

Guiding Principles for Grace Creation Care with Additional Resources

Mission Statement: *Grace Creation Care Ministry responds to the call to revere the sacred beauty of God's creation by working with other Grace ministries and the community to foster intentional and sustainable practices by engaging hearts and minds through education, service, and advocacy.*

Spirituality & Worship

Regularly pray for all that suffer from environmental degradation & injustice—humans, animals, and the Earth's water, soil, and air.

Offer liturgies and retreats that reverence God's Creation and invite us to steward Creation faithfully (e.g., St. Francis Day, Rogation Sunday, etc.).

Support outdoor prayer and meditation.

022 Episcopal Bishops' Statement on Climate https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/07/Mind-of-House-of-Bishops_Climate-1.pdf

Creation Care Liturgies https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/01/liturgies_honoring_god_in_creation_sclm.pdf

Outreach

Include children and adults from the larger community in the Grace Giving Garden to learn composting and organic gardening.

Include information & resources on Creation Care at Outreach events.

Partner with other faith communities and local groups to host events that celebrate the care of Creation.

Creation Care Alliance of WNC <https://creationcarealliance.org/>

Haywood Waterways <http://haywoodwaterways.org/>

WNC Climate Action Coalition <https://www.wncclimateaction.com/>

Outdoor Mission Community <https://www.outdoormissioncommunity.org/>

Bring Your Own Bag Haywood <https://www.facebook.com/Bring-Your-Own-Bag-Haywood-111161104786827>

Parish Programs and Education

Provide regular & special events: book studies, films, speakers, and classes focused on care for Creation.

Include children and youth in planning and providing activities.

Explore and use green practices and products

Plan church gatherings with sustainability practices & zero waste in mind.

Regularly provide vegetarian options during church-based meals.

Plan fellowship events that get us outside!

Faith-Based Program for Children & Teens <https://www.storyofstuff.org/faith-based/>

Creation Care Alliance Toolkit <https://creationcarealliance.org/toolkit/>

Creation Care Story Sharing https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/01/creation_storysharing_handout.pdf

Administration / Buildings & Grounds

Reduce, reuse, and recycle to minimize waste in all church activities. Compost food waste. Use dishware, not disposable kitchen products. Buy recycled paper products for kitchen and office use. Recycle acceptable, clean used containers and paper. Minimize paper use whenever possible.

Practice energy efficiency with lighting, heating, cooling, and water use.

Transition to renewable energy sources. Investigate funding for solar panels. Research other churches' energy use and conservation practices.

Practice sustainability in landscaping by using native plants whenever possible.

Church of the Nativity, Raleigh <http://www.zerowastechurch.org/>

Cool Congregations <https://www.coolcongregations.org/about/>