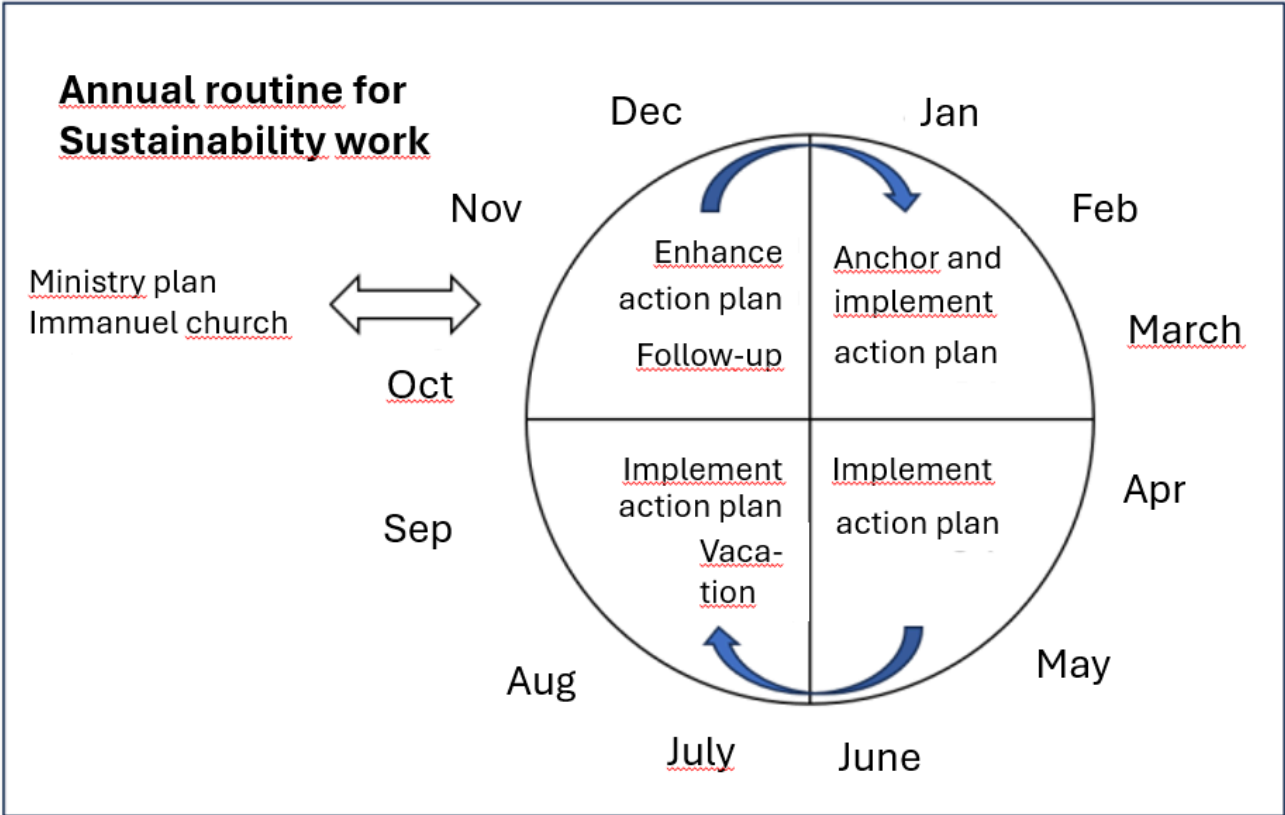
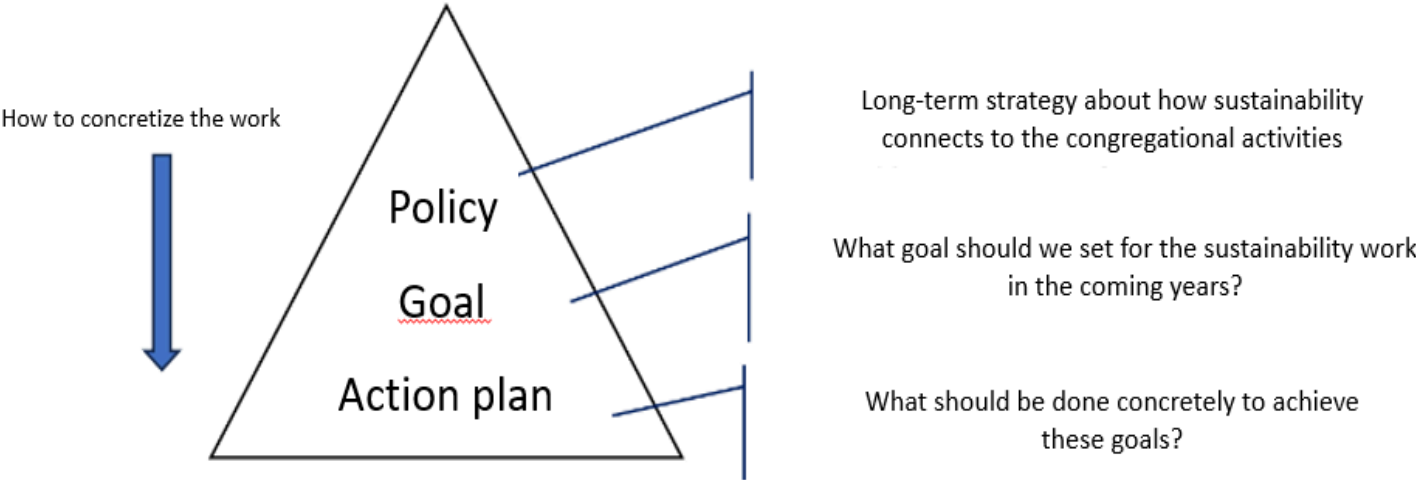


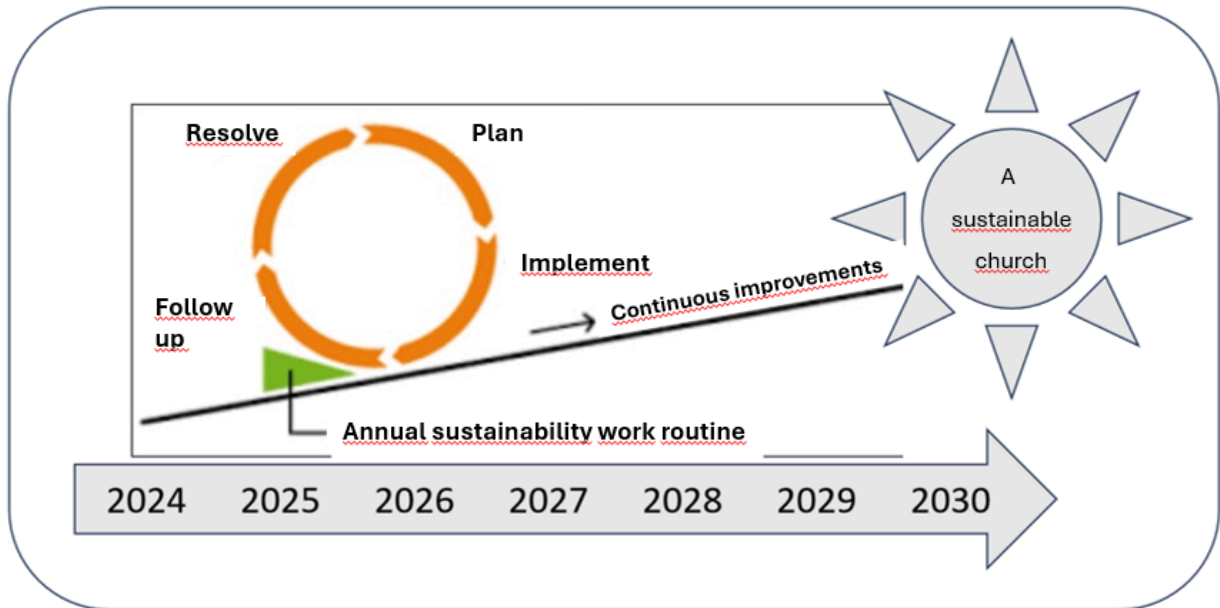
# Motion to Immanuel Church annual meeting 2024

From the sustainability committee via the chairman Sten Stenbeck

## Proposal for a structure and a yearly routine for the church's sustainability work

(Illustrations to the proposal written as a text on the next page)





**Structure and yearly routine:** Immanuel Church is now part of the Green Church, which includes an ecumenical network of congregations throughout the Nordics for exchanging experiences. There are also suggestions for tools to use in sustainability work. Environmental work and later Sustainability work has been going on for a long time in the society since the 1990s where companies, municipalities and non-profit organizations structured and put it into practice in order to do their best to reduce the negative impact with the support of employees, customers and possibly members of associations. In almost all of this work all over the world, basically, the same structure for work is followed, i.e. based on a sustainability analysis to find out how sustainability is impacted the most in the business and then draw up a one-page policy by stipulating in what way the business is affected by sustainable development and sets an overall direction for its ambitions. This is then formalized in goals and action plans for the next few years, which are followed up and form the basis for continuous improvements every year. A structure for a learning organization for employees, elected officials and congregational members. Working for sustainable development is a long-term effort that needs to find its long-term sustainable forms within the framework of the church's other activities. Therefore, we in the sustainability committee would like to propose that Immanuel Church also adopts this structure in order to ensure that the work is anchored, followed up and constantly improved every year in coordination with, for example, the drawing up of the ministry plan. Unfortunately, Immanuel Church is currently far behind other churches, municipalities and companies in clearly structuring their sustainability work and effectively communicating it externally.

**Updated sustainability policy:** The environmental policy from 2007 is now a sustainability policy and

provides references to the UN's Global Sustainability Goals and Agenda 2030. From the environment to sustainability work is a broad subject and mainly means that social aspects are also included. This is something that churches, including Immanuel Church, are very good at through a long tradition of, for example, diaconal activities, which does not mean that sustainability work should suddenly "interfere with" the diaconal work, but only that the very strong and fine social work that is done can be seen also through the sustainability policy. In this regard, we are far ahead of most organizations in the society. The sustainability policy has already been approved by the board.

**The action plan for 2024** is to put into practice this year the beautiful words written in the sustainability policy where specific goals are formulated and how these goals are to be fulfilled through actions in the next year (or couple of years) in collaboration with various designated parts of the ministry. The background to this year's action plan is an analysis of how Immanuel Church affects environmental and climate and social issues, as well as a workshop that was held with interested congregational members in February 2020 (just before the pandemic). The idea is that the action plan should include both worship life and more property-related issues. The action plan is a living document that can be changed and adapted to what is happening in the ministry but needs an approval (start) date. It is updated at least at the end of the year, where experiences are collected and new, improved goals and action plans are formulated for the coming year. The board has so far decided to "assign the operations committee to, together with the Sustainability Committee and the councils, as well as representatives from the staff, talk about how the ideas in the action plan could be implemented."

## Proposal for decision

- That Immanuel Church adopts the "annual routine" and structure to work for continuous improvements regarding the sustainability work
- That the Sustainability Committee is tasked with running the annual routine, but that any measures in the action plans should be the responsibility of the concerned ministry
- That the annual meeting invites all language groups of the congregation to participate with proposals for the sustainability work and with representatives in the committee.
- That the annual meeting establishes the Sustainability Policy approved by the board (see appendix 1) and approves the board's proposal for a continued anchoring of the action plan for 2024 (appendix 2).