

ASF Regional Conference Report

2nd – 4th May 2014



Zonnebloem Estate

ASF Western Cape Regional Conference

How to be a Young Green Anglican: Jonathan Ho' Bosch

Anglican Students Federation had their annual regional conference from the 2nd to the 4th of May 2014, with the aims of electing a new executive and deciding on major regional activities for the next financial year. "You shall not defile the land which you live; in which you also dwell" was the theme for the conference focusing on sustaining our precious planet and protecting God's creation but mostly getting young people in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa to buy in to the idea and take action in combating environmental issues. Jonathan Ho'Bosch (an intern in the Green Anglicans office) presented to the students on how to be a Green Young and Active Anglican.

What is the challenge?

When attending seminars where environmental issues are addressed there are often long speeches and heavy information shelled with statistics that may not make sense to a young mind, which leads to young people assuming that environmental conservation is rather boring and is meant for scientists. This perception has been going on for a long period of time and has led to the youth ignoring anything that has to do to with caring for creation.



Response

An action to change the image of environmental awareness was reached in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa by co-opting “Care for Creation” as one of key objectives young people need adopt as part of their annual plan of action. The Anglican Environmental Network provides the necessary resources to make environmental education easy on the ear through programs that appeal to young people.

Action

The presentation by Jonathan was divided into two sessions, starting with a game of picture building, the aim was to get the students to understand environmental issues first before being requested to act on them. The second session was how to be An Environmentally aware person and what can be done in churches. Three issues that influence young people regularly were focal points which consisted of:

- Worship
- Personal Lifestyle
- Action and Advocacy



Worship: In becoming Young Green Anglicans, the liturgy of young people needed to speak to and about the issues of environment through preaching applicable sermons and including prayers like the Preservation of the Environment, 20;89 APB as well as celebrating the environment awareness days and just enjoy God’s creation.

Personal Lifestyle: life is more than wanting and thinking you need more or bigger things simple is good and it shouldn’t cost a fortune. Sharing lifts, changing our minds is key, conserving water and electricity.

Action and Advocacy: standing up for things we believe in shouldn't be only being from outside the church only. We have the obligation to stand and voice out the things that affect our earth for we are its voice in a voiceless world.

Ways to combat climate change and options on reducing carbon footprint as well as using basic necessities were discussed and a plan of action that suited students was put into place, including long term initiatives e.g.

- Tree Planting
- Waste Collection
- Celebration of Environmental days
- Environmentally inspired worship
- Water and Electricity audit
- Action and advocacy

Collection of waste was more viable as it would also generate a benefit financially to organisations funds.

With many thanks to Anglican Environmental Offices for resources, to Jonathan Ho Bosch for an informative presentation and Odwa Gonya for supporting the conference.

