

Episcopal Church in Western Oregon
Report to the 136th Annual Meeting of Convention
October 26, 2024

CREATION CARE WORKING GROUP

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Activities Report

Work accomplished as a result of numerous Zoom meetings and one in-person meeting since the group's founding includes:

- Delivering a creation care presentation at a Deacons' Day gathering
- Submitting a survey to all churches and analyzing results for use in working with churches
- Creating a PowerPoint resource to be used in visitations to churches as well as in other contexts (six parts: The Resolution: Carbon neutrality in the Episcopal church; Spiritual view of climate change & social justice; Climate change and why is it important; Individual Church planning - Draft Roadmap to 2030; Guide for individuals)
- Creating and presenting a video about the resolution and work of the churches at the 2023 Diocesan Convention
- Establishing a connection with the Province VIII Creation Care Network and attending Zoom meetings as a member
- Attending various webinars related to climate change and creation care
- Writing occasional reports for the Diocesan Digest
- Identifying a number of resources relating to creation care on the Diocesan Creation Care webpages (<https://ecwo.org/creation-care/>)

- Applying for \$3000 from the diocese to be used to offset transportation, printing, and other expenses - \$2000 received
- Undertaking creation care projects at members' home churches
- Designing the group's in-person meeting to function as a prototype for meetings of other diocesan working groups
- Visiting individual churches of the diocese for homilies and presentations during coffee hour
- Recruiting and adding two additional group members to the original roster

Expenditures

- Minor - at this stage, members have assumed costs

2023 Goals Progress

- Southern Convocation: Saint Martin Shady Cove converted all lighting to LEDs; Trinity Ashland installed solar panels on parish hall roof and replaced a gas furnace with a heat pump; Saint George Roseburg added a line item to the budget for creation care projects; and Saint Mark Medford further organized the recycling work of the church. Saint Luke Grants Pass and Holy Spirit Sutherlin have not yet been contacted by the working group.
- Central Convocation (partial report of activities):
 - St. Mary's/Eugene has completed a major energy-focused renovation, including replacement of gas furnaces with heat-pump systems, 48 KWH solar array on parish hall roof, insulation/window/lighting improvements; St. Mary's Vestry has begun assessing the carbon footprint of each ministry; homeless feeding program uses only compostable serving materials;
 - St. John's/Springfield focuses on plastic recycling, LED light replacements, composting, recycling of cardboard, plastic bags and film, electronics, lithium batteries, and pop cans. They also collect household items to reuse in Home Starter Kits. No longer use single use items (paper towels, paper or plastic plates, paper napkins, coffee stir sticks, coffee filters and coffee creamer); do use cloth napkins, cloth 'paper' towels, wash cloths for drying our hands, spoons, real dishes. For large public events, we borrow from Event Resources, Lane County for dish ware, collection stations, etc.
 - St. Thomas/Eugene: LED light replacements
 - St. Andrews/Florence (Garden work, LEDs, other?)
 - Other congregations have not been contacted by the working group.

2024 Goals

- Add members to the group from under-represented areas of the diocese
- Increase level of submissions to diocesan publications, and begin contributions to publications of individual churches
- Visit two or more additional churches in each convocation
- Expand the resources available on the Diocesan Creation Care website
- Connect with groups present in the diocese but outside our Church — environmental groups, other churches, civic organizations, school groups, etc.
- Lobby on behalf of moving church investment monies into environmentally-focused accounts, and work with the diocese toward accomplishing that end