

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2009-C034  
**TITLE:** Creation Cycle of the Pentecost Season  
**PROPOSER:** Diocese of New Jersey  
**COMMITTEE:** Prayer Book, Liturgy & Church Music

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**Directly Related:** (attached)

2003-D066      Endorse ACC Resolutions on the Environment  
1991-A195      Affirm Environmental Responsibility and Establish an Environmental Stewardship Team

**Indirectly Related:**

2006-C018      Recognize Global Warming and Reaffirm Church's Environmental Responsibility  
2003-A106      Develop a Framework for Conversations About the Creation of New Liturgical Rites  
1997-A036      Authorize the Committee on Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation  
1991-D041      Implement 1988 Lambeth Resolution No.040 on the Environment  
1988-D126      Request a Statement of Policy and a Plan for Environmental Stewardship

*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:** 2003-D066  
**Title:** Endorse ACC Resolutions on the Environment  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 74th General Convention endorse and implement the four resolutions passed by the September 2002 Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) meeting in Hong Kong which*

- **ask all churches of the Anglican Communion to place environmental care on their agenda;**
- **ask all Anglicans to make their own personal commitment to care for God's world, respecting all life, for "the Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it" (Psalm 24);**
- **establish the Anglican Environmental Network as an official network of the Anglican Communion; and**
- **endorse for immediate action the declaration of the Global Anglican Congress of the Stewardship of Creation.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 329f.



**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.

TOPIC/TITLE: Liturgy: Creation Cycle of the Pentecost Season

PROPOSER: Diocese of New Jersey

C&C PAGE:

BB PAGE:

1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 76th General Convention establish  
2 a liturgical Creation Cycle of the Pentecost Season from St. Francis' Day to Advent, for  
3 the purpose of affirming the sacredness of God's creation, of spreading hope about God's  
4 reconciling work in creation and an understanding of environmental stewardship and  
5 ecological justice; and be it further  
6 *Resolved*, That the General Convention direct the Standing Commission on Liturgy and  
7 Music to develop prayers and other liturgical materials celebrating a Pentecost Season  
8 Creation Cycle for inclusion in the next edition of the Book of Occasional Services and  
9 that it report its work to the 77th General Convention.  
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EXPLANATION:

God the Creator has made the universe with all its marvelous order, its atoms, planets, galaxies, and the Earth with its infinite complexity of living creatures. Our Gracious God has filled all living creatures with plenteousness and generativity and has blessed human beings with the task of the stewardship of the creation upon Earth. Traditional Anglicanism has observed the beauty of the Creation over the centuries by celebrating the octave of Rogation, and has commended this practice in its foundational documents and continuing liturgical traditions. Since 1991, many Episcopal Churches in the United States have celebrated a "Creation Cycle of the Pentecost Season" to honor God the Creator with worship, music and praise for these gifts of life. This practice has spread to churches and cathedrals in the Episcopal Church, and also to Australia where it has become a national religious observance. In June of 2008, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, joined ecumenical leaders in England in calling for the celebrating of a liturgical period annually in all churches of the United Kingdom to "be dedicated to prayer for the protection of Creation and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles that reverse our contribution to climate change." In affirming the Creation Cycle of the Pentecost Season, the Episcopal Church would be taking leadership in the Anglican Communion in the promotion of this important liturgical innovation.