

**GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2009  
ARCHIVES' RESEARCH REPORT**

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2009-A035  
**TITLE:** Establish Standing Commission on the Environment  
**PROPOSER:** Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns  
**COMMITTEE:** Structure

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**Directly Related:** (attached)

2006-C018 Recognize Global Warming and Reaffirm Church's Environmental Responsibility  
1997-A036 Authorize the Committee on Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation  
1997-A040 On the Topic of Environmental Stewardship (Rejected)  
1994-A041 Authorize Continuation of the Environmental Stewardship Team  
1994-D048 On the Topic of Environmental Stewardship (Rejected)  
1991-A195 Affirm Environmental Responsibility and Establish an Environmental Stewardship Team  
1988-D126 Request a Statement of Policy and a Plan for Environmental Stewardship  
1979-D029 Give Priority to Educating Congregations on Energy and the Environment

**Indirectly Related:**

2006-D031 Endorse Triennial Budget Mission Priorities Statement  
2003-D046 Urge Stewardship of Water Resources  
2003-D066 Endorse ACC Resolutions on the Environment  
1997-A041 Reaffirm Resolution on Environmentally Sound Behavior  
1991-D041 Implement 1988 Lambeth Resolution No.040 on the Environment

*In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions of General Convention for the period 1976 through 2006, selecting "direct" resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. Committee members who are interested in obtaining copies of "indirectly related" resolutions, legislative history before 1976, or who require other research assistance should contact the Archives at 800-525-9329 before Convention or at Convention in the General Convention Secretariat.*



**Resolution Number:** 2006-C018  
**Title:** Recognize Global Warming and Reaffirm Church's Environmental Responsibility  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church recognize that the use of fossil fuels harms air quality and public health and is contributing to changes in the global climate that threaten the lives and livelihoods of our neighbors around the world; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Convention affirm that our Christian response to global warming is a deeply moral and spiritual issue; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Convention reaffirm Resolution 1991–A195, adopted by the 70th General Convention, declaring that Christian Stewardship of God's created environment, in harmony with our respect for human dignity, requires response from the Church of the highest urgency; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Convention reaffirm Resolution 2000–D022 (MDGs and the ONE Episcopalian Campaign), adopted by the 73rd General Convention, encouraging all members, congregations, dioceses, and other church institutions to use environmentally safe and sustainable energy sources; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Convention acknowledge with praise and appreciation the work of Interfaith Power and Light, a non-profit initiative that helps congregations, religious institutions and others work for a more just, sustainable and healthier Creation (website of Interfaith Power and Light – [www.theregenerationproject.org](http://www.theregenerationproject.org)); and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Convention encourage all members, congregations, dioceses, and other church institutions to consider prayerfully whether to partner with Interfaith Power and Light by incorporating respect and care for Creation into programs of worship and education, by reducing energy use through conservation and increased efficiency, and by replacing consumption of fossil fuels with energy from renewable resources.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 484-485.



**Resolution Number:** 1997-A036  
**Title:** Authorize the Committee on Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Submitted  
**Final Text:**

***Resolved, That the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee of the Executive Council, with its subcommittees for Anti-Racism, Global Peace and Justice, Economic Justice, Environmental Stewardship, and Jubilee Ministries, continue its mandate to facilitate communication and collaboration between the Executive Council and ministries throughout the Episcopal Church and Church Center units which address issues of peace, social and economic justice and the environment; and be it further Resolved, That these ministries be funded to organize, plan, and implement strategies to support Episcopal regional and local networks corresponding to the work of each of the subcommittees.***

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 61.



**Resolution Number:** 1997-A040  
**Title:** On the Topic of Environmental Stewardship  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Rejected  
**Text of the Resolution:**

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 72nd General Convention of the Episcopal Church, recognizing that as a Church we have more work to do to become a Church which honors the earth and the created order, continue the mandate of the Church of environmental stewardship through the Environmental Stewardship Subcommittee of the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee of the Executive Council; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the focus of this subcommittee will be: "to educate, motivate and facilitate congregations, dioceses, and provinces toward local and regional plans, advocacy, and action."



**Resolution Number:** 1994-A041  
**Title:** Authorize Continuation of the Environmental Stewardship Team  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Substituted and Amended  
**Final Text:**

***Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That this 71st General Convention of the Episcopal Church affirm the accomplishments of the Environmental Stewardship Team in the last triennium in environmental education curriculum, in theological dialogue, and in identification of existing models of environmental stewardship throughout our Church; and be it further***

***Resolved, That this 71st General Convention of the Episcopal Church authorize the continuation of the Team, maintaining its current structure of 14 members, accountabilities to the Executive Council, and collaboration with appropriate staff structure, at a cost not to exceed Team expenses for the triennium of \$80,000, subject to funding in the budget.***

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 1994* (New York: General Convention, 1995), p. 230.



**Resolution Number:** 1994-D048  
**Title:** On the Topic of Environmental Stewardship  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Rejected  
**Text of the Resolution:**

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 71st General Convention call upon the Episcopal Church at all levels to live in such harmony with the earth that all peoples and species may depend upon it to sustain life for future generations; and be it further

*Resolved*, That each diocese through its environmental stewardship committee or appropriate body *ensuring and relying on sound objective, scientific, engineering and technical knowledge and information*, assist congregations to learn more about the environmental issues facing us, particularly those most critical in their own communities, in order for them to undertake an active program of environmental stewardship to protect and, where necessary, to restore the health and integrity of the land, waters, and air of that diocese, reporting their progress to the Environmental Stewardship Team or appropriate national body; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Church recognizes fully environmental protection measures may well have been taken in vain if the world population doubles as predicted by the middle of the next century; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Convention expresses its support of the efforts of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations Conference on Population and Development being held in Cairo, Egypt, in September, *so long as the positions of the Episcopal Church are upheld*; and be it further

*Resolved*, That it is most appropriate for the Presiding Bishop, the President of the House of Deputies, the Environmental Stewardship Team or appropriate national body and corresponding diocesan bodies to bring the Church's teaching on good stewardship into the arena of public debate on environment and economic policies so that love for neighbor and the values of sufficiency and sustainability may stand against the false values of unnecessary consumption and exploitation.



**Resolution Number:** 1991-A195  
**Title:** Affirm Environmental Responsibility and Establish an Environmental Stewardship Team  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Substituted and Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, **That the 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, affirming our responsibility for the earth in trust for this and future generations:**

1. **Declares that Christian Stewardship of God's created environment, in harmony with our respect for human dignity, requires response from the Church of the highest urgency;**
2. **Calls on all citizens of the world, and Episcopalians in particular, to live their lives as good stewards with responsible concern for the sustainability of the environment and with appreciation for the global interdependence of human life and the natural worlds; and**
3. **Urges all Episcopalians to reflect on their personal and corporate habits in the use of God's creation; to share with one another ideas for new responses; and to act as individuals, congregations, dioceses, and provinces of the Episcopal Church in ways that protect and heal all interdependent parts of creation. Such action should include prayerful theological discernment and factual knowledge. It should also consider global and local links and the balance of environmental integrity with economic sufficiency for human living;**

and be it further

*Resolved*, **That the Episcopal Church, acknowledging the sovereignty of God and God's call to us in the servanthood of Christ, continue to engage environmental issues, passionately caring for the earth and striving to live into the promises and mandates which are ours as stewards of creation; and be it further**

*Resolved*, **That this Convention calls upon the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies to appoint an interdisciplinary, multicultural Environmental Stewardship Team, 14 members, representing each Province and a broad spectrum of Church membership, whose gifts and expertise are suitable to the task. The mission of the Environmental Stewardship Team is to educate, motivate and facilitate congregations, dioceses and provinces toward local and regional plans, advocacy and action. The Team will work with other environmental groups of common interest; and be it further**

*Resolved*, **That the 70th General Convention includes in the Program Budget an appropriation of \$100,000 per year during the 1992-1994 triennium to carry out the work of the Team; and be it further**

*Resolved*, **That the Environmental Stewardship Team report regularly to Executive Council during the triennium and to the 71st General Convention; and be it further**

*Resolved*, **That the 70th General Convention requests the Presiding Bishop to communicate immediately and directly to all Episcopalians, the scope and urgency of this resolution.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 317.



**Resolution Number:** 1988-D126  
**Title:** Request a Statement of Policy and a Plan for Environmental Stewardship  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, **That the 69th General Convention request the Executive Council to give high priority during the next triennium to develop a comprehensive statement of policy and a plan of action regarding stewardship of the global environment; and be it further**  
*Resolved*, **That this policy and plan pay particular attention to the potential massive environmental problems of ozone depletion and the global warming trend; and be it further**  
*Resolved*, **That said policy statement and action plan be presented to the 70th General Convention for approval.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Detroit, 1988* (New York: General Convention, 1989), p. 220.



**Resolution Number:** 1979-D029  
**Title:** Give Priority to Educating Congregations on Energy and the Environment  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, **That the 66th General Convention directs the Executive Council to 1) continue the work of the Task Force on Energy and Environment; and 2) give a high priority to developing and promoting an educational process to assist the several congregations in assessing and understanding our Christian responsibilities and actions as we are confronted with increasing consumption and dwindling resources throughout the world.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 1979* (New York: General Convention, 1980), p. C-134.

**06 - Structure**

A035

TOPIC/TITLE:       Structure: Establish Standing Commission on the Environment  
PROPOSER:         Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with  
                      Justice Concerns  
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- 1   *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 76th General Convention establish the
- 2   Standing Commission on the Environment; and be it further
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- 4   *Resolved*, That this Standing Commission be consistent in size and authority with the other
- 5   Standing Commissions of the Church, and have as its membership *consist of* people with
- 6   professional skills and training in the sciences, communication and education to help
- 7   Episcopalians and others deeply understand and find ways to respond to the environmental crisis,
- 8   both personally and in our congregations and organizations and in the witness and work of our
- 9   Office on Governmental Affairs; and be it further
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- 11   *Resolved*, That the triennial budget be \$45,000, with enough extra money for a start-up meeting
- 12   with the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies or their designees and with
- 13   staff who will work with the Commission.
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