

# Policy for environment, health and lifestyle

## Baptist Union of Sweden 2007

**OUR ENVIRONMENT, THE EARTH AND CLIMAT ISSUES** are highly topical in media, in debate and in scientific research. Man is the sole creature able to decisively affect the environment and thereby the lifespace we will leave for our children and all living creatures on earth. As christians we know that God created the world, and gave man special capacities (as created to Gods image) and a special responsibility to manage the earth on which we live (Gen. 1:26-30, 2:15).

**OUR WORLD WORKS THROUGH CIRCULATION AND BALANCE.** The resources and the lifespace present should be enough for all beings generation after generation, but the circulation and the balance is at risk. The rapid changes we see in our climat today is principally due to mans misuse of the earths resources and the lifestyle of the rich world. This affects climate and health and the conditions for a good life for all in the future.

- ◆ **WE WANT** in the activities we have together as communion and as parishes live and act with as minor stress as possible on the environment as well as on our health. We want to encourage ourselves and other, together and mutual, to have a lifestyle that drains the limited resources as little as possible and which do not lead to stress or ill-health.
- ◆ **WE ARE OPPOSED TO** the use of drugs, other than for medical purposes, and encourage church unions and parishes to be free from alcohol use.
- ◆ **WE ENCOURAGE OUR MEMBERS** to be good examples in adopting a lifestyle promoting a durable development.
- ◆ **WE WANT TO PROMOTE** national, european and global decisions safeguarding the resources of the Earth, developing opportunities for the poorest and a global sustainable development in ecological, economic and social areas.
- ◆ **WE BELIEVE** that the continual demands for an increased economic growth in the rich world is incompatible with a sustainable global development. Growth in terms of quality is positive, but the ever-increasing quantitative consumption of goods is a serious threath to the world we live in. It is also opposite to the lifestyle Gud, through the authors of the New Testament, encourage us to live. In the poorer part of the world, however, is economical growth and increased consumption still necessary to give all people a life of dignity.
- ◆ **WE WANT TO ENCOURAGE** the development of using renewable energy sources and wish those to entirely replace the limited resources of energy.
- ◆ **WE ARE POSITIVE TO** developing new, energy-economical and environment-friendly technologies, and request the countries of the rich world to make it economically feasible for poorer countries to invest in such technologies, as well as replacing old obsolet technologies with new in the rich world.