

## **General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report**

**Resolution No.:** 2022-A089  
**Title:** Resolution on Divestment & Just Transition  
**Proposer:** Task Force on Care of Creation & Environmental Racism  
**Topic:** Environment, Socially Responsible Investment

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### **Directly Related:** (Attached)

2018-A020 Divest From Fossil Fuel Companies and Reinvest in Clean Energy  
2018-D081 Call for Community Development Efforts and Government Policy Initiatives to Address Transition to Clean Energy  
2015-C045 Call for Investing in Clean and Renewable Energy

### **Indirectly Related:** (Available in the [Acts of Convention](#) database, searchable by resolution number)

2018-C020 Urge Support for Carbon Accounting Policies for Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions  
2015-C013 Oppose Environmental Racism  
2006-B002 Acknowledge and Reduce Global Warming  
2006-C018 Recognize Global Warming and Reaffirm Church's Environmental Responsibility  
1991-D118 On the Topic of Nuclear Power (Rejected)

*In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2018, selecting “direct” resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The “direct” resolutions are attached and “indirect” resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives through the [Research Request Form](#) or call 800-525-9329.*

# A089 - Resolution on Divestment & Just Transition

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**Final Status:** Not Yet Finalized

**Proposed by:** Task Force on Care of Creation & Environmental Racism

**Requests New Interim Body:** No

**Amends C&C or Rules of Order:** No

**Has Budget Implications:** Yes

**Cost:** \$35,000.00

**HiA:** HB

**Legislative Committee Currently Assigned:** 18 - Stewardship & Socially Responsible Investing

**Completion Status:** Incomplete

**Latest House Action:** N/A

**Supporting Documents:** No

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## Resolution Text

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring,

That the General Convention, affirming resolution 2015-C045 and 2018-D081, direct the Episcopal Church and urge the Church Pension Fund to continue to divest all funds from fossil fuel companies and mutual funds including fossil fuel companies, including but not limited to natural gas, oil, coal, and fracking, by 2025 and that these divested funds be reinvested in renewable energy funds and that no fossil fuels funds be purchased in the future, and be it further

*Resolved*, That dioceses and congregations continue to explore the moral and ethical benefits of divesting from fossil fuel and reinvesting in renewable energy and support their fund managers to act on divestment and reinvestment and be it further.

*Resolved*, That the General Convention, also affirming resolution 2018-D081 and recognizing that many of our communities and congregations have been grown and sustained by fossil fuel industries, urge a pastoral and practical approach to just transition to new economies, and direct the Episcopal Church staff to form partnerships with existing just transition organizations to support our dioceses and congregations; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$35,000 during the triennium to facilitate this collaborative work around just transition, and be it further

*Resolved,* That the General Convention direct the Office of Governmental Relations to advocate for and support public policies that support a just transition for fossil fuel dependent communities.



**Resolution Number:** 2018-A020  
**Title:** Divest From Fossil Fuel Companies and Reinvest in Clean Energy  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 79th General Convention call upon the Investment Committee of the Executive Council to report to Executive Council all steps taken in the past triennium to divest from fossil fuel companies and reinvest in clean renewable energy in a fiscally responsible manner in accordance with General Convention resolution 2015-C045; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention reaffirm the language of resolution GC2015-C045 urging all institutions, dioceses, and congregations of the Episcopal Church to engage the topic of divestment from fossil fuels and reinvestment in clean energy and encourage them to share progress toward this goal with the Executive Council and the Advisory Council on the Stewardship of Creation; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention commend the Church Pension Fund for its passion in responding to climate change and for its statement “This does not mean that we would never divest; to do so, however, we would have to believe that divesting would not negatively impact the financial performance of our portfolio” (CPF Report to the House of Deputies, November 2, 2017, page 6); and be it further*

*Resolved, That in light of this statement, that the General Convention urge CPF to be mindful of the Church’s desire to become increasingly invested in renewable and clean energy; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention request that the Church Pension Fund provide a report that includes a sustainability plan to the 80th General Convention.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 1095-1096.



**Resolution Number:** 2018-D081  
**Title:** Call for Community Development Efforts and Government Policy Initiatives to Address Transition to Clean Energy  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church recognize that society's dependence on coal and other fossil fuels has created communities across the supply chain that are not just economically, but also culturally and socially identified with the industry; and that the long-term unsustainability of those fuels and inevitable transition to other sources of energy places the livelihood and culture of these communities at risk; and be it further*

*Resolved, That The Episcopal Church call on its members to develop programs that address the negative impacts on these communities of the economic and energy transition away from fossil fuels; and that it specifically urge the staff responsible for Reconciliation, Justice, and Creation Care to devote financial and program resources to community development and community organizing efforts intended to ease this transition and strengthen communities in fossil fuel dependent areas; and be it further*

*Resolved, That The Episcopal Church authorize the Office of Government Relations and the Episcopal Public Policy Network to advocate for policy initiatives intended to ease this transition for communities in fossil fuel dependent areas by increasing the availability and quality of jobs; access to vocational training, college and other educational opportunities; availability of childcare and early childhood education; access to adequate and stable housing; and other relevant community services, including support for agencies such as the Appalachian Regional Commission and others that invest in community development in these regions.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 687.



**Resolution Number:** 2015-C045  
**Title:** Call for Investing in Clean and Renewable Energy  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church welcomes the release of the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed carbon rule for existing power plants; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention calls upon the Investment Committee of the Executive Council, the Episcopal Church Endowment Fund, and the Episcopal Church Foundation to divest from fossil fuel companies and reinvest in clean renewable energy in a fiscally responsible manner; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention calls on the Investment Committee of the Executive Council, the Episcopal Church Endowment Fund, and the Episcopal Church Foundation to refrain from purchasing any new holdings of public equities and corporate bonds of fossil fuel companies; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention urges all dioceses and parishes of the Episcopal Church to engage the topic of divestment from fossil fuels and reinvestment in clean energy within the coming year.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 879-880.