

**Creation Care Resolution**  
**First Reformed Church of Schenectady**  
**adopted April 2016**

Whereas Scripture reveals that God, through Word and Spirit, creates, sustains, loves, and owns the world, “the earth is the Lord’s”;

And whereas humans are image-bearers of God on earth and have been given “dominion” over the other creatures, to be exercised in a manner consistent with God’s character, which has been fully revealed in Jesus, who said, “I have come not to be served but to serve,” from which we understand our “dominion” is to be that of service;

And whereas one of God’s first and enduring commands is for humankind to “till and keep the garden,” upon which we and all life are inseparably dependent;

And whereas the ecological degradation to soil, water, and air resulting from global industrialization, skyrocketing standard of living for many in the developed world, and a population explosion have compromised the health of natural systems;

And whereas the burden of this ecological degradation falls disproportionately upon those with the fewest economic resources, causing suffering, poor health, and premature death to humans and the extinction of other species at an unprecedented rate;

And whereas the overwhelming majority of scientists in our nation and world agree that recent climate change is being driven primarily by human activity, especially the emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases from the burning of fossil fuels;

And whereas the nations of the world have publically agreed that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions must be curbed in substantial and sustained ways in order to limit climate change to no more than 2 degrees Celsius of pre-industrial levels in order to reduce the risks of

severe, pervasive and irreversible ecological impacts for ecosystems and people—impacts most detrimental to those already vulnerable;

And whereas there is a strong and growing consensus among leaders of many faith traditions regarding the urgent need to recognize the degradation and danger that we have caused within Creation and our moral responsibility to take action so that we, together with all people of good will, decrease the damage and increase efforts towards the restoration of our common home;

And whereas the covenant of our congregation states “it shall be our aim...to labor together for the betterment of humanity,” that our fellowship shall grow from “a common commitment to serve the world we touch” and that our ideal includes “the hopeful spirit and social vision” of Jesus; And whereas the First Reformed Church of Schenectady has served and serves as a leader in the community and denomination;

And whereas, although our church has taken steps towards ecological stewardship in the past few decades, including a more recent increase in awareness and activity, leading to some changes in policy and practices, nevertheless the care of creation yet remains a peripheral concern to our congregation, as many aspects of our shared ministries and individual lives continue to unnecessarily harm Creation;

**Be it resolved, therefore, that we, the Consistory of the First Reformed Church of Schenectady commit ourselves, through our committees, staff, groups, and resources to make care of Creation a central priority in our congregation;**

**Further, that we implement a process to fulfill this commitment for the blessing of the world, the strengthening of our shared ministries and individual lives, the collaborative transformation of our local and regional communities, and the glory of God.**