

## Annual Gathering 2012 Feedback report



There were 8 questions in total ranging from feedback on workshops, catering and venue, and improvement suggestions.

### **How successful was the Annual Gathering in meeting your expectations?**

Out of 66 respondents, 65 thought the gathering was good or excellent. A few commented how impressed they were with the discussion with Steward Stevenson MSP, and suggested that more time would have been useful. One respondent also asked for more guidance on bringing spiritual issues to worship, and one respondent would have liked to identify congregation reps further advanced in the award process.

### **Are there ways in which you think the Annual Gathering could have been improved?**

Three respondents would have liked clearer organisation in the morning with registration and establishing workshop attendance. Several respondents would have liked more time for interaction and discussion. One respondent suggested we should have highlighted new resources available since the last Annual Gathering, and one respondent would like music resources.

### **What did you think of the lunch/refreshments?**

Out of 66 respondents, 60 thought the gathering was good or excellent. Three respondents highlighted the soup as especially tasty, while a few vegetarians struggled to get enough to eat. People with dietary requirements were very well catered for.

### **How successful were the workshops in meeting expectations?**

*Malcolm Rooney - Changing Behaviour*

22 out of 23 respondents thought the workshop was good or excellent. One respondent commended the workshop for being very interactive, while another respondent would have liked more practical advice.

*Charles Agboklu - Action in Africa*

21 out of 22 respondents thought the workshop was good or excellent. The comments were all positive, where respondents used words such as brilliant and inspiring.

*Andrew Faulk - The 'Green Deal'*

This was the second most attended workshop. 19 of 28 respondents thought the workshop was good or excellent. Positive comments included Andrew Faulk's helpfulness and that the workshop was very interactive. Several people commented that the workshop was not what they had expected and that the topic did not leave them with anything positive. The workshop should have been advertised more appropriately. One respondent thought the presentation was too quiet.

### *David Gunn – The Climate Challenge Fund*

This was the most attended workshop. 22 of 22 respondents thought the workshop was good or excellent. One respondent would have liked more information to calm concerns and was left with a lot of questions, though thought the presentation was interesting and informative.

### *Dane Sherrard – Green Pilgrimage*

10 out of 11 respondents thought the workshop was good or excellent. Three respondents found the workshop very inspiring and one respondent thought it was the best part of the day.

### *Christian Aid and SCIAF with Diane Green and Lexi Barnett - Climate Justice and International Development*

19 of 19 respondents thought the workshop was good or excellent. One respondent would have liked more time and another benefited from having a small group. It was suggested that it would have been useful to take key points to take away in order to share with others. This has since been done.

General workshop comments were mainly positive, highlighting that the workshop was the best part of the day. A few respondents would have liked more time. There was hearing issues in the main hall where two workshops took place at the same time. One respondent asked for better description of the workshops as was reflected in feedback to the 'Green Deal' workshop. One respondent suggested that workshop titles were not ecumenically friendly.

## **Do you have any workshop suggestions for next year?**

Here is a list of suggestions:

- An eco-education block for those of us who are not up on evidence/info/stat etc.
- Eco-Congregation examples to repeat locally
- Have "experienced" Eco-Congregations show-casing what they've done
- A workshop on "Modules"
- More practical examples of how to engage with own congregation / wider community/outreach (often feel like "lone voice")
- Greening/biodiversity in churches - what are we doing?
- Environmentally friendly materials to be used in church buildings
- Practical workshops and engaging with award themes - e.g. worship/bible study ideas, involving community
- On-going info on educating/engaging congregation members + how they could change their own lifestyles
- Development of strategy to produce our own food
- Lecture/workshop by climate change scientist/researcher
- More workshops with representations from Third World Churches - more linking opportunities
- Gardening for wildlife/recycling tips for gardeners
- One workshop consisting of short presentations from churches at different stages, sizes and locations
- Transport issues, especially for people living in the country
- An appraisal of the changing pros & cons of nuclear power in the light of advances & improvements in technology
- Sea and fisheries linked with sea level rise and beaches
- A Rocha

- Peak oil
- Would like to involve children - simple workshop about Stewardship, drawing from what they learn in school
- Bio-diversity
- Recycling/ reuse
- *It's Your Neighbourhood Scheme* from Keep Scotland Beautiful - underpins last message of retaining awareness of beauty of creation

### **Do you have any suggestions on suitable for suitable Annual Gathering venues for next year?**

9 respondents thought Bridge of Allan was a suitable venue and would like it to be held there. Other suggestions included Bankfoot in Perth, Old & Abbey Church in Arbroath, Ness Bank in Inverness, Victoria Hall in Dunblane, Renfield St Stephen's, Glasgow, Kircaldy Old Church ([www.kirkaldyoldkirktrust.org.uk](http://www.kirkaldyoldkirktrust.org.uk)), Dunblane Cathedral and Maryhill Burgh Halls, Glasgow. Two respondents suggested Perth or Pitlochry and another two wanted the venue to be closer to a main train line.

### **Any other comments**

The majority of comments were positive highlighting that the day was very worthwhile and inspiring. One respondent would like meetings more often and one respondent suggested a "Meet & Greet" session. One respondent would have liked the staff to be introduced with a description of their roles, and another would have liked more time for networking as has been reflected in other feedback.

