

## **Environmental Action Committee Terms of Reference**

### **Purpose**

Rideau Park United Church (RPUC) established the Environmental Action Committee (EAC) to:

1. Promote stewardship and care for creation;
2. Identify and be aware of environmental issues, both within and beyond the Church community; and
3. Put into action programs that support environmental issues, according to priorities set by the Committee.

### **Structural Accountability**

The Environmental Action Committee is a committee of, and accountable to, the Council of Rideau Park United Church. The Committee Chair reports to the Council on policy issues, priorities, programs, and upcoming events, through the Liaison. The Chair may attend Council for specific initiatives and important issues.

### **Responsibilities**

The Environmental Action Committee is responsible for:

#### **General:**

1. Providing leadership in increasing the Congregation's awareness and understanding of environmental issues, and then to initiate action in response to these issues;
2. Educating the Congregation on environmental outreach programs;
3. Preparing and administering an annual budget and oversee the Environment Fund;

#### **Specific:**

1. Developing a communication strategy of informing the Congregation of environmental programs and activities;
2. Providing effective environmental programming opportunities to educate the Congregation;
3. Establishing contact and liaise with community groups and partners; and
4. Ensuring that all Church programs supported by the Committee are staffed and funded.

### **Membership**

- The Chair is elected by the Congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting; usually for a term of three years, renewable once;
- Committee membership is composed of, members and adherents of the Congregation reflecting the broad diversity of programs the Committee oversees; there are also supporting members who are representative of key partner organizations/programs and/or community members and neighbours;
- Sub-committees may be created relative to areas of activity, and are comprised of interested individuals, partners, members or adherents of the Congregation;
- Generally, there are 3-10 members, including representation of the various subcommittees

**Frequency of Meetings**

The Committee meets on an “as needed” basis with a minimum of 3 meetings per year.