

## General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

**Resolution No.:** 2024-A084  
**Title:** Join The Communion Forest  
**Proposer:** Standing Commission on World Mission  
**Topic:** Environment

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

2022-A086 Continue the Work of the Task Force for Care of Creation and Environmental Racism  
2022-A088 Re-Commit to Addressing Global Climate Change and Environmental Justice  
2022-C015 Create a Churchwide Internal Carbon Offset Program  
2022-D064 Advocate for Green New Deal and Other Climate Change Legislation  
2018-A010 Encourage Planting of Paris Groves To Give Thanks for Creation  
2018-D081 Call for Community Development Efforts and Government Policy Initiatives to Address Transition to Clean Energy

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

2018-A013 Create a Task Force and Staff Position for Care of Creation  
2018-A014 Create a Pilot Carbon Offset Program  
2018-A018 Adopt Bishops' Pastoral Teaching and Commit to Paris Climate Accord  
2018-C008 Encourage Sustainable Choices to Combat Climate Change

### **Supplemental Documents:** (Linked)

*Anglican Consultative Council, [ACC-18 Resolutions](#), February 2023.*

*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](#).*

# A084 - Join The Communion Forest

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**Final Status:** Not Yet Finalized

**Proposed by:** Standing Commission on World Mission

**Has Budget Implications:** No

**Cost:**

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

**Requests New Interim Body:** No

**Changes Mandate Of Existing Ib:** No

**Directs Dfms Staff:** No

**Directs Dioceses:** No

**Directs Executive Council:** No

**HiA:** No House Assigned

**Legislative Committee Currently Assigned:** No Committee Assigned

**Completion Status:** Incomplete

**Latest House Action:** N/A

**Supporting Documents:** No

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## Resolution Text

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

*Resolved*, That the 81st General Convention, in support of the Anglican Consultative Council resolution passed at ACC 18 in Ghana in February 2023, recognizes that the integrity of creation is under threat and at risk of collapse and there is urgent need to reduce our carbon footprint and protect biodiversity; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Episcopal Church affirms the potential of the Communion Forest initiative launched as a legacy of the 2022 Lambeth Conference; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Episcopal Church join with other Churches of the Communion to join in this initiative to be ambitious in using their God-given assets, to weave creation care into the spiritual and liturgical life of the Church; and be it further

*Resolved*, That General Convention commends the collaboration of the Anglican Alliance and Anglican Communion Environmental Network, and encourages the dioceses, seminaries, congregations and other ministries in the Episcopal Church to share with them information about their existing and new activities.

## Explanation

God's precious gift of Creation is under threat due to pollution and subsequent climate change and is at risk of collapse. As the Body of Christ, Episcopalians everywhere have an obligation and responsibility to act in accordance with the teaching of Christ and our Holy Scripture in preserving and nurturing our planet. In 2022, the Lambeth Conference launched the Anglican Communion Forest Initiative to join together in tree growing and ecosystem conservation, protection and restoration throughout the world. The initiative, which is a global response encouraging local work, is a way for members of the Anglican Communion to come together both in prayer and action to engage science-based responses to climate change through the lens of our shared faith. The initiative offers resources to incorporate planting trees into liturgical practice and sacraments, such as baptism and marriage, to eradicate the often-ambiguous relationship the Church has with nature. Our faith teaches us that God made all things, and therefore we must steward and care for all of Creation.



**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-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:** 2022-C015  
**Title:** Create a Churchwide Internal Carbon Offset Program  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church affirms General Convention resolution 2018-A014 as well as Executive Council resolutions 2021-MB 024 and 2021-MW 042; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this General Convention direct the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church's Economic Justice Loan Committee, in consultation with the Task Force on Care of Creation & Environmental Racism, to evaluate, create, and implement a positive investment strategy that will fund methods of capturing and storing greenhouse gases through sustainable nature-based, land management solutions such as afforestation and regenerative agricultural practices; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the dioceses of the Episcopal Church pledge to support the Communion Forest initiative, to be launched at the Lambeth Conference 2022, to plant trees, practice reforestation and regenerative agriculture, protect forests and other plant communities across the Communion; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this environmental stewardship response will create a pilot churchwide carbon offset policy with duly investigated, responsible, and ethical partners.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), p. 548.





**Resolution Number:** 2022-D064  
**Title:** Advocate for Green New Deal and Other Climate Change Legislation  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church acknowledges our planet's continued descent into climate chaos, including our projected arrival to 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming above pre-industrial levels, the target limit set out in the Paris Climate Accords within the next few decades; and be it further*

*Resolved, That The Episcopal Church recognizes that our projected arrival at 1.5 degrees Celsius may lead to a 2 degree Celsius warming beyond pre-industrialized levels which would cause mass migration, a loss of coral reefs, increased exposure to deadly heat stress, and significant damage to public infrastructure; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this Convention direct the Office of Government Relations and urge all Episcopalians to advocate for our governments to address environmental and ecological issues, not least the Green New Deal and other associated "Green Deals," to be defined as "broad and ambitious packages of new policies and investments in communities, infrastructure, and technology to help communities, regions, and nations achieve environmental sustainability and economic stability"; and be it further*

*Resolved, That The Episcopal Church call on all elected and appointed officials to advocate for policies to combat climate change, not least the Green New Deal and other associated "Green Deals" in states and local areas; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this Convention charges the dioceses and parishes of The Episcopal Church with advocating for those same policies in their communities and states; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this Convention direct the Office of Government Relations and urge all Episcopalians to support regulation of major polluting industries, including cryptocurrencies, industry, and agriculture, as well as transitioning to a green economy; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this Convention charge the House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church to add a question to the Parochial Report regarding how each parish is reducing their carbon footprint and to share those results as a whole with the Episcopal Church; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this Convention charges the dioceses and parishes of The Episcopal Church with taking concrete actions to reduce the effects of climate change; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this Convention directs the Executive Council and the Standing Committee on Structure, Governance, Constitution, and Canons to study and consider the possibility of adding portions relating to environmental stewardship in the Canons of the Episcopal Church; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this Convention transmit a message to each diocese of The Episcopal Church with a copy of this resolution before each Diocesan Convention following the 80th General Convention.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), pp. 551-552.



**Resolution Number:** 2018-A010  
**Title:** Encourage Planting of Paris Groves To Give Thanks for Creation  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 79th General Convention affirm the importance of Episcopal Schools, Camps and Conference Centers in educating generations of Episcopalians, especially in matters of stewardship and relationship with Creation; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention, recognizing the timely importance of these conversations, commend all Episcopal Schools, Camp and Conference Centers, or other church-owned properties in making environmental stewardship and care of creation key components of formation in the 2019-2021 triennium; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention, as part of The Episcopal Church's response to stand with international partners in affirming the Paris Climate Accord, commend each of the eighty-five (85) camp and conference centers in The Episcopal Church to establish "Paris Groves," plantings of trees at the camp and conference centers or other church-owned properties that will serve as a visible witness to the significance of the Paris Accord and do the practical work of sequestration of carbon from the atmosphere; and be it further*

*Resolved, That each camp and conference center determine both the tree species and appropriate timing for their ecosystem and plant those species; and be it further*

*Resolved, That each Episcopalian be encouraged to donate for the establishment of Paris Groves or the maintenance of an existing forest; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention invite each Confirmand, person received into The Episcopal Church and each person reaffirming his or her Baptismal vows to plant a tree in gratitude and to cherish the wondrous works of God and protect and restore the beauty and integrity of all creation.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 372.



**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.