

MINNESOTA EPISCOPAL ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION

Mission Statement:

We believe creation is a gift of God, and all creation is interconnected. We seek to instill this spiritual awareness in parishioners, clergy, and staff of the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota; and to promote stewardship of and advocacy for planet Earth.

Brief summary:

In the last few years we have carried out our mission primarily through five ongoing projects:

Creation Season: Each year we create worship, education, and preaching materials for the celebration of a four to six week creation season. We promote the celebration in the diocese of Minnesota, and make the materials available via our website, where they are picked up by people within and beyond the diocese.

Convention presence: We have a booth at Diocesan Convention every year and for the last several years have provided creation themed placemats for the dinner tables.

Educational retreats at the Mary Brown Environmental Center in Ely Minnesota: We share the building management with the Ely congregation. Recent retreats have included one on Sigurd Olson, Geology of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, and women's retreats.

Writing: We continue adding to our offering of lectionary reflections for each Sunday and feast day, along with reflections on sacred space and environmental spirituality, creation centered worship materials, and theological reflections. All of these are published to our web site at www.env-steward.com. This part of our work reaches beyond Minnesota and the U.S. as we receive visits from all over the world.

Green congregation recognition process: Our newest project, just getting underway. We plan to adapt processes already developed in other denominations for use with Episcopal Churches.