



## Environmental Policy

### PREAMBLE

The world finds itself in a degraded state with many of the resources that God has provided for our well-being sadly depleted. While some people on our planet are able to live sustainable lives in healthy environments with running water and clean air, for many the threat of ever-increasing environmental degradations to come. Moreover, the survival of many human beings is not only at stake but several ecosystems creatures are also affected.

### WE REALISED

- That our present global economic system is promoting environmental degradation and poverty.
- That we breath polluted air in most of our cities.
- That many of our people do not have access to clean, safe, drinking water.
- That many people because of colonialism, economic hardships and apartheid are estranged from the land.
- That greed and profit-seeking, often masquerading as development and job-creation, causes the ruthless and unnecessary destruction of natural ecosystems.
- That people who are victims of environmental injustice are often people who are victims of socio-economic injustice.
- That ever-increasing human population growth is placing pressure on fragile ecosystems.
- That war further increases damage to ecosystems.
- That our consumptive lifestyle are creating mountains of garbage in our streets, townships and rural villages.
- That rural women and girls have to walk ever-greater distances to find dwindling supplies of firewood.
- That we are causing the extinction of countless ecosystems and creatures.
- That the noxious gases and hazardous by products of factories, farms and mine processes are polluting our environment and harming our bodies.

### WE FEAR THAT IN THE FUTURE

- We will not be able to produce enough food to feed all the people of Southern Africa.
- There will not be enough water for everyone.
- That the environmental disaster like Chernobyl, globing warming and ozone depletion will become common-place.
- That future generations will inherit a world that is health hazard, filled with piles of rubbish and minus several species and ecosystems.
- That environmental degradation will cause accelerated poverty and economic marginalisation of communities.
- That war and violence will increase as natural resources become more scarce.

### WE KNOW

That as followers of Christ we are called, in our conduct to bring hope to Gods fallen creation and creatures.

## **WE KNOW**

That we are unable to achieve this in our own strength but only through Christ.

## **WE THUS ENDEAVOUR**

As Christian students we agree to abide by the following principles:

- a) Respect and care for the well-being of our fellow human-beings, especially those less fortunate than ourselves.
- b) Respect and care for the well-being of the natural world, especially life-supporting systems which we depend on for survival.
- c) Respect and care for the well-being of future generations who are unable to speak for themselves.

## **WE WILL ACHIEVE THIS IN OUR RESPECTIVE INSTITUTIONS BY:**

- a) Examining our own lifestyles to ensure that we do not continue to waste our precious resources or unnecessarily pollute the earth.
- b) By conscientising ourselves about environmental issues on our campuses, in our communities and churches.
- c) By speaking out against environmental injustice and degradation at various platforms on our respective campuses.
- d) By monitoring the waste practices of our respective institutions.
- e) By encouraging and facilitating recycling practices in our own lives and on our respective campuses.
- f) By encouraging regular worship practices at our local ANSOC, in ASF and at our home churches that remind us of the precious gift we have in God's creation.
- g) By linking with organisations in the Anglican Communion promoting earthkeeping.