

# What must we do? Green Group to offer workshops on climate stewardship at Synod

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Climate change is real and we are contributing to it. The concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere now exceeds 400 parts per million, well above the 350 ppm threshold deemed to be the 'safe' level for ensuring that runaway climate change does not imperil life on Earth.

Last December 195 countries adopted the Paris Agreement to address climate change. They agreed to keep global warming below 2 degrees with efforts to limit it to 1.5 degrees. If this is to happen we must stop emitting greenhouse gases. We cannot carry on with business as usual. Fossil fuel accounts for 87% of human contributions to greenhouse gases.

Science gives us the facts but our faith gives us a moral imperative to respond to this crisis. As Christians, we are called to care for our neighbours (Matthew 25) and to be good stewards of this beautiful planet God has blessed us with (Genesis 1: 26-28). We must be aware of how climate change adversely affects all God's creation as well



as people living around the world.

Earlier this spring our diocesan leadership set the example by divesting from fossil fuel extraction (see "Diocese of Ontario divesting from fossil fuels" above). As Christians we must now each ask ourselves how we see this world. Is the environment something to be used to satisfy human needs, even human greed—or do we believe we are called by God to care for this creation of which we are a part in a way that sustains it for future generations? How must we support our church in living into the 5<sup>th</sup> Mark of Mission, "To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the Earth"? There are many things

that can and must be done to fight climate change and we must do our part.

Your diocesan Green Group would like to help you discover what actions we can take as individuals, churches and society. We are offering two workshops at the upcoming Diocese of Ontario Synod in November and everyone is welcome to attend. One workshop, 'Climate change: what can Anglicans do?', will explore what the responsibilities as stewards of God's creation and as guardians of environmental justice imply for our diocese, our congregations and individuals. The other, 'Decarbonization: beyond fossil fuels', will explore possibilities available to churches and homes for how to acquire heating and lighting from sources other than fossil fuels. We are accountable to God and he will not abandon us. Let us work together to protect our common home.

If you would like more information on the synod workshops please contact us at [greengroup@ontario.anglican.ca](mailto:greengroup@ontario.anglican.ca).