

# Faith & the Common Good

*Seeking Common Ground for the Common Good*



## History

The Faith & the Common Good Network draws upon the rich history of Canadian faith communities and recognizes the intercultural and interfaith society that Canada has become, combining faith reflection and social analysis as a foundation for action.

We embrace new opportunities by bringing together the wisdom and experience from numerous faith traditions in the continued search and struggle for the common good. We acknowledge our differences of culture and religious perspective but also our core beliefs that draw us together.

### Our beginnings

In 2000, the initial organizers of Faith & the Common Good recognized the diversity of Canadian religious and cultural perspectives and the need to find practical ways to work together on common good projects, as represented in the Scarborough Mission's Golden Rule poster and Faith & the Common Good's Green Rule poster. Both suggest a basic human care for creation and each other.

Since its inception, we have worked on issues of consumerism – how it impacts our spiritual, social, and economic ways of thinking – and on health care as a basic right for all. In the “values” section that begins the Royal Commission on Health Care Reform, Roy Romanow attributes the input of the many religious groups that FCG helped organize and who participated at the hearings with influencing his recommendation that health care be considered a basic right of all Canadians with equal and fair access to all services.



*Above: FCG Founders Rev. Dr. Ted Reeve and The Very Rev. Dr. Bill Phipps*

### Renewing the Sacred Balance and Greening Sacred Spaces



Since 2003, our focus on eco-sustainability (eco=economic, ecological, ecumenical) has promoted the ecological health of all and economic systems that support this well-being. Our Renewing the Sacred Balance (RSB) theme emphasized the need to return to a more balanced relationship with the planet, for the survival of all life.



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# Greening Sacred Spaces

Our Greening Sacred Spaces program embraces this spiritual need to understand our place in the cosmos and practical ways to heal the planet and live in a harmonious relationship to it. Through this program we have developed and offered programming, resources, and services designed to be accessible and useful for faith communities in any stage of the greening journey.



We are a network; we appreciate the variety of religious traditions that we relate to and don't seek to be a substitute to any of them. We join with others in our common cause of seeking the common good and are one of many good groups seeking to make the world a better place. (For inspiration see Paul Hawkins' Blessed Unrest website). Our efforts at FCG focus on the approximately 30,000 faith communities in Canada and the efforts these faith groups and individuals are making to live into a new faith/cultural ethic of eco-sustainability. We honour the deep truths within each faith tradition and value forming and living in true community – small and large, secular and sacred.

Faith & the Common Good is intentionally interfaith and intercultural in its organisation and objectives because this is Canada now, and the Canada (and world) of the future. To live interfaith/interculturally and with an eco-sustainable ethic is our vision.