

## Mennonite Creation Care Network

**M**ennonite Creation Care Network (MCCN) is a new organisation of Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA for Mennonite people and agencies actively engaged in the care and restoration of God's creation. It is rooted in the conviction that all the earth is an expression of God's love and that Christ calls us to be stewards of the earth, bringing renewal to the land. In response to this call, MCCN's vision is to equip lay people and leaders with tools, resources, and models that will educate, encourage, and inspire the church in this work.

MCCN's goals are to encourage the church to (1) claim our biblical and theological foundations regarding care of God's creation, (2) discover the ties that link all created beings to each other and to God, (3) confess the harm humans have caused the natural world, and (4) act faithfully to restore the earth.

The centre of the network is the MCCN Web site (<http://www.mennocreationcare.org/>). It contains resource links; examples of creation care among individuals, congregations, schools, church agencies, and the work/business community; a directory to facilitate networking with other creation care workers; and a photo gallery. A sampling of resource links from the Web site is provided below.

### **Greening churches and homes**

**A Rocha** in Portuguese means "the rock." A Rocha Canada is a national conservation organisation working to show God's love for all creation. Their commitment to environmental action is manifest through community-based conservation projects, with a focus on science and research, practical conservation, and environmental education. For resources on making your church a creation stewardship centre, see <http://en.arocha.org/caresources/index.html>.

**Earth Ministry's** mission is to inspire and mobilise Christians to lead in building a just and sustainable future. Their resources include *Greening Congregations Handbook: Stories, Ideas, and Resources for Cultivating Creation Awareness and Care in Your Congregation*, a 225-page “tool box” for all who want to foster creation awareness and care in their congregations ([http://www.earthministry.org/your\\_congregation.htm](http://www.earthministry.org/your_congregation.htm)); and *Caring for All Creation: On the Road, at the Table, in the Home* (<http://www.earthministry.org/cfac.htm>). The latter is a four-part program to encourage individuals and communities of faith to live in loving community with all of God's creation, in specific aspects of our lives.

**Greening Sacred Spaces** is a practical programme of Faith and the Common Good, to assist faith communities to “renew the sacred balance.” This group has developed a resource kit, which includes workshops, posters, music, and more, to help faith groups reduce greenhouse gases and live sustainably. See <http://www.faith-commongood.net/gss/index.asp>. Faith and the Common Good is an interfaith network of religious communities who understand the earth as a sacred gift: “As peoples of differing faiths and cultures, we affirm common values of justice, peace, participation, human rights, ecological inter-relationship, and compassion as cornerstones of a healthy society.”

**Web of Creation** was established to foster personal and social transformation to a just and sustainable world from religious perspectives. Maintained by the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, with funding, sponsorship, and endorsement from a variety of faith-based sources, this Web site provides ecology resources to transform faith and society. See <http://www.webofcreation.org/Manuals/index.htm>.

### **Worship and education resources**

**Environment Resource Packs** from A Rocha UK provide worship materials focusing on biblical teaching on God's world and our place in it, Christian perspectives on the environment, and making a practical difference in your local community. See <http://en.arocha.org/ukconsunday/index2.html>.

**The Catholic Conservation Center's** mission is to promote ecology, environmental justice, and the stewardship of creation in

light of scripture and Catholic tradition. Their Web site features writings about ecology and the environment from a variety of Catholic sources (<http://conservation.catholic.org/index.htm>).

**Christian Ecology Link** is a multi-denominational UK Christian organisation for people concerned about the environment (<http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk/resource.htm>).

Earth Ministry **Sermons and Worship Aids** and other Earth Day Sunday-related materials are available at [http://www.earthministry.org/Congregations/clergy\\_and\\_lay.htm](http://www.earthministry.org/Congregations/clergy_and_lay.htm).

**The Evangelical Environmental Network** seeks to educate, inspire, and mobilise Christians in their effort to care for God's creation, to be faithful stewards of God's provision, and to advocate for actions and policies that honor God and protect the environment. Creation Sunday resources can be found at <http://www.creationcare.org/resources/>.

Named for a sixteenth-century scientist and theologian, **The John Ray Initiative** celebrates the wonders of nature; seeks ecological understanding, environmental stewardship, and industrial sustainability; and provides biblical interpretation on these subjects. See the resource index at <http://jri.org.uk/resource/index.htm>.

**The Eco-Justice Program office of the National Council of Churches** (U.S.) works in cooperation with the NCC Eco-Justice Working Group to provide an opportunity for the national bodies of member Protestant and Orthodox denominations to work together to protect and restore God's creation. For resources, see <http://www.nccecojustice.org/resources.html>.

**Season of Creation** proposes a way to focus in worship for four Sundays in September our concern for creation's suffering. By concentrating this season's worship on God's creation and our relationship with creation, we can seek ways to heal rather than exploit the earth. See <http://www.seasonofcreation.com/index.asp>.

Web of Creation's **Green Congregation Program: Worship** includes materials for reflection and action, as well as worship resources (liturgies, litanies, prayers, sermons, and more), at <http://www.webofcreation.org/Worship/index.htm>. **Green Congregation Program: Education** also includes materials for reflection and action, as well as educational resources. See <http://www.webofcreation.org/ReligiousEducation/index.htm>.