

The Wellspring Covenant -- Care of the Earth

We believe that God has created a world of riches and abundance and that humans have exploited and wasted physical, biological, human, and spiritual resources so that many of our brothers and sisters suffer intense poverty and limited opportunities. Earth's other creatures and the whole of creation suffers with us.

We have consumed too much and contributed too little. We have interrupted natural cycles, destroyed species, and cause unnecessary suffering to individual expressions of life. We have been careless with our wastes and have polluted the air, water and soil. We have failed to constrain the expansion of our species and moderate our consumption so that each person can have enough resources to live and take a desired place in the human community.

We have stolen the birthright of future generations. We have lived as if God were not incarnate in Christ. We believe that meaning for human life comes from the stewardship, appreciation and enjoyment of creation. God is with us in this world.

A basic expression of our stewardship is to take up the advocacy of economic justice so that all our sisters and brothers may have the opportunity to share in and contribute to an abundant common life. Economic justice necessarily includes the protection, restoration, and enhancement of the ecosystem within which people and other creatures live and from which people and other creatures draw their sustenance. As steps in the path of following the living Christ I will:

- live abundantly and enjoy creation without hoarding what my sisters and brothers need, without wasting the resources entrusted to me, and without polluting the land, water and air;**
- pay particular attention to recycling;**
- work for economic justice;**
- work for peace and harmony;**
- work to protect, restore, and enhance the natural environment; and,**
- develop a theology and spirituality that is earth-inclusive.**

Adopted by Council 3/8/90 Reaffirmed 8/9/01