- *Worship*: six services over the two years focused on ecological themes.
- *Religious Education*: offer 6 weeks of religious-environmental education over the two years for adults, teens and children. Conduct religious-environmental education for ordained Leaders.
- *Spirituality*: conduct one interfaith religious-environmental activity/year involving members of at least three religious traditions (e.g. Christian, Jewish, Muslim). Conduct one inter-generational religious-environmental program per year for two years.

2. Environmental Justice (EJ) Requirements

- *EJ Education*: conduct three educational programs over two years on environmental justice.
- *Building Relationships with EJ Leaders*: hold at least one meeting/year for two years with a local/regional EJ leader to identify ways that your institution can support EJ initiatives.
- *Advocating for EJ*: conduct at least one EJ Advocacy Campaign per year for two years.

3. Stewardship Requirements

Institutions will be asked to choose 25 Stewardship initiatives from a comprehensive list in the following areas: 1) *Energy and Transportation*; 2) *Food and Water*; 3) *Waste and Toxics*; 4) *Grounds Maintenance*. This allows you to choose the action and education steps that fit your institution best. Please note: Most of these initiatives are no cost, and/or are likely to save your congregation money.

4. Communications Requirements

- *Internal Communications*: Eco-tips in newsletter; Eco-theological reflections in newsletter; 4 newsletter articles per year
- *External Communications*: List of local & regional media contacts; 4 press releases per year

To learn more about the Certification Program, visit: www.GreenFaith.org/programs/certification
For more information contact Stacey Kennealy at skennealy@greenfaith.org