

**GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2018
ARCHIVES' RESEARCH REPORT**

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A008
TITLE: Continuing the Advisory Council on the Stewardship of Creation
PROPOSER: Advisory Council on the Stewardship of Creation
TOPIC: Environment

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-A030 Support Ecologically Responsible Stewardship of Church Property
2006-C018 Recognize Global Warming and Reaffirm Church's Environmental Responsibility
1991-A195 Affirm Environmental Responsibility and an Environmental Stewardship Team

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

2015-C013 Oppose Environmental Racism
2015-C045 Call for Investing in Clean and Renewable Energy
2009-D014 Direct Dioceses to Educate on Public Environmental Decisions
2009-D015 Urge Dioceses to Educate on Environmental Decisions Affecting Animal Species
2009-D031 Urge Commitment to Lower Carbon Output
2006-B002 Acknowledge and Reduce Global Warming
2003-D046 Urge Stewardship of Water Resources
1979-D029 Give Priority to Educating Congregations on Energy and the Environment

Supplemental Documents: (Linked)

(*Blue Book*) Report to General Convention, [Advisory Council on the Stewardship of Creation](#), see pages 584-585.

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1976 through 2015, 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 at 800-525-9329 before Convention or at Convention in the General Convention Secretariat.

A008 Continuing the Advisory Council on the Stewardship of Creation

Proposer	Advisory Council on the Stewardship of Creation
Topic	Environment
Endorsed by	Andrus, The Rt. Rev. Marc
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
HiA / Leg. Cttee	HB / 20 - Environmental Stewardship and Care of Creation
Current Status	Resolution Filed
Version	Original (as filed)
Review Status	Not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That because the work of the church for the stewardship of Creation is integral to discipleship in Christ, the 79th General Convention authorize an Advisory Council on the Stewardship of Creation to continue to develop this aspect of the ongoing mission and ministry of The Episcopal Church. The Advisory Council shall continue and refine the small grants program begun by the 2015-2018 Advisory Council to support local and regional eco-ministry efforts; engage eco-justice site projects, and develop creation care networks based on geographic boundaries and areas of affinity (previously known as Regional Consultative Groups); and be it further
 - 2 *Resolved* that the Council shall receive and help disseminate, through the networks, reports from congregations, dioceses and regions on fossil fuel divestment efforts and progress reports toward keeping the spirit of the Paris Climate Accord; and be it further
 - 3 *Resolved*, That this Advisory Council shall also establish a Theology of Creation Working Group comprised of faculty, staff and students from among the Episcopal Church's seminaries and tasked with facilitating innovative educational offerings in environmental ethics and theology for both seminarians and the broader public; and be it further
 - 4 *Resolved*, That this Advisory Council be appointed jointly by the President of the House of Deputies and the Presiding Bishop, with fourteen (14) to fifteen (15) members to include a diverse representation from the Church mindful to include younger generations, people of color and native persons who are and will be disproportionately affected by climate change; and be it further
 - 5 *Resolved*, that this Council submit a report to the 80th General Convention; and be it further
 - 6 *Resolved*, That the General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance allocate \$1.1 million for the implementation of this resolution and staff support and leadership from The Episcopal Church Office.
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EXPLANATION

No explanation.



Resolution Number: 2015-A030
Title: Support Ecologically Responsible Stewardship of Church Property
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society is directed to implement a program to develop parish and diocesan resources designed to support local ecologically responsible stewardship of church-related properties and buildings. The program shall be implemented in cooperation with an Advisory Council on the Stewardship of Creation composed of one person from each province by April 1, 2016. Each province member of the Advisory Council shall convene, in their respective provinces, Regional Consultive Groups ("RCG's") on the Stewardship of Creation. Each RCG shall be comprised of no fewer than five experts in areas of environmental sustainability appropriate to the demographic, ecological, cultural and geographic specifics of each region. These should include, but not be limited to, consultants in food and water security, property development, alternative energy, and engineering. Each RCG will also include theologians, educators and liturgists to provide resources in education and formation. These RCGs shall:

1. Compile and develop theological and formational material for teaching the theology of stewardship of creation;
2. Create networks designed to share ideas and information for practical application among the regions, such as sustainable development and green conversions of church-related properties, including without limitation, energy audits, solar conversions and other alternative energy, community gardens, and development of fallow property;
3. Be available for consultation to the Dioceses and Parishes.

The Advisory Council on the Stewardship of Creation shall create a structure for allocation of money to fund RCG initiatives at Parish and Diocesan levels within a year of the 78th General Convention, and serve as the granting body; and be it further

Resolved, That \$700,000 be allocated for this purpose, which includes the \$500,000 already allocated to the Fifth Mark of Mission, so that \$100,000 will be available for the support of the RCGs themselves, and \$600,000 be available to provide direct grants to Dioceses and Parishes in the implementation of these programs and support of measurable pilot projects. Of the \$100,000 funding the RCGs, \$40,500 is to be allocated for the Task Force meetings. Recognizing that this is new work, and a newly formed taskforce, they shall convene in person for their initial meeting, and thereafter determine their needs for future meetings, with funding available for them to meet once yearly. The remaining \$59,500 is to be used for regional meetings of the RCGs according to regional needs; and be it further

Resolved, That the Advisory Council shall report back to the 79th General Convention on the progress and ongoing results at the local and provincial levels.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 882-883.



Resolution Number: 2006-C018
Title: Recognize Global Warming and Reaffirm Church's Environmental Responsibility
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church recognize that the use of fossil fuels harms air quality and public health and is contributing to changes in the global climate that threaten the lives and livelihoods of our neighbors around the world; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention affirm that our Christian response to global warming is a deeply moral and spiritual issue; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention reaffirm Resolution 1991–A195, adopted by the 70th General Convention, declaring that Christian Stewardship of God's created environment, in harmony with our respect for human dignity, requires response from the Church of the highest urgency; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention reaffirm Resolution 2000–D022 [sic] (MDGs and the ONE Episcopalian Campaign [sic]), adopted by the 73rd General Convention, encouraging all members, congregations, dioceses, and other church institutions to use environmentally safe and sustainable energy sources; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention acknowledge with praise and appreciation the work of Interfaith Power and Light, a non-profit initiative that helps congregations, religious institutions and others work for a more just, sustainable and healthier Creation (website of Interfaith Power and Light – www.theregenerationproject.org); and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention encourage all members, congregations, dioceses, and other church institutions to consider prayerfully whether to partner with Interfaith Power and Light by incorporating respect and care for Creation into programs of worship and education, by reducing energy use through conservation and increased efficiency, and by replacing consumption of fossil fuels with energy from renewable resources.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 484-485.



Resolution Number: 1991-A195
Title: Affirm Environmental Responsibility and an Environmental Stewardship Team
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, affirming our responsibility for the earth in trust for this and future generations:

Declares that Christian Stewardship of God's created environment, in harmony with our respect for human dignity, requires response from the Church of the highest urgency;

Calls on all citizens of the world, and Episcopalians in particular, to live their lives as good stewards with responsible concern for the sustainability of the environment and with appreciation for the global interdependence of human life and the natural worlds; and

Urges all Episcopalians to reflect on their personal and corporate habits in the use of God's creation; to share with one another ideas for new responses; and to act as individuals, congregations, dioceses, and provinces of the Episcopal Church in ways that protect and heal all interdependent parts of creation. Such action should include prayerful theological discernment and factual knowledge. It should also consider global and local links and the balance of environmental integrity with economic sufficiency for human living;

and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church, acknowledging the sovereignty of God and God's call to us in the servanthood of Christ, continue to engage environmental issues, passionately caring for the earth and striving to live into the promises and mandates which are ours as stewards of creation; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention calls upon the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies to appoint an interdisciplinary, multicultural Environmental Stewardship Team, 14 members, representing each Province and a broad spectrum of Church membership, whose gifts and expertise are suitable to the task. The mission of the Environmental Stewardship Team is to educate, motivate and facilitate congregations, dioceses and provinces toward local and regional plans, advocacy and action. The Team will work with other environmental groups of common interest; and be it further

Resolved, That the 70th General Convention includes in the Program Budget an appropriation of \$100,000 per year during the 1992-1994 triennium to carry out the work of the Team; and be it further

Resolved, That the Environmental Stewardship Team report regularly to Executive Council during the triennium and to the 71st General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the 70th General Convention requests the Presiding Bishop to communicate immediately and directly to all Episcopalians, the scope and urgency of this resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 317.