

Letters to the Editor

God calls us to be good stewards of the Earth

To the Editor:

While reading the most recent edition of the Leader, I was happy to see that our Mayor acknowledged that the developments around renewable energy in our community was not finished.

For those who are unaware, the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa is beginning to completely divest from fossil fuels. The reason is this: like it or not, if we hope to avoid the potentially catastrophic consequences of climate change going past 2 degrees, we are on a pretty tight schedule to reverse our use of fossil fuels.

I realize that there are some that would argue that climate change isn't "a real thing", however when 98 percent of the peer reviewed scientific community says that it is, you'd be silly not to at least consider it.

As a community church leader, it is important that we remember that God calls us to be good stewards of the Earth. While not perfect, renewable sources of power, such as wind and solar, are currently some of the best options we have moving forward. We do have the options of nuclear but

that raises a number of other concerns.

I realize that many in our municipality are uncomfortable with the idea of wind farms, but I think we really need to take a serious intellectual, and not emotional/comfort based, look at this.

We now know that while a bit unsightly, and somewhat annoying for those who live near them, wind turbines do not have actual health risks. The impact they have on birds is not greater than the number of birds who fly into windows and other obstacles.

Hydro, while better than carbon based energy, still makes a large impact on our ecosystems.

At the end of the day it seems like opposition to renewable energy is something that will stand in the way of what needs to be done, if we are to remain faithful to God's call to do the best we can in our care for the Earth and our community. If we value the economy more than the planet, or the long term wellness of the people who live on it, then we have turned the economy into an idol. I'm sure we remember how fond the God of the Bible is about

idols.

It is my hope that as we go forward, our community which has so many members that would claim Christianity as their faith, would reconsider their stances on renewable energy and environment projects. Tough choices will need to be made.

Unless we can be brave enough, and faithful enough to consider the long term impacts and the big picture, we will be making choices that will be disappointing to the generations that come after us, and the God who has entrusted us with this work. God calls us to serve each other, especially the most vulnerable, before we serve ourselves.

In the short seven months I have been in South Dundas, I have seen how compassionate and giving this community can be. I have watched the people who live here choose hard work and sacrifice for the greater good time and time again. I am confident that we can extend this faithful way of living when it comes to our environment.

Be well,

The Rev. Jon Martin