

Earth Day, 2022

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

At our diocesan convention last October, we made a substantial promise to care for creation.

As Christians we believe that God exists in perfect relationship, and we believe that each of us is invited to share in that relationship. The biblical concept of right-relatedness tells us that not only are we to be in conscious relationship to our Creator but also to each other and to all of Creation. However, our relationship to God's earth is not as God would have it; it is far from "perfect". And now we are all – every human, every creature, every part of the earth itself – at a point where God's beloved planet is in peril. Climate change is a crisis of unprecedented proportion in which we hear God's call to each of us to respond as individuals and as members of his holy Church.

With the passage of "Declaration of a Climate Emergency and Observation of the Season of Creation", we commit ourselves to immediate and sustained action. I am writing to encourage and guide our communities to:

**PRAY:**

- Our faith communities are encouraged to observe the Season of Creation each year from 1 September through 4 October, use liturgical resources available from the National Advisory Committee of the Season of Creation: <https://seasonofcreation.org>
- Please consider the ways your faith community could host or participate in at least one ecumenical or interfaith event to highlight the connection between earth and the spiritual lives of our people.

**COMMIT:**

- A copy of the Covenant of Creation Care is attached with this letter; may Vestries please consider signing it on behalf of the parish; and may copies be made for individual

parishioners of all ages to sign it; and may these signed documents be displayed as a witness to our diocese-wide commitment.

**TURN, and ACT:**

- All faith communities should consider appointing an individual to serve as an Earth Keeper, a person who will connect your congregation to care-of-creation efforts in your community. The function of Earth Keeper may also be carried out by a small group.
- The Earth Keeper(s) will also be your congregation's liaison with the Climate Justice Council of the Diocese.
- Support and educational events for the Earth Keepers will be planned and led on a regular schedule by the Climate Justice Council.
- The Climate Justice Council will provide the Diocese, through the Earth Keeper, with resources and guides for sustainable living practices in parish and family contexts. The Climate Justice Council will in turn gather and share the best ideas and practices for creation care.

It is God's call, given to us in Genesis, "to till the earth and to keep it" (2:15), and we accept this call with gladness and singleness of heart.

Faithfully in Christ,

TJB