

## Resources

### Faith-Based Environmental Initiatives in Canada

Creation care is often best undertaken from a community or regional perspective. Issues tend to vary based on local ecosystems and approaches and solutions may be shaped by regional government policies and programs. There is a strong network of faith-based organizations engaged in creation care initiatives at both national and local levels with which you may wish to connect:

#### Canada-wide

- Mennonite Central Committee [mcccanada.ca](http://mcccanada.ca)
- Christian Peacemaker Teams, Aboriginal Justice Team [cpt.org](http://cpt.org)
- KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives [kairoscanada.org](http://kairoscanada.org)
- Citizens for Public Justice [cpi.ca](http://cpi.ca)
- Église Verte/Green Church Program [GreenChurch.ca](http://GreenChurch.ca)

#### Eastern Canada

- Greening Sacred Spaces (e.g., Toronto, Hamilton, Peterborough, etc.) [greeningsacredspaces.net](http://greeningsacredspaces.net)
- Green Awakening Network (Greater Toronto Area) [ganresources.wordpress.com](http://ganresources.wordpress.com)
- A Rocha Canada (Hamilton, Toronto) [arocha.ca](http://arocha.ca)
- Ignatius Jesuit Centre (Guelph) [ignatiusguelph.ca](http://ignatiusguelph.ca)

#### Prairies

- A Rocha Prairies Canada (Morden) [arocha.ca](http://arocha.ca)
- Green Faith Alliance (Winnipeg) [greenfaithalliance.ca](http://greenfaithalliance.ca)

#### British Columbia

- A Rocha, Brooksdale Environmental Centre (Surrey) [arocha.ca](http://arocha.ca)

### Major environmental organizations in Canada

- Sierra Club Canada [sierraclub.ca](http://sierraclub.ca)
- David Suzuki Foundation [davidsuzuki.org](http://davidsuzuki.org)
- Climate Action Network Canada [climateactionnetwork.ca](http://climateactionnetwork.ca)
- Environmental Defence [environmentaldefence.ca](http://environmentaldefence.ca)
- Nature Conservancy of Canada [natureconservancy.ca](http://natureconservancy.ca)
- Council of Canadians [canadians.org](http://canadians.org)

# Creation Care Primer

for Churches



Mennonite Church Canada

MENNONITE

CREATION



CARE  
NETWORK

## Background and History

Mennonites have strong roots in the land, and have always recognized our God-given relationship to creation. Our *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective* states:

*We believe that God has created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them, and that God preserves and renews what has been made. All creation ultimately has its source outside itself and belongs to the Creator. The world has been created good because God is good and provides all that is needed for life.<sup>1</sup>*

We have responded to this good gift in our farming practices, development work in the Global South, Thrift Stores, and many other activities.

We have also wrestled with a growing awareness that the very earth that is our home is threatened by the way we live, and that we have misused God's good gift of creation. A series of church-wide resolutions in 1977, 1989 and 2007 have given corporate expression to this awareness.<sup>2</sup> The 1989 resolution resulted in the creation of the Mennonite Environmental Taskforce (1991), which served Mennonites in Canada and the United States for a decade. In 2006, the bi-national Mennonite Creation Care Network was formed, a successor to the Task Force.

In 2007 MC Canada reaffirmed its commitment to creation care as follows:

*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.”*

- Mennonite Church Canada  
Faith and Life Committee Affirmation Statement

## Resourcing congregations

Mennonite Church Canada and the Mennonite Creation Care Network have prepared this Creation Care Primer in response to requests for help from the church in engaging creation care and environmental issues. Its purpose is to guide congregations and individuals in beginning or focusing the conversation on how to live well on the land that God in goodness and love has created. It points to available resources to help people learn more, and to find organizations through which they can engage in action.

Although local context and experience will vary considerably, you are encouraged to use this primer as a catalyst for discussion and exploration. Blessings as you engage in this important conversation!

<sup>1</sup> *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*, Herald Press, 1995, p. 25.

<sup>2</sup> "Christian Stewardship of Energy Resources," General Conference Mennonite Church, 1977; "Stewardship of the Earth Resolution on Environment and Faith Issues," Mennonite Church General Board and General Conference Mennonite Church General Board, 1989; "Affirmation Statement on Creation Care and Stewardship of the Earth, Mennonite Church Canada, 2007.

## Resources

### Mennonite Creation Care Network website

The Mennonite Creation Care Network is a Christian organization affiliated with Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada. We provide ways for people who want to take better care of the earth to connect with each other. Our main activity is providing resources and connections through our website, such as:

- Every Creature Singing curriculum: [mennocreationcare.org/every-creature-singing](http://mennocreationcare.org/every-creature-singing)
- 100 Shades of Green: find suggestions for greening your congregation, and join a network of other greening congregations: [mennocreationcare.org/100-shades-green-congregations](http://mennocreationcare.org/100-shades-green-congregations)
- Green Guidelines for Conference Planners: [mennocreationcare.org/sites/default/files/confgreenguidelines.pdf](http://mennocreationcare.org/sites/default/files/confgreenguidelines.pdf)
- Resources: For Liaisons, For Congregations, Churchwide Assemblies, Recommended Reading, Environmental Issues, Simple Living, Networks and Movements: [mennocreationcare.org/resources](http://mennocreationcare.org/resources)
- Much more! [mennocreationcare.org](http://mennocreationcare.org)

### Mennonite Church Canada Resource Centre

The Resource Centre carries over 150 creation resources. These include downloadable web materials and audiovisual resources, and print items that are shipped free of charge to Mennonite Church Canada constituents. This service is also available to others for a small fee. Here is a sample of available resources (search by title at [resources.mennonitechurch.ca](http://resources.mennonitechurch.ca)):

- Creation Care: Keepers of the Earth, Luke Gascho (2008)
- Living Ecological Justice: A Biblical Response to the Environmental Crisis, Mishka Lysack and Karri Munn-Venn (eds.) (2013)
- A Heart For Creation: Worship Resources and Reflections on the Environment, Chris Polhill (2010)
- Buffalo Shout, Salmon Cry Study Kit, Steve Heinrich (ed.) (2014)
- Earth Trek: Celebrating and Sustaining God's Creation, Joanne Moyer (2004)

## Feedback

We would like to hear from you. Please send us a note at: [creationcare@mennonitechurch.ca](mailto:creationcare@mennonitechurch.ca).

What are you learning as you engage this conversation? What are you doing in response to the call to be a faithful steward of creation? What insights or resources would you like to share with others who are engaging in this discussion?