



Province IV Environmental Ministry (EM) Caring for God's Creation

Environmental Ministry helps each diocese in Province IV connect our life of faith with sustainable environmental practices - stewardship of God's Creation.

"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and all that dwells therein." Psalm 24:1



The **Episcopal Ecological Network** (EpEN) includes all Episcopalians who are helping our Church assume a leadership role in environmental ministry, just as our Church leads in other peace and justice issues. See <http://www.eenonline.org/> to learn more.

The **Province IV Environmental Ministry Website** link has a slide show that provides an overview of program and resources. See the Environmental Ministry Overview file.



Province IV EM network engages in an environmental ministry of **Reflection, Education and Action** that protects the environment, promotes sustainable communities and preserves the sanctity of creation. In concert these three components affect the whole person; reflection, the heart and spirit; education, the mind; action, the body. This model ensures that environmental stewards are not just passive listeners to stand-alone sermons, lectures, workshops or one-time event activists.

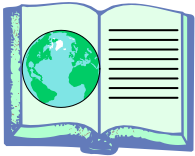


Reflection - Open our hearts to recognize that every element of creation is a gift of God and a revelation of God. How we relate to the natural world reflects our relationship with God, renews reverence for life.

The sacramental tradition of the Anglican Communion, scripture, prayer, theology, liturgy, visual arts, instrumental music and dance opens our hearts. Environmental stewardship is grounded in a theology of creation, drawing from the Christian and Celtic spirituality and the strong sacramental tradition of the Anglican Communion.

Liturgies - celebrate God as Creator emphasizing Christian responsibility in a time of ecological upheaval. Several dioceses in our province have special liturgies for *Rogation Day*, *The Feast of St. Francis*, *Earth Sunday* (last Sunday in April), *Creation Year Round* and *Creation Season*. See www.seasonofcreation.com and look at the liturgies on this website- <http://eenonline.org/reflect/liturgy.htm>.

God how manifold are your works; in wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. - Psalm 104:25. This “Creation” Psalm reminds us of the beauty of creation, evokes gratitude, calls us to find more ways to celebrate, heal and protect all creation. (Note: **Psalm 104 slide show is posted on Sewanee ENTREAT website and will be posted at <http://www.WindWaterFireAndEarth.org> in late Jan. 2009.**)



Education - Open our minds to learn and teach the issues before us through individual study groups and forums. Deepen our understanding of the threats to Creation.

Years of irresponsible human behavior toward natural resources threaten our generations and future generations. Examine how the growing environmental crisis impacts social justice. Learn the connection between economics practices and sustainability. Find good scientific and ecological expertise with the *Science, Technology & Faith* (STF) Network (see <http://ecusa.anglican.org/science>). A *Catechism of Creation: An Episcopal Understanding* can be downloaded from the website above. This catechism was prepared for study in congregations by the The Committee on Science, Technology and Faith

Collaborate with Episcopal Network for Economic Justice (ENEJ) at www.enej.org and learn how their resources and programs connect economic justice with social and environmental justice.

The University of South **ENTREAT - Enter Now The Reflection, Education, Action Treatise** programs offered a method for examining the concerns, connections and conflicts of science and religion. All programs examined the intersection of science, religion, and environmental ethics. This project was a three-way collaboration among the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Theology, and the Province of Sewanee Environmental Ministry of the Episcopal Church. See www.sewanee.edu/ENTREAT to learn more and find excellent environmental resources including work by Prov IV EM leaders. See data about Prov IV EM diocesan programs in Joyce Wilding’s paper: *Collaborative Science & Religion in Southeast United States: Beyond Scopes Trial*. This paper was prepared for “Science and Religion: Global Perspective”, June 2005 Metanexus Institute Conference. You can read and down load this paper at <http://www.metanexus.net/conference2005/papers.asp#W>.

Resources

The Diocese of Alabama has posted excellent environmental resources at <http://www.stewardsforcreation.org/> including:

[Curriculum Guide](#) A Five-Session Adult Christian Education Curriculum Leader's Guide prepared by The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama Task Force for the Stewardship of Creation to accompany the Province IV Bishops' Pastoral Letter: Care of Creation

[Pastoral Letter](#) Text Version of the Province IV Bishops' Pastoral Letter entitled Care of Creation

[Watersheds and Warming Curriculum](#) A Six-Session Course of Study on Global Warming prepared by The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama Task Force for the Stewardship of Creation in collaboration with the World Wildlife Fund.



Action - Open our hands to implement projects. Live in ways that protect, heal and honor the integrity of God's creation. Intentional changes in lifestyles can reflect a reverence for God's creation. Simple living can be responsible and abundant living. Actions can transform lives.

Through our works we are known to the world. Much can and must be done at the individual, parish, diocesan, provincial, national and international levels. Consider the following activities:

- Organize environmental teams to address the crisis facing God's planet Earth.
- Develop and distribute worship and education resources concerning environmental issues.
- Join the *Episcopal Public Policy Network* - www.episcopalchurch.org/eppn
- Support the EGR – Episcopal for Global Reconciliation & *What One Can Do*
- Network with interfaith and ecumenical creation stewards
- Implement local projects that address priority issues

Environmental Ministry Priority Issues



Source of Light & Breath - respond to global warming by working with *Power & Light* groups (see www.theregenerationproject.org/) and faith based groups that promote green renewable energy, energy conservation/efficiency and clean air.

Learn how Episcopal leader in the SE are working to stop *Mountain Top Removal* that destroys eco-system and communities. (See <http://www.ilovemountains.org>)

See Diocese of Alabama [Energy Audit](http://www.stewardsforcreation.org/) at <http://www.stewardsforcreation.org/> to learn how parishes can conduct an energy audit and reduce power consumption and carbon dioxide emissions, as well save money.

[EPA Energy Guide for Congregations](#) provides many energy saving tips.

House of the Lord - greening our churches, camps, and conference centers. See www.usgbc.org to learn how the U.S. Green Building Council promotes "Building A Sustainable Future." [Resources for Green Buildings](#) has many environmentally-friendly buildings. See Episcopal Life Online website, <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/elife> - to find stories about Episcopal churches, schools, camp and conference centers that have "greened" their buildings and grounds.



Gift of Water - protect and enhance all watersheds* and restore water quality.

***A WATERSHED is the area of land that feeds water into a river system. Everything we do on the land affects the water. If we protect the land, we protect the water on and beneath the land.**

[Watersheds and Warming Curriculum](#) A Six-Session Course of Study on Global Warming prepared by The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama Task Force for the Stewardship of Creation in collaboration with the World Wildlife Fund.

Several diocesan Prov IV leaders have developed excellent water stewardship resources and ongoing projects including a water resolution that was approved at 2003 General Convention. See web links listed above to find power point shows about [Water of Baptism/Water of Life](#) and [Saving The Rivers One Watershed At A Time](#).

See page 27 of the Sierra Club "[Faith in Action: Communities of Faith Bring Hope for the Planet](#)" book that profiles how Christ Church Cathedral in Nashville, TN promotes water conservation and stewardship. (See www.sierraclub.org).

God's Covenant with Noah - preserve biodiversity native habitats and wilderness areas. Learn how to make a *Backyard Wildlife Habitat* in your yard, at your parish and diocesan centers. Connect care of land, air and water with biodiversity concerns.

Study Dr. Jeffrey Gollither's papers including: *Crisis and the Renewal of Creation: Church and World in the Age of Ecology* (1996), *Cultural and Spiritual Values of Biodiversity* (United Nations Environmental Program, 1999). Some of his papers can be downloaded at www.anglicancommunion.org/un/soc.html and/or at www.sewanee.edu/ENTREAT



Trees of Life – encourage sustainable forest management and endorse road-less forests, see www.creationethics.org, study the NCC Land Initiative and [Religious Campaign for Forest Conservation](#) to learn how religious networks are preserving and protecting our forests. Buy tree-free paper and 100% post-consumer recycled paper. The website www.greenpressinitiative.org has excellent information about what type papers we should use for our books.

Garden of God – implement healthy practices for agriculture and land. To learn more about food and faith resources see www.earthministry.org, support community based agriculture (CBA). Buy *Bishop's Blend Coffee*, a Fair Trade, shade grown organic coffee that benefits ERD, Episcopal Relief & Development see www.er-d.org and learn more about this coffee and other earth friendly products and gifts that can be promoted in Alternative Christmas events.



Celebration of the Word – integrate creation into our liturgy, celebrate God as Creator. See www.eenonline.org/reflect for liturgical resources.

Ancient Ritual ♦ Artistic Expression ♦ Spiritual Renewal

First Friday Sacred Soul Space (<http://www.christcathedral.org/SacredSpace/FirstFriday>). Services are held on the first Friday of each month at 6 p.m. at Christ Church Cathedral in Nashville, TN. May and October services celebrate the beauty of all Creation.

Grounded in the Book of Common Prayer, each service is unique and contemporary. A varied format of different genres and styles of music is provided by the Gallery Musicians. Many services are enhanced by original liturgical dance performed by the Epiphany Dancers.



Celebration of Eucharist with American Sign Language
Photo: Kimberly Manz