

**The following motion was moved by the Justice League of Huron at Synod 2018.  
It passed unanimously.**

*“Whereas there has been another “Boil Water Advisory” in the Lenni- Lenape territory;*

*And whereas, our connection with the Land and the beauty of the gift has been present over thousands of years in the teachings of Indigenous Peoples and in Biblical teachings about Creation;*

*And whereas this teaching calls us to take steps to join in the healing of the land and the waters; and our baptismal vows call us to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth;*

*Be it resolved that members of the Diocese of Huron commit to continued education regarding Indigenous and Biblical teachings of how to respect and look after Mother Earth, through our place ‘in and with’ not ‘over’ Creation;*

*And that we generously share the ways we have accomplished this through parish Mission and Ministry Plans and in the Huron Church News.*

*Moved by: the Rev’d Canon Gaye Whippey Seconded by: Pamela Fulton”*

**We offer a few ideas on how you and your parish might continue education regarding Indigenous and Biblical teachings of how to respect and look after Mother Earth, through our place ‘in and with’ not ‘over’ Creation.**

Include in your weekly intercessions prayers for our fragile planet, our water and the just distribution of it including to all Indigenous communities.

Connect worship to creation by worshipping outdoors: on the beach, in the bog, by a stream, in a park, on a boat or near a pond. Alternatively, bring nature indoors with images of rain, waterfalls, and oceans, add plants, rocks, sticks and other native materials to decorations. Check out <https://www.anglican.ca/publicwitness/season-of-creation/> for some ideas of ways to celebrate the season of creation.

Learn about water walks <http://www.motherearthwaterwalk.com> and join a walk in 2018

Become familiar with ‘Life Giving Waters –Living Justice’ by JustGeneration.ca the youth component of the Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund.[http://www.justgeneration.ca/uploads/52/life\\_giving\\_waters\\_2016\\_final.pdf](http://www.justgeneration.ca/uploads/52/life_giving_waters_2016_final.pdf)

Learn about KAIROS’s ‘Reconciliation in the Watershed’ program <https://www.kairoscanada.org/what-we-do/ecological-justice/reconciliation-in-the-watershed> or read ‘Indigenous Wisdom -Living in Harmony with Mother Earth’ <https://www.kairoscanada.org/product/indigenous-wisdom-living-in-harmony-with-mother-earth-download>

Support the PWRDF water advocacy campaign <https://pwrdf.org/2018/water-advocacy-campaign-walks-the-talk/>

The **Mission and Ministry Plan** challenges congregations to do a green assessment of the parish buildings. The Greening Sacred Spaces checklist can be found at:  
[https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/faithcommongood/pages/31/attachments/original/1516047403/GSS\\_certification\\_2018\\_printable.pdf?1516047403](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/faithcommongood/pages/31/attachments/original/1516047403/GSS_certification_2018_printable.pdf?1516047403)

The plan also challenges congregations to decrease their use of electricity and water. Some ways to achieve this include:

- Changing to low flush toilets (as of 2010, toilets using 13 litres of water for a single flush are banned in Ontario). Water saving conversion kits are available to convert older toilets to dual flush.
- Install and use rain barrels for watering gardens
- Fix leaks as soon as possible
- Convert to LED lights
- When upgrading, choose “Energy Star” appliances
- Use natural or ‘green’ products for cleaning

Stretch Goals in the Mission and Ministry plan include congregational participation in a community green project or organization. Consider:

- Participating in a community clean up, especially around bodies of water
- Ecumenical participation in Season of Creation programs
- Planting trees or native plant gardens and encouraging neighbours to do so as well
- Promoting Earth Hour (<https://www.earthhour.org/earth-hour-around-world>) or Earth Day (<https://www.earthday.org/2018/05/19/earth-day-2019-campaign-save-endangered-species/>) activities
- Write your local MPs and MPPs to promote water protection including stopping the cheap sale of water for bottling
- Promote a plastic-free community by promoting reusable water bottles, straws, bags, and cutlery
- Create awareness about the problems with microbeads (<https://www.theweathernetwork.com/news/articles/environment-canada-bans-microbeads-microplastics-from-toiletries-cosmetics-body-products/105921>) and other plastics that are contaminating our water ([https://www.asyousow.org/our-work/waste/ocean-plastics?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIhMrQ\\_8C13AIVApRpCh2afQZsEAAYASAAEgL3yvD\\_BwE](https://www.asyousow.org/our-work/waste/ocean-plastics?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIhMrQ_8C13AIVApRpCh2afQZsEAAYASAAEgL3yvD_BwE))

Don't forget to share the ways you have lived out this motion with Huron Church News and the Mission and Ministry Plan!