

*FINAL DRAFT – May 27, 2020*

## **Wash Park Eco Constitution: Becoming responsible members of Earth Community**

We, the people, proclaim that *we* are more than “we, the *people*.”

Recent events have shown us, we are all connected. We are a web of life vs. a hierarchy. God has called us to be responsible members of Earth Community.

Recent events have shown us, our individual and group actions have consequences.

We proclaim that we must act now to heal creation. We listen to the science, we listen with our hearts, and we cannot and will not stand down when we see those in power refusing to act. We must be agents of change at the forefront of the shift the Earth Community needs, now.

We confess that often we have held our power and refused to act, and have used our power in ways that harmed creation. We grieve creation’s devastation and confess we are often overwhelmed, and we need each other.

We proclaim that now is the time for large-scale change, systemic change, and a change in our own identity as a people and a nation.

We believe that climate issues are justice issues. People most affected are those with the least resources for resiliency.

These all point to the system being broken. Our relationship to creation is broken. We need to change our hearts, our language.

During recent events, the environment has had a chance to breathe. It gives us a glimpse of what is possible. It shows us we cannot go back to business as usual. It inspires us to look for ways to transition to a better “normal.”

Because we believe this, we therefore commit to act, in specific and concrete ways. We will focus on one or two priority projects, each year/year-and-a-half, over the next 10 years. These actions will be defined in a way that does not displace the church’s other ministries and commitments, but that call us to achievable and heartfelt efforts.

Actions will be in the category of research/rituals/roadmaps to change; outreach; public witness; and worship life. Actions may address the following areas of concern, and others as identified by the congregation.

- Conservation, preservation and re-wilding: Native plantings/vegetation, wetlands, species, water, biodiversity.
- Climate change.
- Damage from agriculture: Algae blooms, methane gas, nitrogen/phosphorus pollution in our waters, helping farmers make transitions to sustainable farming.

- Lawns using water, pesticides and fertilizers.
- Plastics.
- Species extinction.
- Overconsumption, i.e. the U.S. consumes much more than our fair share of the world's resources.
- Overpopulation, recognizing that this is a complex issue that touches on race, gender and class.
- Changing our personal mindsets: Church is that place where we can challenge and support each other as we shift our identity.