

# Scarboro Missions Ecological Mission Statement

**"Source of life and goodness, you have created all things, to fill your creatures with every blessing and lead all people to the joyful vision of your light."** (Preface Eucharistic Prayer IV)

All creation is a revelation of God, from the shining stars and sun and the vast sky and waters, to the myriad diversity within the community of life—plants, animals, people and other life forms. God loves all of creation and called it "very good" (Gen.1:31). As bearers of the image of God we are called, within our capabilities, to collaborate with God in loving and caring for creation and especially for all that suffer. "We know that all creation is groaning in labour pains even until now; and not only creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit" (Rom. 8:22-23).

Today, life on earth is threatened by an escalating ecological crisis—climate change, deforestation, pollution, species extinction and more. Ecological destruction, poverty and injustice are all intertwined in social structures and lifestyles which value individual status over community well-being, possessions over relationships, and profits over the common good of all life. We believe God is calling the human family to conversion—to a profound respect for all life; to a mending of our broken relationships with our sisters and brothers, with the community of life, and with the Creator.

We are grateful for the many committed people around the world working generously to protect the integrity of creation. At the same time we know that more efforts are needed. We belong to an interdependent community of life on earth. Our actions affect the earth's ability to sustain life. God ever invites us to "choose life" (Deut. 30:19), to restore right relationships and to choose a way of life based on solidarity and sufficiency rather than exploitation and excess. We believe God intended the human family to use wisely and distribute justly the bounty of God's earth so that all people may live with dignity both now and in the future and so that the community of life may flourish. Deep gratitude to God for the wonder of creation and the precious gift of life moves us to consistent action.

"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full" (John 10:10). Jesus Christ lived simply and showed the way of life and love, service and sacrifice. We desire to follow Jesus more closely and trust in the creative, redeeming and sustaining love of God. Scarboro Missions seeks:

- to live simply and more sustainably in solidarity with the poor and marginalized peoples of the world as well as with the whole community of life;
- to work on behalf of social and ecological justice.