

# **GREEN ANGLICANS MOVEMENT**

**OUR FAITH PLAN**

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## **THE GREEN ANGLICANS MOVEMENT**

### **OUR FAITH PLAN**

#### **ABOUT THE GREEN ANGLICANS MOVEMENT**

In October 2018, the Anglican Church of Kenya became the third province within the communion to launch the Green Anglicans Movement. The movement was launched with the aim of encouraging members of the church to take up their roles in being good stewards of God's creations and ensure that future generations will have a better place to live in. The launch of the Green Anglican Movement in Kenya feeds into the "Wholesome Environment" Pillar in the 10-year provincial strategy which runs from 2018-2027. The pillar focuses on environmental stewardship, awareness, advocacy, clean-ups and adoption of renewable sources of energy.

In 2026, the Anglican church in Kenya will focus on wholesome ecology and it is upon this premise that the Green Anglicans Movement seeks to play a leading role in attainment of this midterm goal.

The Green Anglicans Movement also seeks to enable the church to contribute to the attainment of SDGs 1(No poverty), 2(Zero hunger), 6(Clean water and sanitation) and 13(Climate action).

#### **Our Vision**

A vibrant movement caring for God's creation.

#### **Our Mission**

To mobilize people and institutions to care for a wholesome environment.

#### **Our Values**

1. Sustainability
2. Stewardship
3. Partnership
4. Eco-theology
5. Passion
6. Commitment
7. Action



## Strategic Themes

The work of the Green Anglicans Movement is based on three broad thematic areas:

1. Tree growing
2. Clean energy adoption
3. Solid waste management

## THE SEVEN AREAS OF THE LONG-TERM ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN

### Partnership

While the Anglican Church is one of the biggest denominations in the country, we understand that even this size does not eliminate the necessity of working with other groups. For any work to have meaningful impact and sustainability, organizations have to work with other likeminded organizations. Given that the Green Anglicans Movement is loosely guided by the UN SDGs, we adhere to the spirit of SDG 17 which is to enhance the global partnership for sustainable development. AS GAM, we have always worked with and will continue to work with other institutions in achieving the goals of the movement. Some of the ways and key partnerships that we will continue to work with are:

- a) The Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry through the Kenya Forestry Service. As the primary body charged with the protection and preservation of forests in the country, KFS has continued to support the work of the movement through provision of tree seedlings and capacity building. KFS has allocated part of a forest in the city for adoption by the Anglican Church of Kenya. GAM will use this as a learning centre and a ground for mobilization for the members.
- b) County Governments will be useful in facilitation some of our activities especially in the urban areas. As we have witnessed in our work in street cleaning and waste collection, the county government will be needed in collection of the waste and providing security in some instances.
- c) Our local churches will help us to mobilize and gain access to their members who will support the work of the movement.
- d) We will also seek to collaborate with other organizations along our three thematic areas for skills, capacity and networking support.
- e) We understand the power of inculcating these values to children when they are still young and so we shall partner with our education institutions to introduce within their instructions lessons of protecting the environment both through theoretical learning but also through participation.



In order to have a guided approach to partnerships, we shall first map out the areas of partnership and organizations that we will work with. Where applicable, we shall sign Memoranda of Understanding to guide our collaboration.

## **Media and Advocacy**

In the modern world, the importance and influence of the media cannot be overlooked. The media has emerged as one of the most important tools of information sharing and mobilization. The growth of new forms of media such as social media and the internet have meant that everyone has access to some form of media. However, this has also meant that there is an overflow of information being received and so it is important that we are heard and seen in the midst of everything else around. To this end we shall do the following:

- a) One of the partnerships that we shall seek will be with the media houses. This will help us to make our voice heard to the masses and invite more people to participate in protection of the environment from wherever they are. This will be done through media coverage during our events and getting opportunities to appear in interviews and shows.
- b) We will use the vast and affordable network provided by social media to reach especially the young people across the country. As of May 2023, it was estimated that more than 14 million Kenyans had a Facebook account. This alone shows the potential that social media has in reaching the masses. We shall put up pages and groups on social media platforms through which we will spread our message. We will identify driven volunteers who will monitor and manage these pages to ensure visibility and engagement.
- c) Starting in 2024, we will organize peaceful processions in major urban areas to engage and sensitize the public on our work and also our message of conservation.
- d) In addition to the mainstream media outlets, we will identify community-based radios that have emerged as an important tool of communication especially in the informal settlements and rural areas. This partnership will involve us developing programs for the stations as they give us a platform.

## **Lifestyles**

In our work over the past period, we have come to understand the importance of approaching the work of responsible ecology through adaptive lifestyle change.

The environment works better when everything in it is in balance. Unfortunately, not so much has been done to create this balance in nature. Issues such as resource depletion, pollution, the “throw away” culture, and the rise of consumerism have exerted immense pressure on the environment.



We intend to start a campaign that will promote a change in how our members lives with a view of promoting the thematic areas of GAM.

Some of the ways in which we intend to do this include;

- a) Starting with our congregations, we shall launch a campaign against littering the church first, then move to the environment. We hope to support our churches to put up litter bins within their premises. Once this culture is engrained in church, the members will be more conscious of dumping outside the church.
- b) Engage our young people in conservation practices such as organic gardening, innovative plastic reuse and refusal, and forestation.
- c) Conduct educational advocacy campaigns on how the conscious purchasing power of young people in Africa as the biggest age demographic in Africa can be used to influence care for the earth.
- d) Support community groups that practice recycling by providing them with the material they need.
- e) We shall partner with our churches to introduce sermons that encourage our members to take care of the environment. This is in recognition of the power that the clergy possess in influencing lifestyle change among their members.

## Wisdom

As a mother church, the Anglican Church is guided by three instruments: Scripture, Tradition and Reason. Where scripture does not expressly offer clear direction, tradition and wisdom are applied. We plan on using this wisdom to guide our work and lead the congregants in plugging into the Green Anglicans Movement through:

- a) Refer to and document existing doctrine within the church on matters of environmental conservation. This will ensure that we do not reinvent what is already in existence.
- b) We shall then evaluate and adapt recommendations from any previous work done by earlier generations.
- c) We will ensure that we pass down our work to the future generations by documenting everything.
- d) We shall work with the church leadership and relevant external institutions to organize capacity building sessions for the clergy, lay leaders and ultimately to the congregation on matters around the three thematic areas.



## Education and young people



*Members of the Green Anglicans Movement after a planning meeting*

In 1 John 2:14c, the bible says, “I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.” John understood the potential that young people possessed. Beside the parents, the most important contributor to the growth and development of a child is the education setup in which he/she is a part of. Our worldview and understanding is largely formed in whatever form of school we attend. To this extent, we shall do the following with regards to the young people and education:

- a) In our diocese, the Green Anglicans Movement is domiciled under the youth department (Kenya Anglican Youth Organizer – KAYO). This is because of the flexibility and availability of the youth in implementing activities as compared to the older generation. We intend to strengthen this department by creating more activities along our 3 thematic areas so as to keep the youth occupied. We shall be having an activity every two months that will bring together youth from within and outside the church. This will add to six activities in a year, two on each thematic area.
- b) The Anglican church runs and supports many schools and institutions of higher learning around the country. This will give us an entry into these institutions for activities with the



learner to introduce to them the need for conserving the environment. This will be done through the formation of an arm within the movement specifically charged with pursuing school outreach.

- c) In the rural areas and informal settlements with the urban areas, we will work with youth groups which already have networks and understanding of the local contexts to help us penetrate these areas.
- d) Using the bargaining power of the church, we shall seek to influence the introduction conservation into the school curriculum through advocacy and working with other organizations.

## Assets



*A tree nursery run by the Green Anglicans Movement under construction in one of the local churches.*

Whereas the Green Anglicans Movement is yet to develop enough resources on its own, it is backed by one of the biggest churches in the country which means that we have relative access to resources that can help us in our work. These resources include land and building within our churches.

In this thematic area, we intend to:



- a) Encourage our churches to green their spaces by planting trees within their compounds. This is already in progress.
- b) We will encourage our local churches to consider allocating some funds from their annual budgets towards the three areas especially tree growing and waste management.
- c) In waste management, we will work with the leadership in the local churches to ensure that there are dustbins in specific areas in the compound to ensure proper disposal of trash.
- d) Some of the parishes are installing solar panels on their buildings for both heating and lighting. We will encourage the other parishes to consider that option to not only lower their operational costs but also to reduce dependence on non-renewable sources of energy.
- e) Encourage and use optimum natural lighting to minimize on energy use.
- f) Consider rainwater harvesting technology to ensure maximum water utilization.

## Celebration



*The Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Kenya, the Most Rev. Jackson ole Sapit planting a tree to mark his birthday at All Saints' Cathedral in Nairobi.*

In 2022, the Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Kenya launched a campaign to encourage the congregants to mark their birthdays by planting a number of trees equal to their number of years.

Over the last two years, he has led from the front by planting trees at his residence and in two parishes.

This is a simple yet effective to promote a culture of tree planting and growing. The diocese has a membership of almost 40,000 congregation members. Working with the national median age of 19 years, this initiative can see more than 750,000 trees planted every year. In 2024-2030, we hope to steadily contribute to this by setting up a tree nursery from which we will supply seedlings to our congregants to plant on their birthdays. This will go beyond birthdays to other celebrations such as anniversaries.

We also plan to actively participate in various commemorations on environmental day such as Earth Day, World Environment Day and our own anniversary of the Green Anglicans Movement in October.

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