

## **Responsive Reading adapted from the East Central Ontario Regional Council Statement of Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles**

One: Strengthened by God's grace and refreshed by the Spirit,

**All: we follow the way of Jesus in healing our world.**

One: Grounded in the teachings of Jesus to love our neighbours as ourselves,

**All: we nurture and engage our Communities of Faith, joining our hearts and voices in sacred covenant.**

One: In gratitude for our abundant blessings,

**All: we pledge to be faithful stewards of our resources**

One: Called to be agents of God's love, compassion and justice,

**All: we aspire to be faithful servants on earth as it is in heaven.**

One: Recognizing our churches' participation in historic injustices, we reach out with particular love and care, as Jesus did,

**All: we reach out in love to those who have been ignored, excluded, condemned, silenced or erased.**

One: We seek to uphold high standards of equity and Affirming ministry,

**All: as individuals and in our Communities of Faith.**

One: Valuing diversity and differences as gifts, we support the full participation of all people in the life and work of our church and in wider society.

**All: We publicly, intentionally and explicitly celebrate and seek justice for people of every age, gender, racialized experience, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental and physical health and ability, economic circumstance or any other diversity.**

One: We promise to walk with, and learn from, Indigenous ministries and Communities of Faith within our church,

**All: and to reach out to all Indigenous Peoples and to encourage others to walk this path with us.**

One: As we are called by God to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others and to seek justice,

**All: so we are called to respect the deep spirituality of traditional Indigenous teachings of Mother Earth and All My Relations in the Earth community.**

One: Further acknowledging that cultural prejudices have prevented us from seeing all people as equally worthy of God's love and compassion,

**All: we strive in our communities of faith to become an intercultural church, participating in ecumenical, intercultural and interfaith ministries, partnerships and initiatives in our local communities and in wider society.**

One: As Jesus gathered children in his arms and spoke of their leadership and spiritual gifts,

**All: we commit ourselves and our Communities of Faith to nurturing and supporting children, youth and young adults, learning from them and celebrating their presence and participation in everything we do.**

One: Hearing God's call for open hearts and unity in the body of Christ, and recognizing that meaningful communication is essential to unity,

**All: we will respect all voices, share information and listen for the Spirit's prompting, that all may be embraced in this work of Love.**

One: Diverse, yet One in Christ, we seek to serve and support our Communities of Faith as they faithfully serve a broken and hurting world.

**All: Nurtured by our heritage and strengthened by God's grace, we witness to the healing power of Christ's love, compassion and justice on earth as it is in heaven.**