



Environmental Policy

PREAMBLE

The world finds itself in a degraded state with many of the resources that God has provided for our well-being sadly depleted. While some people on our planet are able to live sustainable lives in healthy environments with running water and clean air, for many the threat of ever-increasing environmental degradations to come. Moreover, the survival of many human beings is not only at stake but several ecosystems creatures are also affected.

WE REALISED

- That our present global economic system is promoting environmental degradation and poverty.
- That we breath polluted air in most of our cities.
- That many of our people do not have access to clean, safe, drinking water.
- That many people because of colonialism, economic hardships and apartheid are estranged from the land.
- That greed and profit-seeking, often masquerading as development and job-creation, causes the ruthless and unnecessary destruction of natural ecosystems.
- That people who are victims of environmental injustice are often people who are victims of socio-economic injustice.
- That ever-increasing human population growth is placing pressure on fragile ecosystems.
- That war further increases damage to ecosystems.
- That our consumptive lifestyle are creating mountains of garbage in our streets, townships and rural villages.
- That rural women and girls have to walk ever-greater distances to find dwindling supplies of firewood.
- That we are causing the extinction of countless ecosystems and creatures.
- That the noxious gases and hazardous by products of factories, farms and mine processes are polluting our environment and harming our bodies.

WE FEAR THAT IN THE FUTURE

- We will not be able to produce enough food to feed all the people of Southern Africa.
- There will not be enough water for everyone.
- That the environmental disaster like Chernobyl, globing warming and ozone depletion will become common-place.
- That future generations will inherit a world that is health hazard, filled with piles of rubbish and minus several species and ecosystems.
- That environmental degradation will cause accelerated poverty and economic marginalisation of communities.
- That war and violence will increase as natural resources become more scarce.

WE KNOW

That as followers of Christ we are called, in our conduct to bring hope to Gods fallen creation and creatures.

WE KNOW

That we are unable to achieve this in our own strength but only through Christ.

WE THUS ENDEAVOUR

As Christian students we agree to abide by the following principles:

- a) Respect and care for the well-being of our fellow human-beings, especially those less fortunate than ourselves.
- b) Respect and care for the well-being of the natural world, especially life-supporting systems which we depend on for survival.
- c) Respect and care for the well-being of future generations who are unable to speak for themselves.

WE WILL ACHIEVE THIS IN OUR RESPECTIVE INSTITUTIONS BY:

- a) Examining our own lifestyles to ensure that we do not continue to waste our precious resources or unnecessarily pollute the earth.
- b) By conscientising ourselves about environmental issues on our campuses, in our communities and churches.
- c) By speaking out against environmental injustice and degradation at various platforms on our respective campuses.
- d) By monitoring the waste practices of our respective institutions.
- e) By encouraging and facilitating recycling practices in our own lives and on our respective campuses.
- f) By encouraging regular worship practices at our local ANSOC, in ASF and at our home churches that remind us of the precious gift we have in God's creation.
- g) By linking with organisations in the Anglican Communion promoting earthkeeping.