



Caring for Creation is the Will of God

Presented to the Assembly
of Mennonite Church Canada
July 2008



Creation care is a part of the Good News of God's plan of reconciliation and redemption

Through Christ, God's desire is to "reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross."

A ministry of reconciliation will advocate for the health and wellness of all of creation here and now.



Affirmation Statement (Assembly 2007):

Mennonite Church Canada believes that God longs for the well-being and health of the whole world, for all of creation is bound together and belongs to God, who has created and who preserves all things. Our concern for faithfulness and discipleship should also lead us to care for creation. Mennonite Church Canada believes that God is calling us to commit ourselves to discern the paths of faithfulness to be good stewards of the earth.



“Green Assembly” Resolution ***Abbotsford 2007***

Whereas the earth is an expression of God’s love and Christ calls us to be stewards of God’s precious handiwork, be it resolved that Mennonite Church Canada develop guidelines to reduce the consumption of energy and other resources when planning future assemblies.

Moved by Dave Neufeld. Seconded by Stan Olson. Carried.



Greening the life of our church

www.mennocreationcare.org



INVITATION TO CONGREGATIONS

Let the church together proclaim that “the earth is the Lord’s” and affirm our Christian responsibility to care for our environment and all of life.

Accordingly each congregation is encouraged to take the following actions:



Develop and practice liturgy and celebrations honouring God and God's creation;

Develop and use curriculum which encourages careful use and sharing of the earth's limited resources;



Develop and practice good stewardship of church property including energy-saving practices, low impact, low maintenance landscaping styles , and limiting the amount of pavement;



Foster a sense of connection to the soil and food production as well as to local fields, woods and water courses, through tree planting celebrations, community gardening, and by spending time learning about and enjoying nature in our local communities.



Individual congregations are invited to report on their stewardship activities to the larger church-wide body at future Assemblies and gatherings.



Tell some stories about what your congregation has done and plans to do to green its operations

Identify challenges/obstacles to greening the operations of your congregation and/or the broader church.

What are possible solutions?



**God will care for creation
and us within it**