



FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH
HALIFAX

Draft Statement on the Church and the Environment

First Baptist Church Halifax recognizes the interdependence of all creation and the threat to the global environment knowing that ecology and justice are inseparable. As Christians and faithful stewards, we bear the responsibility to affirm and support programs, legislation, research and organizations that protect and restore the vulnerable, the oppressed and the under privileged and in particular the fragile biosphere in which we exist. This responsibility for a habitable environment is not just for human life, but for all life. We stand with the vulnerable creation and will work with its defenders towards sustainable development.

We

- Affirm the goodness and beauty of the entirety of God's creation
 - Recognizing there is systemic abuse of the environment and each other:
 - We commit to respect each other through reconciliation, inclusion and welcoming
- Acknowledge our responsibility for stewardship of the Creator's good earth.
 - We commit to witness for social and environmental justice
- Will educate ourselves of societal and environmental dangers
 - By study, prayer and worship
- Recognize that our practices and lifestyles have had an effect on the environment
 - We commit to act to reduce our impact in both consumption and disposal
 - We choose to invest in and encourage positive responses to the environmental challenge
- Will encourage a lifestyle that is wise and responsible
 - We support practices and products recognized by the highest level of environmental certification
 - We support local and low impact initiatives
 - We commit to reducing our organizational and personal consumption
- Will influence the shaping of public policy as a community and as individuals by advocating that industries, businesses, producers and consumers relate to the environment in ways that are sensible, healthy and protective of its integrity
 - Especially recognizing the unequal impact of climate change on the poor and under housed.
- Will collaborate with organizations that protect and restore the environment and the people in our communities
 - By seeking out partners for outreach and for advocacy
- Will promote an attitude affirming that all nature has intrinsic value and that all life is to be honoured and revered.