

## **GENERAL SYNOD 2010**

### **MOTION NO 9 – ENVIRONMENTAL GOOD PRACTICE**

**Proposed by Ms Marianne Young, Diocese of Ferns**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY**

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

“The rich and the poor have this in common: the Lord is the maker of them all” Proverbs 22:V2

If as Christians, we believe in the words of the book of Genesis, we as the body of Christ have a responsibility to protect and enrich God’s creation not just locally but globally.

Our world is not only a natural environmental and economic disaster but approaching close behind is a spiritual disaster. Perhaps we need to look at these hand in hand. Over the past few years greed, instant wealth and the demand for “more” often disguised as the word “progress” have created inflated expectations that have led to increasing demands on our natural resources and the destruction of our physical, economic and spiritual environments. But what of the expectations of those who have been and continue to be most effected by climate change because of our lifestyle and inaction? Are their expectations for food, clean water, an education and an income – inflated?

I trust everyone here believes that we must continue to change not because we are expected to but because our Christian values are reflected in our actions. Can you say I will or I have changed because “I am a Christian and God trusted his Creation to me”, or “If I am to follow Christ’s teaching I must live by example”, or perhaps “I must think of the consequences of my actions in a global context” or “We must do as Christ commanded – we must love one another”.

The church of Ireland together with other Christian churches founded The Eco Congregation Movement which does outstanding work to inspire us as Christians within our own communities to think and act for the good of God’s creation. However, I believe

we should be taking our actions one step further and declaring to the world that, we as a Church, believe in our responsibility to inspire and promote change not just within our own communities but nationally and globally. Let us answer the question “what is the Church doing about it?” with an honest and definite response in the form of a Code of Good Environmental Practice.

The Diocesan Green Charter of Cashel & Ossory which you would have found on your seats this morning is a simple but effective guideline to environmental consciousness, good practice and global awareness and may provide the basis for the Church and Society committee from which to expand.

I end with some further verses from Proverbs 22 and 23 which inspired these words. I hope you will put them firstly in context of your own lives and secondly those who are suffering from the consequences of our failure to care for God’s Creation as He expected of us.

“Oppressing the poor in order to enrich oneself and giving to the rich, will lead only to loss” Proverbs 22:16

“My soul will rejoice when your lips speak what is right” Proverbs 23:16

“Surely there is a future, and your hope will not be cut off”. Proverbs 23:18

I propose the motion laid before the Synod not with inflated expectation but with faith.