

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

**Resolution No.:** 2024-B001  
**Title:** Experimental Creation Care Language for the Baptismal Covenant  
**Proposer:** Andrus, The Rt. Rev. Marc  
**Topic:** Baptism, Environment

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**Directly Related:** (Attached)

2018-A016 On the Topic of Care of Creation in the Baptismal Covenant (Rejected)  
2018-C030 On the Topic of a Change to the Baptismal Covenant (Rejected)  
2015-C015 Refer a Resolution to Amend the Baptismal Covenant (Referred)

**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](#).*

# B001 - Experimental Creation Care Language for the Baptismal Covenant

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**Final Status:** Not Yet Finalized

**Proposed by:** Andrus, The Rt. Rev. Marc

**Endorsed by:** Bascom, The Rt. Rev. Cathleen C., Fisher, The Rt. Rev. Douglas

**Has Budget Implications:** No

**Cost:**

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

**Requests New Interim Body:** No

**Changes Mandate Of Existing lb:** Yes

**Directs Dfms Staff:** No

**Directs Dioceses:** No

**Directs Executive Council:** No

**HiA:** HB

**Legislative Committee Currently Assigned:** 10 - Prayer Book, Liturgy & Music

**Completion Status:** Incomplete

**Latest House Action:** N/A

**Supporting Documents:** No

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## Resolution Text

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

That the following two alternative additions to the Baptismal Covenant will be made available for trial use in the Episcopal Church following General Convention 81 in Louisville, Kentucky in June, 2024:

1) *Will you strive for justice and peace among all, and respect the dignity of the Earth and of every human being.*

*I will, with God's help.*

2) *Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?*

*I will, with God's help.*

And be it further

*Resolved*, that dioceses of the Episcopal Church will report to the Standing Committee on Liturgy and Music regarding the trial use of the alternative expressions for the Baptismal Covenant by April 2027; and be it further

*Resolved*, that the Standing Committee on Liturgy and Music will include a report and recommendation on the suggested language for the Baptismal Covenant in its Blue Book report before General Convention 82.

## **Explanation**

The Baptismal Covenant of the Episcopal Church has shaped a myriad of people to be justice-minded, rooted in our living Savior Jesus Christ, since its introduction as part of the Book of Common Prayer 1979. There is a growing awareness that our commitment to justice includes the life of the whole family of God, all of life on Earth. Our commitment to repentance, a spiritual process that fits us for the work of justice, also commits us to revision of our liturgical resources to fit our current needs while staying in harmony with our tradition.

Thus, this resolution seeks to allow the Church to experiment with proposed additions to the Baptismal Covenant that expand our understanding of justice to encompass what is commonly called eco-justice.



**Resolution Number:** 2018-A016  
**Title:** On the Topic of Care of Creation in the Baptismal Covenant  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Rejected  
**Text of Resolution:**

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 79th General Convention, hearing the baptismal prayer asking for the newly baptized to be granted “the gift of joy and wonder in all your works,” authorize the trial use of additions to the Baptismal Covenant concerning our responsibility as baptized Christians to care for God’s creation; and be it further

*Resolved*, That there be two (2) options for this addition;

First, an additional question may be added with the wording:

“Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect and restore the beauty and integrity of all creation?

People: I will, with God’s help.”

Second, that the question:

“Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity every human being?” may be augmented as “Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of the Earth and every human being?”;

And be it further

*Resolved*, That use of this additional wording be authorized for trial use as part of the Baptismal Covenant for the triennium following the 79th General Convention, beginning on the first Sunday of Advent 2018; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music accept comments and suggestions on the trial baptismal covenant language at the 80th General Convention and, as appropriate, consider for future inclusion in the revised Prayer Book.



**Resolution Number:** 2018-C030  
**Title:** On the Topic of Support for Provincial Ministry  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Rejected  
**Text of Resolution:**

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 79th General Convention authorize the trial addition to the Baptismal Covenant of an additional question concerning our responsibility as baptized Christians to care for God's creation; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the additional question and response be worded as follows:

"Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect and restore the beauty and integrity of all creation?"

"I will, with God's help."

And be it further

*Resolved*, That use of this additional question and response be authorized for trial use as part of the Baptismal Covenant for the triennium following the 79th General Convention, beginning on the first Sunday of Advent 2018.



**Resolution Number:** 2015-C015  
**Title:** Refer a Resolution to Amend the Baptismal Covenant  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Referred  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention authorize the trial addition to the Baptismal Covenant of a sixth question concerning our responsibility as baptized Christians to care for God's creation; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the additional question and response be worded as follows:*

**"Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?**

**I will, with God's help."** ; and be it further

*Resolved, That use of this additional question and response be authorized for trial use as part of the Baptismal Covenant for the triennium 2016-2018.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 841.