

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-A021
Title: Create a Care of Creation Loan Program for Episcopal Dioceses
Proposer: Task Force on Care of Creation and Environmental Racism
Topic: Environment

Directly Related: (Attached)

2022-A086 Continue the Work of the Task Force for Care of Creation and Environmental Racism
2022-A087 Commit to Net Carbon Neutrality by 2030
2022-A088 Re-Commit to Addressing Global Climate Change and Environmental Justice
2018-A014 Create a Pilot Carbon Offset Program
2018-A020 Divest From Fossil Fuel Companies and Reinvest in Clean Energy
2018-C008 Encourage Sustainable Choices to Combat Climate Change
2018-C020 Urge Support for Carbon Accounting Policies for Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions
2009-D031 Urge Commitment to Lower Carbon Output
2006-B002 Acknowledge and Reduce Global Warming
2006-D055 On the Topic of an ACC Resolution on Global Warming (Rejected)

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

2022-A089 Divest from Fossil Fuel Companies and Invest in Renewable Energy
2018-A213 Collect Data on Parish Energy Usage
2012-D055 Advocate for Reducing Climate-Changing Emissions

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2022, 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](#).

A021 - Create a Care of Creation Loan Program for Episcopal Dioceses

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Task Force on Care of Creation and Environmental Racism

Has Budget Implications: Yes

Cost: \$3,000,000.00

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: Yes

Requests New Interim Body: No

Changes Mandate Of Existing lb: Yes

Directs Dfms Staff: No

Directs Dioceses: No

Directs Executive Council: Yes

HiA: No House Assigned

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: No Committee Assigned

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church (TEC) affirms its [Episcopal Covenant to Care of Creation](#) commitment to form and restore loving, liberating, life-giving relationships with all of Creation; and be it further

Resolved, the General Convention allocates \$3 million in TEC endowment funds as a loan portfolio to establish a Care of Creation loan program for dioceses to utilize as a funding resource for primarily capital projects to advance the goal of bringing the Church into carbon net zero compliance by 2030 (2022-A087), and that start up funds of \$30,000 annually be allocated to launch this effort; and be it further

Resolved, this General Convention directs the Executive Council to assign responsibility for oversight of these assets to its Economic Justice Loan Committee (EJLC) for loans that support greater Care of Creation and eco-justice initiatives; and be it further

Resolved, that the Economic Justice Loan Committee, consult with the Task Force on Creation Care and Environmental Racism (or its successor) and will add a liaison, to create and implement a program format mirroring EJLC best practices by the Treasurer's Office.

Explanation

The funds in the portfolio are used on a revolving basis to provide loans directly to dioceses for development capital programs and projects. The principal, upon repayment, is then re-loaned to other dioceses. All the loans pay interest, and that interest income is used to support TEC's programs. The net carbon zero resolution passed at the 80th General Convention, while ambitious and visionary in scope, did not provide financial resources to implement this mandate. Using a revolving loan fund model, already successfully used by the Episcopal Church, will help advance this mandate and other critical eco-justice mandates.



Resolution Number: 2022-A086
Title: Continue the Work of the Task Force for Care of Creation and Environmental Racism
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the General Convention affirm the Presiding Bishop's and the President of the House of Deputies' continued call to the Church to recognize Care of Creation and Environmental Justice as integral and ongoing parts of the Church's loving, liberating, and life-giving work; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention commend the good work done by the Task Force for Care of Creation and Environmental Racism in the triennium following the 2018 General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention authorize a Task Force for Care of Creation and Environmental Racism to continue this work on behalf of the Episcopal Church in the next triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That this Task Force of up to 20 persons be appointed jointly by the President of the House of Deputies and the Presiding Bishop, with members to include a geographically diverse representation from the Church mindful to include younger generations, persons of color and Native persons who are and will be disproportionately affected by climate change; and be it further

Resolved, That this Task Force submit a report to the 81st General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention direct this Task Force to make as a priority the development and support of programs that respond to eco-justice concerns, address systemic environmental racism, and work to alleviate environmental burdens on indigenous communities. Ensure that programs can be modeled across the provinces of the Episcopal Church; and to provide training and financial and other resources to facilitate these projects; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention directs the Task Force to further expand, support and promote the Creation Care Covenant recognizing that this work seeks to align with the loving, liberating and life giving work of evangelism and beloved community; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention direct the Task Force to continue its work on developing theological resources and materials on a range of environmental topics including but not limited to the sin of environmental racism, an exploration of environmental reparations and the ethical and moral implications of responding to climate change; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention direct this Task Force to continue the work of the previous Advisory Council (GC 2015) and Task Force (GC 2018) to implement the carbon offset program, support the efforts for just transition, increase and utilize the capabilities of the Episcopal Asset Map to support and respond to environmental injustices and to establish the network of asset-based programs; to continue to work within the partnerships established in the previous triennium with environmental justice organizations nationwide; and to continue the grants program in order to accomplish the above objectives; 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 \$850,000 during the triennium for the work outlined above.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), pp. 841-842.



Resolution Number: 2022-A087
Title: Commit to Net Carbon Neutrality by 2030
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church commit to a goal of net carbon neutrality in its operations and the work of staff, standing commissions, interim bodies, and General Convention by 2030, through a combination of reducing emissions from travel, reducing energy use, increasing energy efficiency in buildings, and purchasing offsets from duly investigated, responsible, and ethical partners; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention encourage the Presiding Bishop's staff to take concrete actions to reduce fossil fuel emissions from travel by said groups, such as through online meetings or regional gatherings; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention encourage the Presiding Bishop's staff to draft a policy to offset one hundred percent of fossil fuel emissions from unavoidable travel by said groups, either through an internal offset program or through purchase from duly investigated, responsible, and ethical partners, with appropriate accountability and oversight; 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 \$70,000 per year for the implementation of this resolution, taken from existing travel budgets, in order to offset approximately 3500 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (the average annual travel emissions of said groups from previous years) at a rate of \$20 per ton; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention encourage the Presiding Bishop's staff to establish an internal offset program including such activities as carbon forestry and regenerative agriculture, with appropriate oversight to ensure that the program meet the five commonly accepted traits of responsible offset programs: real, permanent, verifiable, additional, and enforceable; 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 \$25,000 to establish this internal offset program, comprising \$15,000 to cover wages and benefits for a part-time Offset Specialist and \$10,000 for implementation and promotion of the program; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention encourage parishes, dioceses, schools, camps, and other Episcopal institutions to pursue their own goal of net carbon neutrality by 2030 through a combination of reducing emissions from travel, reducing energy use, increasing energy efficiency in buildings, and purchasing offsets from duly investigated, responsible, and ethical partners; and be it further

Resolved, that the General Convention request the diocesan bishops of every diocese to begin to build networks of landowners and creation trustees in each diocese who will devote portions of their land to reforestation, prairie restoration, wetland and coastland preservation; adopt and share regenerative agricultural and ranching practices; collaborate with neighboring dioceses for best water practices to protect our watersheds; collaborate on creative means of distributing food; and pray for future generations dependent on the land and water we steward; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church support and advocate for the subsistence rights of Indigenous people and policies that protect and preserve land and resources solely for subsistence use; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention encourage the Presiding Bishop's staff to develop and share resources for parishes and dioceses to commit to and work toward this goal, such as the online carbon tracker already created by the Diocese of California, as well as other online and print resources; 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 \$50,000 to fund the development and promotion of these resources.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), pp. 545-546.



Resolution Number: 2022-A088
Title: Re-Commit to Addressing Global Climate Change and Environmental Justice
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention recognize as the Episcopal Church's position that global climate change is not only a scientific concern or environmental issue, but what the United Nations calls "the defining issue of our time... at a defining moment" (UN Secretary General, September 10, 2018), an all-encompassing social crisis and moral emergency that impacts and interconnects every aspect of pastoral concern including health, poverty, employment, racism, social justice, and family life and that can only be addressed by a Great Work involving every sector of society, including the Church; and affirm the commitment of the 79th General Convention to the House of Bishops' 2011 Pastoral Teaching on the Environment as an official position of the church; and be it further

Resolved, That the Church recommit to the work done by previous General Conventions of The Episcopal Church on the pressing moral dimensions of global climate change and environmental justice, including resolutions 2000-D005, 2012-B023, 2015-C013, 2015-C045, 2018-A011, 2018-A018, 2018-A020, 2018-B027, 2018-C020, 2018-C021, and 2018-C064; and that General Convention reaffirm that the Episcopal Church shall support and advocate for policies, programs, pastoral responses, and theologies that work to ensure no community - especially financially impoverished communities, frontline residents, migrants, and BIPOC communities (Black, indigenous, and people of color) - shall bear a disproportionate impact of the environmental, health, and economic threats of climate change; and be it further

Resolved, That General Convention affirm the decision of the United States federal government to rejoin the Paris Climate Accord, while recognizing that the goals set forth in the Paris Accord are only a first step, insufficient in and of themselves to fully contain rising global temperatures and their impacts; and that General Convention encourage the Presiding Bishop's staff to continue, through our ongoing role as observers at the United Nations, to participate in all meetings of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change during the next triennium via delegations selected from an applicant pool and made up primarily of Episcopalians from financially impoverished communities, frontline locations, and BIPOC communities; 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 \$30,000 per triennium to support costs associated with travel to the COP conferences by delegation members who are not members of the Presiding Bishop's staff; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church direct the Office of Government Relations and the Episcopal Public Policy Network to advocate for legislation and other public policies that directly address the impact of climate change among marginalized, indigenous, and frontline communities and that tangibly and financially assist those communities with the costs of both climate change and mitigation, and policies that prohibit the authorization and construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure including but not limited to coal, oil, or gas leases on public lands, all forms of mountaintop removal mining, and tar sands pipelines such as Keystone XL, Enbridge Line #3, and the Dakota Access Pipeline; and be it further

Resolved, That General Convention encourage all Church communities, especially parishes, dioceses, camps, conference centers, schools, and chaplaincies, to learn more about the pressing moral implications of climate change in their regions and existing local organizing efforts, then advocate for policies and solutions to address those local needs utilizing and adapting advocacy resources from General Convention and the Presiding Bishop's staff including the Episcopal Public Policy Network, asset map, carbon tracker, liturgical resources, and advocating at the local and state level, and incorporating local nature, environmental justice, and advocacy for creation care into all aspects of community life and Christian education.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), pp. 546-547.



Resolution Number: 2018-A014
Title: Create a Pilot Carbon Offset Program
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention recognizes the reality of human-caused climate change through continued reliance on fossil fuel-based transportation; and be it further

Resolved, That because travel done on behalf of The Jesus Movement contributes to this problem, we recognize the need to develop a comprehensive strategy to reduce, and ultimately eliminate this carbon footprint; and be it further

Resolved, That, as a first step in the process, by offsetting the impact of the travel done on behalf of The Jesus Movement, the Church witnesses to its care for God's creation; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention direct the Executive Council to draft a policy in 2018 requiring the use of socially responsible Carbon Offsets with particular attention to the social, political, economic, and ecological implications of carbon-credit generating programs by the Episcopal Church Center, and that such a program be tested and piloted as during the triennium for the work of The Episcopal Church including the travel of its staff, standing commissions and interim bodies; and be it further

Resolved, That a plan for a broader offset program for all church travel be presented for consideration at the 80th General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That \$25,000 be allocated for the pilot carbon offset program.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 1109-1110.



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-C008
Title: Encourage Sustainable Choices to Combat Climate Change
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention in keeping with the House of Bishops' 2011 commitment to combat climate change urge that the members of The Episcopal Church strive to transform our individual and communal lives towards sustainability; and be it further
Resolved, That Episcopalians be encouraged to use a web-based tool to support healthy, sustainable choices; and be it further
Resolved, That the General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance allocate \$30,000 to be devoted over the triennium 2019-2021 to make a web-based carbon tracking tool such as "Sustaining Earth, Our Island Home" available to all Episcopalians.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 404-405.



Resolution Number: 2018-C020
Title: Urge Support for Carbon Accounting Policies for Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church shall work with people of good will to materially reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in order to stabilize our climate; and be it further

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church support public policy which may include Carbon Fee and Dividend model or other means accounting for greenhouse gas emissions from carbon based fuels to mitigate further irreversible climate change; and be it further

Resolved, That in implementing any such policies, the church will advocate for appropriate measures to reduce the economic impacts on poor people and people of modest income, which means might include use of a trust fund paid for with carbon fees and distributed to the poorest people first.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 405.



Resolution Number: 2009-D031
Title: Urge Commitment to Lower Carbon Output
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention urge President Obama and Congressional leaders to commit the United States to a course of action, in collaboration with the other nations of the world, to lower the output of atmospheric carbon (measured as CO₂) by 25% by 2020 and by 80% by 2050; and be it further
Resolved, That the 76th General Convention direct the Washington Office of Government Relations of The Episcopal Church to actively promote such action by the United States government.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), pp. 358-359.



Resolution Number: 2006-B002
Title: Acknowledge and Reduce Global Warming
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention affirm that Global Warming threatens the future of God's good creation, and the effects of Global Warming disproportionately hurt the lives of the poorest and most vulnerable in the United States and around the world; and be it further

Resolved, That Episcopalians and The Episcopal Church at every level support efforts that seek to reduce Global Warming, including national and international legislation that increase the supply of clean energy and reduce consumption of fossil fuels; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention commend the Executive Council and particularly its Socially Responsible Investment Committee (SRI) for the work they are now doing with the Global Warming Shareholder Campaign (GWSC), and the Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies (CERES) and the leadership they exercise as a member of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR); and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention urge the Executive Council and its SRI to:

- (a) use resources of The Episcopal Church, including its investments, to promote a sustainable global environment;
- (b) seek by shareholder resolutions to change current policies and behaviors of those companies that are significant contributors to Global Warming, and if necessary, divest from those companies;
- (c) call upon the expertise of Episcopalians who are closely connected with the GWSC to assist in this initiative;
- (d) report the results of this initiative to Executive Council no later than its fall meeting in 2007.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 662.



Resolution Number: 2006-D055
Title: On the Topic of an ACC Resolution on Global Warming
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected [Died with Adjournment]
Text of the Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 75th General Convention endorse and implement Resolution 13/32 of the Anglican Consultative Council's meeting in Nottingham in 2005, submitted by the Anglican Communion Environment Network, which:

Recommends all Anglicans be encouraged to:

1. recognize that global climatic change is real and that we are contributing to the despoiling of creation
2. commend initiatives that address the moral transformation needed for environmentally sustainable economic practices such as the Contraction and Convergence process championed by the Archbishop of Canterbury
3. understand that, for the sake of future generations and the good of God's creation, those of us in the rich nations need to be ready to make sacrifices in the level of comfort and luxury we have come to enjoy
4. expect mission, vision, and value statements to contain commitment to environmental responsibility at all levels of church activity
5. educate all church members about the Christian mandate to care for creation
6. work on these issues ecumenically and with all faith communities and people of good will everywhere
7. ensure that the voices of women, indigenous peoples, and youth are heard
8. press government, industry, and civil society on the moral imperative of taking practical steps towards building sustainable communities.

Asks Provinces to take the following steps urgently:

1. Include environmental education as an integral part of all theological training.
2. Take targeted and specific actions to assess and reduce our environmental footprint, particularly greenhouse gas emissions. Such actions could include energy and resource audits, land management, just trading and purchasing, socially and ethically responsible investment.
3. Promote and commit ourselves to use renewable energy wherever possible.
4. Revise our liturgies and our calendar and lectionaries in ways that more fully reflect the role and work of God as Creator.
5. Press for urgent initiation of discussions, which should include all nations, leading to a just and effective development beyond the Kyoto Protocol.
6. Support the work of the World Council of Churches Climate Change Action Group.
7. Bring before governments the imperative to use all means, including legislation and removal of subsidies, to reduce greenhouse gases.