

## Creation Care Committee Report to the 2021 Diocesan Convention

In 2018, the EDRI Diocesan Council formed the Creation Care Committee with the purpose of responding to a series of resolutions, adopted by the EDRI 2018 General Convention. Modeled after acts adopted by The Episcopal Church's General Convention, the 2018 Creation Care resolution called on Rhode Island Episcopalians, and the state, to care for "this fragile earth, our island home" (Book of Common Prayer, p. 370) by evaluating and taking appropriate actions to address issues such as climate change, the use of water resources, energy efficiency, environmental justice, and the stewardship of church-owned land.

The Creation Care group met a number of times in 2019 to discuss strategies to forward the goals of the resolutions; however, due to staffing changes and COVID related impacts, the committee was largely dormant in 2020.

To regain momentum, the Diocesan Council appointed the Rev. Norman MacLeod and Christopher Schillaci as co-chairs of the Creation Care Committee in 2021. Norman MacLeod currently serves as part-time Interim Priest-in-Charge at St. Andrew's-by-the Sea, Little Compton. Christopher Schillaci is a marine scientist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and Junior Warden of the Zabriskie Memorial Church of St. John the Evangelist in Newport.

To help kick start these efforts, the Diocesan Council also granted the Committee a budget of \$13,000 for 2021 through 2022. These funds are to be directed to outreach and educational programming, and a soon to be announced mini-grant program that will award matching funds to parishes to undertake Creation Care focused pilot projects that can serve as models for other parishes within RI and beyond.

In addition, in 2022, as the Committee intensifies activities, we will reach out to the wider multifaith and secular community, seeking ways to form partnerships and support action in line with our Creation Care goals.

To make these efforts successful we need your help. The Co-Chairs are looking to identify Rhode Island Episcopalians who have an interest and commitment to Creation Care to take part in a Rhode Island Episcopal Creation Care Network. If you are interested in joining this network or would like more information on upcoming educational and outreach efforts, and the matching grant program, please provide your contact information via [this link](#) or contact either the Rev. Norman MacLeod, [nmacleod03@gmail.com](mailto:nmacleod03@gmail.com) or Christopher Schillaci, [chris.schillaci@gmail.com](mailto:chris.schillaci@gmail.com).