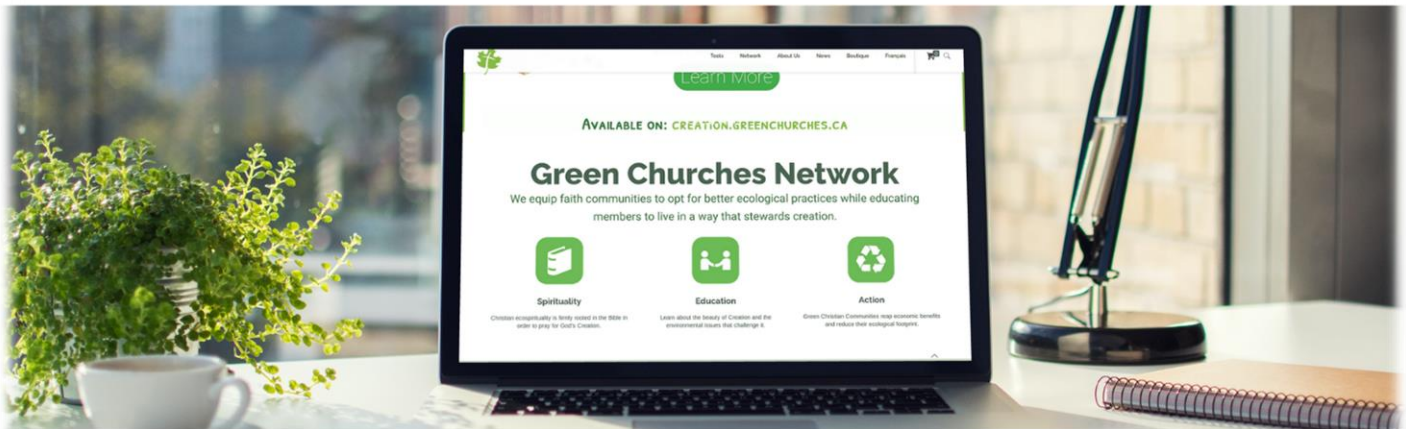




# Annual Report

2020 - 2021



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## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

A year for the history books! Adapting to changing public health restrictions in face of a global pandemic, we have leaned on community more than ever before. Over the past year, our neighbourhoods, our schools, and our churches, through collective strength and creativity, have forged new ways of adapting and in some cases, ways to simply survive. The resilience of communities and individuals is evident as people throughout the country have emerged with fortitude to stay positive and to seek solace where possible. Unfortunately, the public health crisis is not the only crisis that we are faced with. The climate crisis is ever looming and likes to make an uninvited appearance to remind us of the delicate fragility of the eco balance needed to sustain life, and that our dependency on this earth lies in the hands of Creation.

The year 2021 marks the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Green Churches Network; its origin as a project at St. Columba House in Montreal was made possible by the United Church in 2006. Throughout this year, we have been celebrating this milestone by offering free virtual conferences on a variety of engaging topics. Considering the financial stress of church closures, our anniversary gift to our community has been to waive the annual fees for 2021. As usual, if this fee is ever an obstacle for a community, we are always amendable.

Our efforts this year have continued to be fruitful: our team has grown to include two student employees plus a conference coordinator; we welcomed a new president after the predecessors' three years of devoted service; our in-house Creation Care School offers free and affordable, do at your own pace, courses on Creation Care produced by our founder Mr. Lévesque; there are more institutions such as dioceses and communities that are joining the network, this is a great sign for the future as their reach is influential; publishing the 2021 Season of Creation toolbox required a lot of creative and collaborative labor, I am very proud of the entire team and would like to extend a special thanks to Bernice, Angelina, Aleyxa, Renaude, and Melanie for their valuable contributions.

Encouraging news for the year ahead; we have been approved for funding to move forward with our Energy Efficiency in Church project! This project aims to assist and support churches on their path to reduce greenhouse gases and their energy bills. A win-win as we all need to do our part to lower emissions to reduce global warming. The planet is heating, and loss and damage can be measured in lives and livelihoods. Caring for Creation has never been more urgent. Protecting Creation enables God's beauty and bounty to flourish as it continues to inspire future generations to thrive and reap the benefits of all its glory!

ERICA FOLLON  
Executive Director

## OUR MISSION



**The Green Churches Network supports Christian communities that seek to improve their environmental practices by offering tools that are geared towards spirituality, education, and action. These practical tools enable Christians to successfully integrate the ministry of Creation care into regular church life.**

Our ecumenical organization welcomes Christian communities from all denominations across Canada.

We invite church communities to implement the bible theme of stewardship and Creation care as part of their prayers and teachings and to adopt better environmental practices such as waste reduction, energy efficiency and water conservation. Churches in our Network also organize educational and community service activities which foster a healthy and sustainable environment. Their 'green' initiatives are shared through our website and our newsletters.

## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Simon Lepage (President) Pastoral agent

Mr. Michel Pilon (Vice-President) Coordinator at RATMAQ

Ms. Melanie Turgeon (Secretary) Administrative Assistant

Mr. Gregory Lynch (Treasurer) Climate Strategy Advisor

Mr. Norman Lévesque (Administrator) Founder of the Green Churches Network

Mr. Stephane Demers (Administrator) Brother stephane o.praem





## A CHARISMATIC TEAM

### **Bernice Baranowski,**

Bernice has over 30 years' experience in research and is a treasured volunteer at the Network. She researches, writes, proofreads, and translates. We are blessed to have her insightful contribution!



### **Angelina Ferreira**

Angelina has been the Administrative Assistant since 2016. Among the many administrative tasks, Angelina communicates with our registered green communities and guides those interested through the process of finding their place in the network.



### **Renaude Gregoire**

Renaude is the project coordinator for our 15<sup>th</sup> year anniversary project and has been organizing the virtual conferences throughout 2021. She brings her experience in the social justice network and forward-thinking views on Christian ecology to the forefront through a diversity of subjects and guest speakers for the community. It has been a great pleasure to collaborate with Renaude!



### **Aleyxa Gates-Julien**

Aleyxa is the Environmental Education consultant and brings her faith and passion for the environment in all her work. Aleyxa is in her last year at University of Waterloo, pursuing a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies, specializing in Resource Sustainability. Aleyxa is a great addition to our team!



### **Jahn Miel Somejo**

Jahn is the Coordinator/Technician for our Energy Efficiency in Church project. Jahn is a Civil Engineering Technologist with experience in assessing buildings and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering at Concordia University. Jahn's contribution to the Energy project is invaluable! It's a pleasure to have him on board!



### **Erica Follon**

Erica started as the Director in January 2020, she brings her experience from the environmental nonprofit sector, churches, and holds a Master of Science in Environmental Science from McGill University. Project driven and result oriented, she is here to help churches become examples of environmental stewardship within their communities.

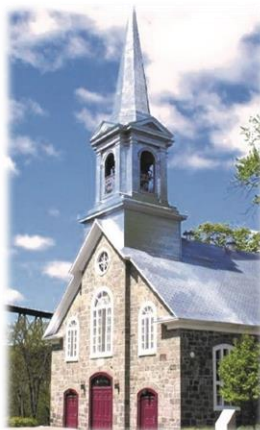


## 90 REGISTERED CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

### New additions to the Network; July 2020- June 2021



Ste- Catherine, Ste-Catherine de la Jacques Cartier, Québec



Saint Felix de Cap Rouge, Québec, Québec



St-Augustin, St-Augustin de Desmaures, Québec



Archdiocese of Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke, Québec



Anglican Diocese of Montreal, Montreal, Quebec



Sunnybrook United Church, Red Deer, Alberta



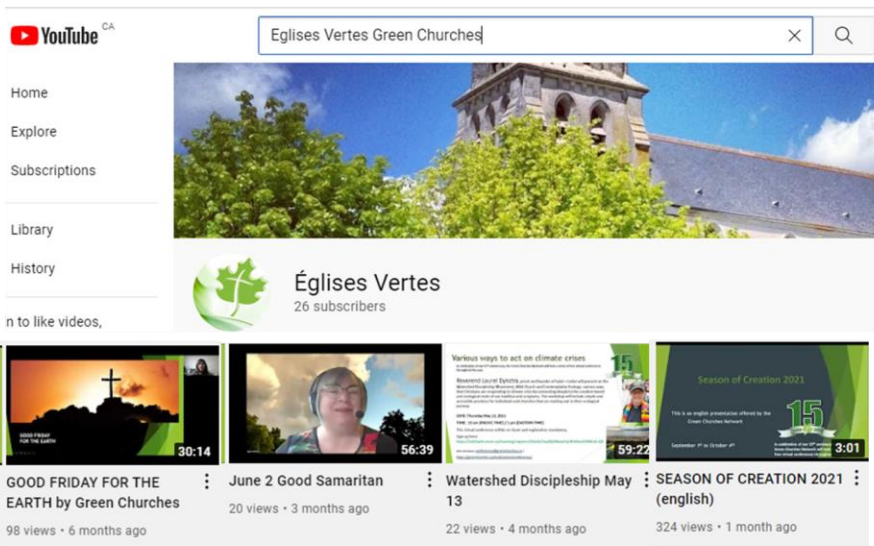
All Saints Anglican Church, Collingwood, Ontario



SOCIAL MEDIA



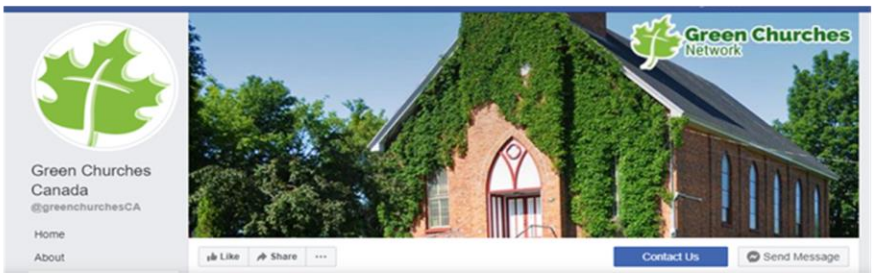
29 videos  
3,867 views



702 followers



1643 followers



## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

**2879 people receive our newsletters:**

**1161 - English newsletter**

**1718 - French newsletter**

We keep our electronic monthly newsletter short and simple, filled with information and inspiration. Other organizations publish our news on their own platforms, which increases our exposure as well as traffic to our website.

People can subscribe to the newsletter on our website:

**Subscribe to our mailing list:**

Subscribe to our mailing list



[Click here to view the other English courses available](#)

## SEASON OF CREATION 2021

Every year, Christians around the world observe the 'Season of Creation' from September 1st to October 4th. **September 1<sup>ST</sup>** is the first day of the Orthodox liturgical year and has been dedicated to the protection of the environment since 1989, by Dimitrios I, Patriarch of Constantinople. September 1<sup>st</sup> has also been named as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation by Pope Francis in 2015. **October 4<sup>TH</sup>** is the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron Saint of Ecology in the Catholic tradition. He is a model of integral ecology, protector of the earth and biodiversity, and the symbol of a loving relationship with nature.

This "Season of Creation 2021", the international theme of 'A HOME FOR ALL, RENEWING THE OIKOS OF GOD' was aptly chosen as we all have experienced the effects of this global pandemic. Our common home has been greatly impacted, exposing the vulnerability of humankind; it is time to work together to make our earth A HOME FOR ALL. Every year since 2017, the Green Churches Network provides free downloadable resources in form of a 'toolbox' to help Christians celebrate and honor Season of Creation! <https://greenchurches.ca/season-of-creation/>





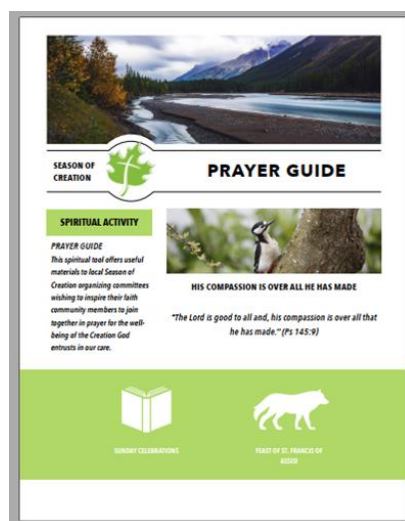
 <b>Season of Creation 2021</b> <b>A HOME FOR ALL,</b> <b>RENEWING THE OIKOS OF GOD</b>							 <b>SEPTEMBER</b>
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<b>CREATION CARE CALENDAR</b> Reduce your ecological footprint by following the tips here in this calendar format. Sharing hashtags # on your social media will encourage others as well.							
World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation Ps 145:9	Be mindful and avoid single use plastic 1	Learn about growing food, join a community garden 2	Be mindful of your water consumption 3	Be mindful of your water consumption 4			
<b>COMPASSION-CHARITY</b> "For it is in giving that we receive." Francis of Assisi							
Donate unwanted furniture to a women's shelter #helpingothers 5	Hang wet laundry outside to dry #clotheslines 6	Turn off car if idle for more than 30 seconds #enginesoff 8	Donate unwanted clothes to a donation center #cleanoutclosets 9	Host a friend for a local produce meal #friendtherapy 10	Grow a rose in your garden as a gesture to a food bank #growarose 11		
<b>DIGNITY-EQUALITY</b> "You show your faith by your actions" James 2:18							
Buy FairTrade enables farmers a fair price for their crops #equalpayday 12	Learn about faith advocacy groups in your area #faithinaction 13	Make your voice heard by writing a letter to your member of parliament #democrasyday 15	Try to reduce your household greenhouse gas emissions #reduceyourday 16	Form a GreenFaith circle and join the multi-faith climate movement #faith4climate 17	Divest from fossil fuels, and invest in climate solutions #fossilfueldivestment 18		
<b>RECONCILIATION - PEACE</b> "Who welcomes a child welcomes me" Mark 9:37							
Organize a clean up event in your area #cleanupday 19	Reduce your meat consumption #meatlessday 20	Walk or ride a bike #biketuesday 22	Mix vinegar and water to make natural cleaning agents #naturalcleaning 23	Support local bike repair co-ops #supportlocal 24	Buy from companies with eco-friendly practices #buyecofriendly 25		
<b>PRIVILEGE - INFLUENCE</b> "May we shout like prophets!" Numbers 11:29							
Shop in second hand clothes stores #ethicalfashion 27	Buy only what you need #minimalism 28	Choose second grade produce #foodso awarenessday 29	Shop farmers markets to support local farms #localfarmersmarket 30	CONSERVATION/ PROTECTION Learn about your local habitats. #getinnature October 1st	Saint Francis of Assisi Day Prayer Service of Ecologicals, deepen your fellowship with all God's creatures. 4		

....in the toolbox:

- CALENDAR
- PRAYER GUIDE
- EDUCATION GUIDE
- ACTION GUIDE



The Calendar has daily ecological tips and suggestions, with weekly themes that guide the notion of A HOME FOR ALL



The **PRAYER** Guide is a spiritual tool that offers prayer and reflection suggestions for every Sunday plus for the World Day of Prayer on September 1<sup>st</sup> and for the Feast of St. Francis Day on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Also includes prayer service outlines for the Blessing of the Animals.

The **EDUCATION** Guide, has 3 guided activities under the theme of

‘OUR COMMON HOME’:

- 1: Our Common Home
- 2: The Waterfronts' Home
- 3: The Birds' Home

The **ACTION** Guide, has 3 guided activities that support the theme

‘A HOME FOR ALL’:

- 1: Protect the homes and habitats of native species
- 2: Make your own home more eco-friendly
- 3: Help those without home

## OUR 15<sup>TH</sup> YEAR ANNIVERSARY

In celebration of our 15<sup>th</sup> year anniversary, we offer a series of free virtual conferences, this has been a substitute for what would normally have been a year to host a Green Churches Forum. In times of restrictions on gatherings, these conferences have enabled our community to come together for inspiration and education. We invite special guest speakers who have provided a diversity of inputs and perspectives that contribute to the deeper learning and appreciation of Christian Ecology and climate issues. This has been a great success and we hope to continue to provide virtual conferences in the years ahead!



The conferences have been well attended and viewed. Participation has been steady for a total so far of over 250 people registered and 775 views of the recordings. The recordings of our conferences are available to view on our YouTube Channel at: [Églises Vertes - YouTube](#)

### Conferences available on YouTube:

- Good Friday for the Earth (English and French)
- Earth day (French)
- The State of Quebec Forests (French)
- The Good Samaritan and being prepared to help (English)
- Watershed Discipleship: various ways to act on climate crises (English)
- Season of creation toolbox presentation (English and French)
- Creative journaling on the path of Eco spirituality (French)
- Love the creatures like Saint Francois! (French)
- ...plus more coming!



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECT



**Green Churches**  
Network

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY in Church project

**Is your church struggling to pay annual maintenance costs ?  
Would you like your church to reduce its ecological footprint ?  
Is your heating system near its 'end of life' ?**

**Sign up today for our Energy Efficiency in Church project and we will  
help you navigate available grants and support your community  
towards reducing greenhouse gases and your energy bills!**

**TO LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP"**

SEND AN EMAIL TO [dir@greenchurches.ca](mailto:dir@greenchurches.ca) WITH 'ENERGY' IN THE SUBJECT LINE!

This year we have launched the first phase of our Energy Efficiency in Church project. The main objective is to help Christian communities in the process of reducing their environmental footprint through promoting, educating, and implementing energy conservation measures that improve the sustainable development of their communities.

Targets include reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing dependency on fossil fuels, improving energy efficiency, improving water conservation, and lowering energy bills. A key objective is to assist communities through support and guidance as they navigate the available funding option to help realize their goals.

## RECYCLING 101 PROJECT

This ongoing project is supported with a grant from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation to help those who require assistance with basic recycling practices within their church buildings through education and support. Targeted to help churches that serve their communities through rentals to community and/or nonprofit charitable organizations.





## ACTION PLAN 2021 – 2025

We are now in five provinces, and we continue to work hard fostering relationships with our brothers and sisters outside of Quebec. Our goal is to have regional ambassadors representing the network in Christian communities throughout Canada and to reach 250 green churches over the next few years!



**2021**

**100 green churches in  
6 provinces**

**15th anniversary of Green Churches  
New guide for religious buildings**



**2022**

**125 green churches in  
7 provinces**

**Regional Coordinator in the Prairies  
Training green teams in photo and  
video production**



**2023**

**150 green churches in  
8 provinces  
1 territory**

**Green Churches Forum in Calgary  
New videos and blogs**



**2024**

**200 green churches in  
9 provinces  
2 territories**

**Regional Coordinator in the Maritimes  
New Green Churches Certification**



**2025**

**250 green churches in  
10 provinces  
3 territories**

**Green Churches Forum in Halifax  
New annual thematic calendar**



[www.greenchurches.ca](http://www.greenchurches.ca)

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2020 – 2021

For the fiscal year: July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020- June 30<sup>th</sup> 2021

### REVENUES

Donations from Religious Communities	\$ 53 400
Donations from Foundations	\$ 14 600
Individual Donations	\$ 1 821
Annual contributions	\$ 1 125
Interest and amortization	\$ 60

**Total Revenue**      **\$ 71 006**

### EXPENSES

Salaries and employment costs	\$ 57 708
Activity Fees	\$ 336
Office Supplies	\$ 1 129
Rent	\$ 1 653
Professional fees	\$ 3 225
Telecommunications and internet	\$ 1 478
Contributions and subscriptions	\$ 200
Interest and bank fees	\$ 735
Website	\$ 99
Publicity and promotion	\$ 103
Tax and permits	\$ 94
Amortization and fixed assets	\$ 54

**Total Expenses**      **\$ 68 814**

**Surplus (deficit)**      **\$ 4 192**

