

Affirmations and Resolutions
of the
General Assembly
of the
Presbyterian Church of Australia
in
New South Wales
July 2015



CREATION CARE

The General Assembly of the
Presbyterian Church of Australia in NSW
affirms that:

- (a) the Triune God created the world very good to show the glory of his eternal power, wisdom, and goodness (WCF 4:1); and that humanity, made in God's image as a part of the creation, has the task of caring for and developing the created order (Genesis 2:15);
- (b) humanity should seek to care for and develop the created order in a way which treasures its beauty and riches;
- (c) this care and development should be performed with a view to enhancing

human life and preserving resources for the use of future generations;

- (d) God's promise of a new creation does not remove a responsibility to care for the creation but instead stimulates such care;
- (e) one of the effects of human sin is that the created order is disordered, "subjected to futility" and in "bondage to corruption" (Genesis 3:17-19; Romans 8:20–21);
- (f) humanity itself has been guilty of misusing the natural environment, often exploiting it, failing to care for it in a sustainable way and that the most widely accepted scientific research shows that human activity is having an increasingly negative impact on the environment;



(g) human actions cannot undo the corruption of the created order due to sin, but can exacerbate it and may also mitigate its effects;

(h) developed nations, such as Australia, have often consumed a disproportionate share of their resources and have contributed a disproportionate share of damage to eco-systems, so have a particular responsibility to seek to care responsibly for the creation;

(i) a Christian perspective offers a basis for creation care missing from all other religious and philosophical positions in that it affirms the creation as the good gift of the Triune Creator, the responsibility of humanity before him to care for his gift and God's plan to restore his creation to his glory;

(j) it is, therefore, a Christian responsibility to seek to care for the natural environment and that this is a serious issue for our generation.

Following from this statement, the Assembly has made the the following resolutions to encourage congregations in a concern for Creation care:

- encourage ministers to address creation care in their preaching;
- encourage members of the Church to inform themselves of issues of creation care;
- call the Church to pray for God to sustain the created order, for responsible human care of the environment, for wisdom for those whose work has a responsibility for or a major impact on the environment and for the poor who are most vulnerable to environmental degradation;
- call members of the Church to adopt a simple lifestyle as God instructs in the Bible (Luke 12:15; 1 Tim 6:6–10, 17–19), which will also reduce their burden on the environment;

- encourage churches and members to explore local expressions of creation care as a witness to God's care for his creation and opportunities to engage with the wider community;
- affirm the paid and unpaid work of church members in areas of environmental research and care;
- affirm the work of agricultural production and the advances in sustainable methods by Australian farmers and encourage members to participate in this;
- encourage members of the Church who have a role in forming public policy to take an active interest in creation care and environmental policy;
- encourage congregations, and especially Committees of Management, to review the environmental impact and energy use of church buildings and consider how these may be reduced.

In response to the report of the Committee on Gospel, Society and Culture, brought to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in NSW in July 2015, the Assembly resolved to affirm the above principles of Creation Care, and to circulate them and the accompanying report to presbyteries and sessions (GANSW 2015 BB Min 69).

For more information about The Gospel, Society and Culture committee see www.gsandc.org.au .

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