

DRAFT

Caring For Every Part of God's Creation

As part of our annual recommitment process, each member of Seekers Church commits to “care for the whole of creation, including the natural environment.” For many Seekers this commitment includes a quest for ways to end the abusive treatment of animals raised in hyper-crowded factory farming environments. One important element of that caring is learning more about animals as a faith concern and by taking action to improve the lives of farmed animals.

Our community has already demonstrated our commitment to this issue in several ways:

- Our School for Christian Growth has had several 6-week classes on animal welfare and creation theology over the last five years, including “Steps Toward the Peaceable Kindom” and “Animals and Us: The Story So Far.”
- Our prepared meals for the Seekers Church School for Christian Growth are vegetarian, with a vegan option.
- We have raised awareness in the congregation about scriptural passages involving difficult issues such as animal sacrifice, especially in the context of our Word for the Children.

Recently, some members of Seekers have learned about CreatureKind, an international not-for-profit organization whose mission is to “... encourage Christians to recognize faith-based reasons for caring about the wellbeing of fellow animal creatures used for food, and to take practical action in response.” The mission and goals of CreatureKind are included on the next page.

An informal group of Seekers is proposing that Seekers become a “partner community” with CreatureKind to support humane treatment for all animals. This group would help us carry this dimension of our commitment to care for the natural environment.

As a **CreatureKind Partner Community**, we would support development of the current informal group into a recognized part of our family of faith, supporting community conversation about this part of our commitment to caring for all of Creation. Their activities would include:

- Encourage at least one class in the School for Christian Growth about attending to the welfare of animals farmed for human consumption. The class may use materials from CreatureKind, a book, or a film.
- Facilitate a sermon annually about loving God and creation by attending to the welfare of animals farmed for human use and consumption.
- Conduct a community discussion about CreatureKind and the welfare of farmed animals annually following a worship service.
- Work on sponsoring a *Friendly Food Challenge* at Seekers.
- Offer (subject to the approval of the Children's Team) a multi-week curriculum for the Sunday School (when it resumes in-person) about animal welfare and our responsibilities as Christians to animals.

If affiliating with CreatureKind is affirmed by the Stewards, this group can help us live more fully into our commitment to care for the natural environment in inclusive, creative ways.

DRAFT



CreatureKind Mission

CreatureKind's mission is to encourage Christians to recognize faith-based reasons for caring about the wellbeing of fellow animal creatures used for food, and to take practical action in response. Our core message is that we are [CreatureKind](#) together with other animals, and ought to be CreatureKind in how we treat them.

CreatureKind Goals

- To equip Christians with a theo-ethical framework from which to discuss animal issues in the church and the place of animals in Christian life.
- To provide education and support to pastors and other Christian leaders on the importance and validity of including animals and animal issues in Christian life and practice in order to change the way that animals are viewed by Christians.
- To seek commitments from churches, other institutions, and individuals to a new approach regarding their sourcing and consumption of animal products, the [CreatureKind Commitment](#).
- To strengthen the church by affirming the call and meeting the spiritual needs of individuals working in animal protection and to provide a community in which they can express their experience, strength, and hope among like-minded Christians.

CreatureKind Commitment

CreatureKind seeks to engage churches at an institutional and congregational level with the challenge to consider their policies in this area, using the CreatureKind Commitment:

- As Christians, we believe that humans and other animals are all creatures of God, created to flourish and glorify their creator (Pss 145.9–16; 148.7, 10), until we are redeemed and liberated from our bondage with all creation to live in God's peaceable kingdom (Ps. 36.6; Isa. 11.6–9; Rom. 8. 18–23).
- We believe that humans are called to be images of God in relation to the rest of creation (Gen. 1.26–7) and are called to till and keep the earth, in obedience to God and for the benefit of all creatures (Gen. 2.15), not the smallest of which falls apart from God (Mt. 10.31 || Lk. 12.6–7).
- We recognize that many of the ways animals are currently treated by humans fails to allow them to glorify their creator by their flourishing. In particular, the new intensive patterns of farming animals developed rapidly over the past decades often makes them merely means to human ends without respecting them as fellow creatures.
- We also recognize that these new patterns of raising farmed animals are poor stewardship in relation to human needs, using scarce food and water supplies irresponsibly, causing environmental pollution, and contributing to climate change.