



The 96th Diocesan Convention-Leadership Day Stewardship of Creation

The Sacred Soil of Knowing: Becoming Seeds of Hope

*READ Exodus 3:1-15 as a group (found on other side)
USING Exodus 3:1-15 as a guide for discernment,
discuss the situations and questions outlined below*

1. Walking in the Wilderness

Situation: We're in the desert experience of disorientation and uncertainty. There is widespread inattention to what is going on.

Question: How do we know there are environmental issues that should be addressed?

2. The Burning Bush (Exodus 3)

Situation: In the midst of complacency the bush bursts into flame. God, in the burning bush, gets our attention.

Question: What are the environmental issues that are calling for our concern?

3. Turning Aside

Situation: Looking further, we consider other influences on the burning bush, including Christian tradition, cultural insight, and personal experience.

Question: How do these influence, or shape, our response to the environmental issues?

4. Shoe Removal

Situation: We realize we are on sacred soil, and we become humble and attentive servants. God is calling us to be stewards of Creation. This is a time for reflection, self-awareness, and need for God's grace and mercy in our lives.

Question: What are the parameters of the issue and how can we meet the universal call for care of creation?

5. Challenge to Serve

Situation: This is a time to attend to God's message, assert that we are listening, and decide to act on this mission.

Question: What is our mission? What particular relevant challenge should we face in our own ministry and the ministry of our church?

6. Anticipate the Stumbling Blocks

Situation: Realizing the mission requires care and compassion, we look for the potential resistance to the challenge.

Question: What are the stumbling blocks in our mission to tackle care of Creation?

7. Celebrate

Situation: We recognize that we are still on sacred soil as we embark on our mission, and we celebrate that in community with worship, prayer, singing, dancing, and play.

Question: What specific plans can we make to accept this mission and work with God as caretakers and partakers of Creation?



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Exodus 3:1-15

¹Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' ⁴When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' ⁵Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' ⁶He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷Then the Lord said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.' ¹¹But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' ¹²He said, 'I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.'

¹³But Moses said to God, 'If I come to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your ancestors has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?' ¹⁴God said to Moses, 'I am who I am.' He said further, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "I am has sent me to you."' ¹⁵God also said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you":

This is my name for ever,
and this my title for all generations.