

NEW LEAF

A CREATION CARE AND STEWARDSHIP NEWSLETTER



News from General Synod

By: Amber Tremblett

In June 2025 I attended General Synod in London, Ontario. I witnessed and was part of many important decisions that prioritized Creation Care *and* the stewardship of people, the theme of this issue of New Leaf. Below I will take you through some of these decisions and my reflections on them:

The first piece of work that comes to mind when I think about how this General Synod addressed the concerns of our committee, is the adoption of the new feast day, The Feast of the Creator. This feast day has its roots in the Orthodox tradition and is already celebrated by many denominations across the world. It is celebrated on September 1st, the first day of the Season of Creation.

While we've always celebrated the end of the Season of Creation with the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, we have not had a way to mark the beginning of this important season in the church year. Until now. the Feast of the Creator celebrates God as the Creator of the universe, reminding us of our place within this beautiful creation and who we serve as part of it. I love the introduction of this feast day because it further integrates the care for creation into all aspects of our faith. Good stewardship of Creation is not just about sustainability, but about deepening our relationship with Creation and our Creator. This feast day encourages both!

Another important motion brought forward at General Synod called the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC) to increase its support for migrant workers in Canada. In response to the bible's call to care for the sojourner, migrant worker advocates from the Diocese of

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Huron proposed that the ACC liase with all levels of government to create more accessible permanent residency pathways for migrant workers. With growing hostility to immigrants, and the increasing amount of migrant workers in our own province, I believe this resolution is an important one for the continued care of the people in our communities. As faith communities, we have a duty to care, support, and protect the rights of all human beings. Care for immigrants is an important part of our call to be good stewards of our relationships with others. For more information on this motion, check out this article published by the Anglican Journal: anglicanjournal.com/general-synod-votes-to-support-migrant-ministries/

There were many other motions that served to respect the dignity of every human being, including adopting statements on disability theology, signing letters in support of LGBTQIA+ and 2-Spirit peoples, and urging government to implement an arms embargo on Israel.

One other major point of importance at General Synod was the church's recognition of the importance of the voices of youth for our church, both present and future. There was a motion put forward to increase the number of youth on the Council of General Synod and to form a National Youth Advisory Council. Both of these motions passed with celebration. Historically, the church has not been good at stewarding the voices and the faith lives of our youth, evidenced by their relative absence in our pews. These motions represent hope to me that our youth leaders are being taken seriously in their dedication to their faith and the betterment of their church.

Something of great excitement is that a youth from our own diocese, Sally Smith, has been elected to the Council of General Synod for the next three years. She will get to steward her gifts to make important decisions for the church!

General Synod was an uplifting experience filled with hope. It committed to some promising things regarding Creation Care and Stewardship and I am very grateful to have been part of those decisions.

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

Read:
Matthew 25:34-46

Ask:
Put yourself in the shoes of the those on the King's right and then the King's left. What emotions come up? Who are "the least of these" in your context? Have you ever felt like "the least of these?" Did your church community see Jesus in you? How can you make sure you see Jesus in others?

Pray:
As you pray this week, reflect on how you and your church community have lived into this Gospel passage. Consider asking God to reveal to you "the least of these" and what you might do to meet their needs.

My Friend, Patrice

By: Jotie Noel

Please allow me to introduce my friend, Patrice! She moved to Canada from Jamaica in 2013 after completing an Early Learning and Childcare Diploma from Bow Valley College in Alberta. Using her determined initiative, she secured employment starting a new home for her family. As a single parent of two, Imani and Paris, she has worked full time since her arrival in Early Childhood Education.

For several years Patrice was self-employed, operating a Family Day Care from her home. After a short period as a Teaching and Learning Assistant and in a non-profit childcare centre she started working for the YWCA St. John's in the fall of 2024. Patrice is the manager of Child Care Development and is working on opening YWCA St. John's first childcare centre in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The YWCA St. John's supports women and gender diverse folks across the province. YWCA St. John's offers support through its programs; LGBTQIA+ Peer Support, Career Empowerment, and Newcomers; Financial Empowerment.

Patrice's life experiences have led her to become an advocate. She sits on the national Child Care Now Board and is a member of the steering committee of Child Care Now NL – advocating for all families to have access to publicly funded, high quality, inclusive childcare.

Naturally advocacy has taken Patrice in the political conversations as Child Care Now meets with the

Provincial and Federal Government officials to discuss improving the childcare system. Political Parties across the country have different positions on the '\$10.00 a Day' childcare program. Depending on the results of the Federal elections the future of this program and other Childcare Programs face uncertain futures.

I respect and admire Patrice who has made our province her home and is actively working to help make our society a better place for parents who need childcare and Early Childhood Educators who work to provide this essential service.



A picture of Patrice Gordon. Photo Courtesy of Patrice Gordon.

UPCOMING EVENTS

If you are planning any Creation Care events in your parish, or there are relevant community events you believe our parishes should know about, please email the team at creationcare@anglicanenl.net.

Nurture: Loving God, Loving Creation, Loving You - A Reflection on the TPC Archdeaconry Stewardship Day

By: Rev. Deborah Pantin

On Saturday, October 18th, the Archdeaconry of Trinity-Placentia-Conception hosted a stewardship day at All Saints Church in Dildo. The workshop arose out of a conversation between Archdeacon Christine Lynch, Canon Debbie Pantin and Rev. Amber Tremblett while attending a course at Queen's College in June. The three were discussing their parishes' need for some learning around stewardship as a result of their 2025 Set Sail goals. In the spirit of Deepening Relationships, they decided to join forces to offer an event, exercising good stewardship of space, time and expertise, as well as providing an opportunity to come together in fellowship.

The workshop, "Nurture: Loving God, Loving Creation, Loving You", was very well received by the thirty participants from around the archdeaconry. After the opening worship, Rev. Roberta Woodman, former Stewardship Officer in the Diocese of Western Newfoundland, presented the first talk, on Loving God, with an emphasis on prayer and

reading scripture, and interspersed with prayer in the form of worship songs. Rev. Amber, representing the Diocesan Creation Care and Stewardship Team, presented on Loving Creation and proposed a new way of thinking about humanity having "dominion" over creation, reminding participants of the nature of God's dominion, in contrast to the powers and dominions of this world. There was also a display of alternative household products and personal care items like toothpaste tablets and detergent sheets in minimal and compostable packaging. After lunch, Canon Debbie led a talk and some silly action songs emphasizing the importance of self-care and self-compassion, including recognizing the role of trauma in our lives. During the closing worship participants took time to consider where God was leading them to focus and took home a stone to remind them of their intention.

Behold how good and pleasant it is to dwell together in unity! – Psalm 133.

IF YOU'RE CURIOUS
ABOUT HOSTING A
STEWARDSHIP DAY
IN YOUR PARISH OR
ARCHDEACONRY,
**CONTACT REV.
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