

PREAMBLE: *We affirm these elements of our faith:*

From A Song of Faith:

*Finding ourselves in a world of beauty and mystery,
of living things, diverse and interdependent,
of complex patterns of growth and evolution,
of subatomic particles and cosmic swirls,
we sing of God the Creator, the Maker and Source of all that is.
Each part of creation reveals unique aspects of God the Creator, who is
both in creation and beyond it.
All parts of creation, animate and inanimate, are related.
All creation is good. We sing of the Creator.*

From the New Creed:

As a pastoral charge we aim to take the practical steps necessary in order to realize the statement, "to live with respect in creation", expressed in our United Church of Canada New Creed, adopted 1968, revised 1980, 1994.

COVENANT: *As a church community:*

1. We will take environmental concerns fully into account in our mission, worship, study, education, training, pastoral, administrative and other programmes and projects
2. We will consider the environmental impact of all our policies and plans, and accept that additional costs may be incurred by minimizing that impact
3. We will support the work of local and national environmental organisations, as appropriate
4. We will pay attention to environmental concerns in our banking and investment practice, and continue to pay regard to the national church ethical investment policy
5. We will provide opportunities for discussion and education on environmental issues
6. We will encourage environmentally-friendly forms of transport, walk, cycle, share cars, keep journeys to meeting venues short wherever possible, and keep fossil fuel emissions as low as we can
7. We will look for efficiencies in energy by:
 - using thermostats to keep temperatures down
 - using low-energy light bulbs
 - improving insulation
 - turning off computers and electrical appliances when not in use
8. We will seek ways to reduce consumption and the impact of our activities on the environment by, wherever possible:
 - using email
 - using recycled or FSC-Certified (Forest Stewardship Council) paper

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- re-using and repairing items
 - using low-environmental impact cleaning materials (avoiding chlorine-based and phosphate-rich powders)
 - using recyclable disposable items when needed
 - using “eco-friendly” fertilizers and pesticides
9. We will encourage the use of locally sourced flowers or garden greenery when decorating the church
 10. We will avoid using water unnecessarily and check for leakages regularly
 11. We will look to achieve, and value, small changes, as well as the large

As individual Christians we commit ourselves to:

1. Reuse, reduce, recycle
2. Share cars, use public transport, walk or cycle whenever practical
3. Use Fair Trade and locally sourced goods and consider the “Food Miles” in purchases
4. Take account of ethical issues in banking and investment, and support agencies who care for our world
5. Reduce energy consumption at home through:
 - low energy light bulbs
 - turning off electrical appliances when not in use
 - improving insulation where possible
 - draught proofing
 - low temperature washes
6. When renewing domestic heating system to consider installing solar panels and geothermal heating
7. Switch to green energy suppliers
8. Use environmentally friendly cleaning and washing products in home and avoid destructive chemicals
9. Conserve water: collect rain water, attend to leaks, avoid running taps
10. Compost household waste and green waste
11. Discourage the use of excessive packaging and junk mail
12. Support local shops and charity shops
13. Consider borrowing or swapping before purchasing new

APPROVED: St. Paul's Congregation

DATE: 2014-05-04

EFFECTIVE DATE: 2014-05-04