



Faith & the Common Good

Seeking Common Ground for the Common Good



Annual Report 2012



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Faith & the Common Good
Multi-Faith Centre, 569 Spadina Ave., Toronto ON M5S 2J7

Executive Director Report

Rev. Dr. Ted Reeve

It is hard to imagine that it has been almost 10 years since we began the Greening Sacred Spaces (GSS) program. We have followed the arc of public interest in climate change from little to great and back to mediocre. Of course, this does not mean that climate change has been effectively addressed but simply that it doesn't capture the headlines it did in the mid-2000s. Our variety of GSS programs continue to be of interest to faith communities because they make both ethical and economic sense. Wasting money on excessive energy use should be a no-brainer for every faith community but there remains an alarming complacency about taking action. Religion, in general, is in decline and so many religious communities are reluctant to pay for energy efficiency upgrades when they feel their future is in jeopardy. So our message is harder to convey but no less important.

As you will see in the accompanying report on GSS we continue to offer innovative programs that are both ethically useful and practical and which seek a new spiritual interest and depth. There are few, if any, programs like ours that are interfaith, ecologically-minded, and grounded in practical experience. We continue to be blessed with an amazing staff group who are passionate and committed to the mission of FCG and GSS. The FCG board remains supportive and very constructive in their decision-making about the directions of the organization. It is an incredible privilege to work with all these good people.

This is my final year as executive director of Faith & the Common Good as I hand the reins over to Lucy Cummings. I have said since the beginning that there will come a time when the founding director needs to hand over the responsibilities to someone with greater administrative skills than me. It has been a great honour to bring the organization this far and I hope to contribute further as I shift roles to working on new creative projects for FCG and GSS.

So with great thanks to all who have made 2012 another successful year for FCG:GSS and I offer my continued support for many more successful years





Program Report on Greening Sacred Spaces

Over these years of working with faith communities to green their buildings, communities and eco-spiritual thinking and practice, Greening Sacred Spaces (GSS) has learned a lot and been able to share that experience in numerous ways. Our animators or reps have gotten to know what works and what would be considered a more *challenging opportunity* in the numerous ways they engage their regions. This has ranged from community gardens to solar panels, from upgrading heating/cooling systems to the simple tasks of sealing air leaks around windows and doors. All of this has led to reducing carbon emissions, saving faith communities' money, and generally contributing to a more sustainable relationship with our planet home. We feel blessed by the commitment of so many to this profound spiritual challenge of this time. The numbers demonstrate our engagement:

- 585 faith communities are currently part of our Greening Sacred Spaces Network
- 450 people took part in Greening Activities
- Over 15,000 participants attended one or more of 258 Green Events
- Over 8500 volunteer hours contributed by nearly 1000 volunteers in the network



As the numbers indicate, with over 250 green events, GSS has significantly contributed to addressing the issues of climate change and seeking a sustainable future. Our team of animators or reps and our green auditors have stimulated, cajoled, and supported many of these community events. Beyond them, of course, there are the 1000 volunteers offering over 8500 hours of their time to making these events and retrofits to their buildings happen. You can

see how many more thousands of people attended these events and

hopefully have been encouraged towards a lighter footprint and more sustainable ways of life.

It would take hundreds of pages to document all this green activity so we have chosen a few activities from the different regions to give you a small sense of the impact of GSS.

Working with National Churches

In 2012 GSS continued to work with the national Anglican Church of Canada and The United Church of Canada. With the Anglicans we developed a certificate program based on the prior work of Huron Diocese who administered a green certificate for the last 4 years. GSS adopted this certificate into an online certification program and piloted it in 2012. We also developed an “audit” program for parishes based on the model developed with the United Church (below).



The United Church of Canada continues its support of GSS through its mission-supported “green audit” program. The church set aside \$100,000 to support green audits in congregations across the country. Our auditors, Stephen Colette and David Patterson have been conducting these audits across the country. Congregations have appreciated the insights gained through the green audits and have committed to retrofits at least matching the audit price of \$750. This program will wrap up in 2013 and so we continue to encourage United Churches to take advantage of this exceptional offer.

A New Energy Vision for Canada

FCG:GSS was a signatory to a national initiative called *A New Energy Vision for Canada*. This initiative gathered together a broad cross-section of business, NGO, and port for considering a broadened national producing energy beyond conventional carbon- es. In 2012 this work was further developed of an *Energy Accord* that seeks ways to ir conventional energy production to more



sustainable future options. In June, 2012 GSS hosted a webinar on this Accord and sought further faith endorsement of it. At least 45 people participated in the webinar and continue to support this initiative by Tides Canada.

Greening Sacred Spaces/Green Awakening Network Annual Forum

This is the sixth year that GSS has held an annual forum. This year it was held at the Noor Cultural Centre (a Islamic based Centre) on March 25. The keynote speaker was Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party of Canada, and a long time friend of FCG. She helped participants connect their environmental sensibilities with a realistic picture of what is happening on the Canadian political scene. While discouraging at how much inaction there is, Elizabeth is a person of faith and so continues to hope and act in ways that create opportunities for Canadian citizens to support environmental sustainability issues.



In addition to the keynote, there were numerous workshops ranging from basic information about how churches can begin to green through to political campaigns supporting the international COP process. On a spiritual level, there was a workshop on Framing Religious Perspectives: Aboriginal and Abrahamic Traditions in Conversation.

The hundred or so people who attended felt they had learned new information and were supported in their local efforts with their faith communities.

Aboriginal Connections

As part of our interfaith work we have given special attention to affirming and reestablishing relations with the First Nation Peoples of Canada. We recognize that their spiritual connectedness with all of creation is something that has been lost in Western religious practice since the Enlightenment and now needs to be reaffirmed as central to all our religious practices.



ell, our Peterborough area animator, has been particularly making these connections. She invited GSS folks to participate in ke Pow Wow on September 15 and 16th. These powwows

celebrate the changing of seasons and invite people to celebrate in the "rhythm of our mothers' heartbeat."



Sacred Water Circle

Another collaborative effort with First Nations has been the recognition of water as a sacred gift for us. Again, Cathy has been working primarily with aboriginal women on developing resources and programs to preserve the incredible gift of water that we abundantly have here and to give new meaning to a sacred relationship with it. This is an area that will be deepened in the coming years.



Rain Barrels



At the more practical end of GSS work both the Ottawa and Kitchener Waterloo regions held rain barrel sales in order to promote water conservation and to stop overflow into the local sewer system. The Elmira Mennonite Church sold 95 rain barrels on March 24 and the Ottawa folks were able to sell a whole truckload of rain barrels.



Harnessing Renewable Energy



Since 2009 Ontario has had a Green energy act that has supported renewable developments in the province. The feed in tariff program (FIT) has set variable rates for individuals and organizations like faith groups to develop renewable energy projects like solar panels. GSS has noted this opportunity and has worked with over 50 faith

communities to install solar panels on their buildings. This map illustrates where many of these projects are housed.



GSS has provided solar audits and educational sessions to assist faith communities in determining if these projects are suitable for them. In cases where the building has a south facing roof there is tremendous opportunity for the faith community to contribute to the renewable energy mix of electricity generation and for them to earn approximately 10% return on their investment. Those who have done so are very pleased with this opportunity to do the right thing and make money at it.


Thought Leader Forums

A new initiative for 2012 was the introduction of thought leader forums to supplement the annual forum with smaller events that could inspire provocative new thinking on greening initiatives. One such event was held at Trinity St. Paul's center in Toronto with former Toronto Mayor David Miller who now works internationally helping cities to become more sustainable. Miller highlighted numerous green activities from cities around the world that could easily be applied in places like Toronto.

Trinity-St. Paul's United Church and Centre for Faith, Justice and the Arts

Thought Leader Forum with David Miller

We can fight climate change and create jobs - here's how!



Wednesday, May 9
7pm - 9pm

David Miller is a leading advocate for the creation of sustainable urban economies and the next generation of jobs. As Counsel, International Business and Sustainability at Aird & Berlis, LLP, he focuses on international clean tech, renewable energy practices and how local communities can benefit.

Community Partners & Sponsors:

- Greening Sacred Spaces
- Green Awakening Network
- PARA Palmerston Area Residents Association
- HARBOR VILLAGE RESIDENT ASSOCIATION

Admission for this forum is Pay-what-you-can

Trinity-St. Paul's United Church
427 Bloor Street West, Toronto
www.trinitystpauls.ca



International Dialogue Institute -Presentation on Green

ner, one of our Ottawa animators, gave the keynote address at International Dialogue Institute -Ottawa this past year highlighting FCG's

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work to bring together inter-faith and inter-cultural concern with seeking the common good of all. In particular our work on "green faith" demonstrates how we seek to blend our interfaith collectivity with our ethical engagement on sustainability. As Dorner pointed out in his speech: "we must take seriously the call for conversion two ways of living that support ecological justice. That is our responsibility regardless of our role in society. Let us continue to listen to one another so that we may come to truly know one another. Let us, as stated in the mission of the intercultural dialogue Institute, work towards a world of peace where the "richness of human and religious diversity is woven into the fabric of communal, civil and societal life."



Eat Local: Nourishing Hamilton – Food, Faith, and Our City



In February, 2012, there were numerous local events in the Hamilton area that promoted food security and sovereignty and sought to nurture the growing organic food movement in Hamilton. At the environmental Hamiltons good food box network meeting one worker talked about the difference between healthy and what consumers have come to expect in terms of blemish free, symmetrical and polished which often implies unhealthy pesticide use or transportation over great distances. GSS helped organize a number of events during the month and to encourage the development of community gardens at a number of local churches.

This one example represents the many food-oriented events that GSS has helped organize across the province. Increasingly, faith communities are becoming more attuned two local food issues and are seeking to encourage local food production and community gardens.

Summary



Examples of the 250+ events organized by GSS in 2012 gives you a diversity of programming and the breadth of interest of faiths and their members. For more information about the work of our website: www.greeningsacredspaces.net and feel free to contact us.

Audited Financials

FAITH & THE COMMON GOOD

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2012

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 38,227	\$ 35,560
Accounts receivable	51,220	83,144
Prepaid expenses	3,000	4,720
	<u>\$ 92,447</u>	<u>\$ 123,424</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 25,821	\$ 23,261
	25,821	23,261
DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS (note 5)	-	43,790
	25,821	67,051
NET ASSETS		
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	<u>66,626</u>	<u>56,373</u>
	<u>\$ 92,447</u>	<u>\$ 123,424</u>

FAITH & THE COMMON GOOD

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
REVENUE		
Grants and foundations	\$ 241,983	\$ 202,956
Donations	5,913	19,346
Corporate and NGO contributions	18,965	50,627
Publications and green audit fees	51,169	26,596
Other income	66	177
	<u>318,096</u>	<u>299,702</u>
EXPENSES		
PROGRAM		
Green audits	\$ 34,345	\$ 14,815
Partnerships and promotion	7,663	5,676
Travel	6,291	12,578
Website	3,240	3,270
Workshops and events	11,827	10,428
	<u>63,366</u>	<u>46,767</u>
PERSONNEL		
Staff and contractors	217,039	211,918
Fundraising	8,700	8,475
	<u>225,739</u>	<u>220,393</u>
ADMINISTRATION		
Insurance	2,818	1,831
Office expenses	3,685	5,207
Partner administration	5,200	10,173
Professional services	5,289	8,388
Telecommunications	1,746	3,634
	<u>18,738</u>	<u>29,233</u>
	<u>307,843</u>	<u>296,393</u>
NET REVENUE FOR THE YEAR	<u>\$ 10,253</u>	<u>\$ 3,309</u>



Board of Directors:

Bill Phipps (Chair), Azba Hathyani, Ayal Lesh, Mishka Lysack, David MacDonald, Garth Schmalenburg, Peter Wilkins

Staff and Volunteer Team:

Diana Brushey, Stephen Collette, John Dorner, Beatrice Ekwa Ekoko, Kristina Inrig, Donna Lang, Kim Maxwell, Cathy Mitchell, David Patterson, Christina Read, Ted Reeve (Executive Director)

Contact details:

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