

Convention Report of the Environmental Stewardship Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania

Members: Rev Ingrid Andersen; Rev Malinda Clatterbuck; Ms. Kay Cramer; Prof. John Dernbach; Canon Kate Harrigan; Ms. Cricket Hunter; Ms. Madi Keaton; Canon Dan Morrow; Ms. Chloe Selles.

The Environmental Stewardship Committee was formed in August 2019, in response to the Resolution CARE OF CREATION, passed at the 148th Convention of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. This resolution was, in turn, a response to the 79th General Convention resolutions on Advocacy for Creation Care. Members are leaders in church organization, environmental or community development fields.

The role of the Committee is threefold: Networking, Education, and Advocacy, and seeks to:

- Create an enabling environment in the Diocese for environmental and climate advocacy and action.
- To identify “community champions” at a convocational level who are already informed and involved, in order to create an effective network for communication, information and action, and to co-ordinate and mentor environmental activists. To identify leader/s for each of these seven convocational clusters.
- Identify the broad spectrum of climate and environmental initiatives and resources in the parishes of this Diocese in order to showcase best environmental practice, and to tell these stories.
- Partner with other Diocesan committees and bodies that work in the connected issues of racial, economic, and other aspects of human dignity and justice.
- Partner and work with other denominations, institutions, organizations and structures who can contribute to this work.
- Provide ongoing information and training for Environmental/Climate advocacy events and opportunities.
- Identify liturgical, educational, scientific and practical resources/information for parishes.

These are very early days, and much work lies before us to lead the work of the members of this Diocese. Our focus so far has been to establish our broader goals and a consultative ethos of partnership. Networking and connections with stakeholders in both this Diocese and nationally has begun. The need for additional support for effective communication and awareness building has been established.

Members of the committee worked regionally to build support for the Global Climate Strike from 20-27 September, and participated in those events. There was a very positive response at these events to the fact that the Episcopal Church is involved in Environmental and Climate action and advocacy.

The nature of the work of this Committee is urgent. We prioritize action, and we have committed to working on a variety of intersectional work and with a variety of groups throughout the region.

We invite you to join us.