



2017 - JAEI Annual Report

JAEI is grateful for its mission - in this place of our dear Diocese of Johannesburg, in the communities that are our parishes, and in this Anglican Province of Southern Africa. The reports that have come in from the eco-congregations express commitment to an integration of eco (from the Greek word *oikos* meaning 'home') matters into the life and being of the churches and parishes of Johannesburg.

Recent synods, of the Province (in 2016) and of the Johannesburg Diocese (in September of 2017) have considered environmental awareness. Province have added 'environmental' to the Canons (so that this applies now in the whole of Southern Africa) so that Councils of churches are obliged to consider 'matters affecting ... the environment ...' amongst their concerns; and wardens are obliged to 'implement policy for ecologically sound management of grounds, buildings and behaviour'. These encouraging additions inform us going forward. At the Synod of the Johannesburg Diocese, the incumbent 'Environmental Policy' was updated to be called the 'Policy on the Care of our Common Home' (this carrying into our Anglican community the message from Pope Francis' *Laudato Si – On Care for our Common Home* which raises the profile of and necessity for eco-spirituality); and the policy adds two new activities to eco-ministry – to embody and proclaim the message of God's redemptive hope and healing for all creation, and to preach and practise 'Reverence for Life' in the Johannesburg Diocese and surrounding communities. A further development in this vein is JAEI's proposal to alter the word 'environmental' in our name to be 'eco-spiritual', seeking to bring overtly a theological aspect to the Initiative.

The Committee of JAEI is always open to new nominees and input. We are: Charles Dey (who joins us from the parish of Houghton at St John's), Fiona Maskell (who chairs), Gift Ngwenya, Rev Judy Bassingthwaighte, Rev Kevin Balkwill (our chaplain), Mark Franklin (our treasurer), Rev Martha Gordon (our secretary), Modjadji Ramogayane (who joins us from St Andrews in Pimville), and Noeleen Mullett (our eco-congregation communicator). In expressing a strategy for 2018, we choose to follow the liturgical calendar and start our year with Advent, and long for folk in the Diocese to be reached with eco-principles that can be enacted mindfully into more and more activities, in a way that is heard and received with Love. We have considered our leadership role in the light of the recently released King IV Report on Corporate Governance for South Africa – and how we can apply it for good governance outcomes.

JAEI continues to be associated with SAFCEI (the Southern African Faith Communities Environmental Institute) echoing their call to the commitment of joining together to establish a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace.

We look to the Cosmic Christ, incarnate on the beloved Earth, for Love to inspire and strengthen us.

Amen

Fiona Maskell (Chair)