

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

**Resolution No.:** 2024-A099  
**Title:** Task Force for Indigenous Justice To Increase Advocacy Groups Reflecting Creation Care and Environmental Justice Ministries  
**Proposer:** Task Force on Imagining a Church Grounded in Social Justice as Christian Ministry  
**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

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

None

*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](#).*

# A099 - Task Force for Indigenous Justice To Increase Advocacy Groups Reflecting Creation Care and Environmental Justice Ministries

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**Final Status:** Not Yet Finalized

**Proposed by:** Task Force on Imagining a Church Grounded in Social Justice as Christian Ministry

**Has Budget Implications:** Yes

**Cost:** \$30,000.00

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

**Requests New Interim Body:** Yes

**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,

That the 81st General Convention authorize a task force for Indigenous Justice to be formed for the following triennium. Membership in the Task Force will represent the indigenous demographic with 2 Bishops, equal number of presbyters, deacons, and laity not to exceed 16 members; and be it further

*Resolved*, That an initial focus of the Indigenous Justice task force be on eco-justice; and be it further

*Resolved*, That in the next triennium the Indigenous Justice task force will work to promote the recognition of sovereignty for Indigenous People in the negotiations of the United Nations climate summits (the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the COPs); and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention requests the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance to consider a budget allocation (excluding meeting expense already in GCO budget) of \$30,000 to primarily identify and support the media and cultural education necessary to be effective.

## **Explanation**

There has been and continues to be a consistent call for allies to the eco-justice initiatives of Indigenous Peoples to promote the recognition of Indigenous sovereignty as demonstrated from members of the Standing Rock Lakota People protesting the Dakota Access Pipeline in 2016/2017 to Indigenous voices at COP 28 in Dubai, 2023. The Task Force will work in collaboration with TEC's Department of Ethnic Ministries and the Office of Indigenous Ministries to champion the identified priorities.

It is consistent with the eco-justice stance of the Episcopal Church to follow the lead of Indigenous Peoples who define for themselves their justice priorities, and to act in concert with these self-defined goals.



**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.