

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A009
TITLE: Creating Greening Loans
PROPOSER: Advisory Council on the Stewardship of Creation
TOPIC: Environment

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-A030 Support Ecologically Responsible Stewardship of Church Property
2009-C070 Endorse *The Genesis Covenant*
2006-C018 Recognize Global Warming and Reaffirm Church's Environmental Responsibility
2003-D046 Urge Stewardship of Water Resources

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

2000-A048 Consider the Environment When Choosing Electric Energy Supplier
1979-D144 Call Upon Members to Exercise a Responsible Life Style
1991-A195 Affirm Environmental Responsibility and an Environmental Stewardship Team

Supplemental Documents: (Linked)

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

A009 Creating Greening Loans

Proposer	Advisory Council on the Stewardship of Creation
Topic	Environment
Endorsed by	Johnson, The Rev. Stephanie
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
HiA / Leg. Cttee	HB / 18 - Stewardship & Socially Responsible Investing
Current Status	Resolution Filed
Version	Original (as filed)
Review Status	Not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 79th General Convention affirm the vital witness of the Church to the effects of human-caused climate change as part of our witness as modern Christians and our concern for all who come after us, as we enact our Baptismal Covenant to “persevere in resisting evil” and “strive for justice and peace among all people,” and that the energy-inefficiency of our houses of worship undermine our ability to provide this witness; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That the 79th General Convention recognize that the energy inefficiency of aging physical plants and the financial realities of parish budgets make it difficult for parishes to afford energy audits and to update their buildings to renewable and efficiency; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the 79th General Convention direct the Presiding Bishop’s office, with the input of the Episcopal Church Building Fund, to establish a mechanism to support the greening of Episcopal churches through low-interest loans or grants and that \$500,000 be allocated to meet these goals in the 2019-2021 triennium, and that the Presiding Bishop’s Office present a status report to the 80th General Convention.

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: 2009-C070
Title: Endorse The Genesis Covenant
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention of The Episcopal Church affirm that The Episcopal Church become a signatory to the Genesis Covenant, thereby making a public commitment to work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from every facility it maintains by a minimum of 50% within ten years.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), p. 679.



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: 2003-D046
Title: Urge Stewardship of Water Resources
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 74th General Convention urge dioceses, congregations, and communicants to regard water resources as precious, and to recognize that the right use of water is an explicit means to show love for one's neighbor, since water connects people and all creatures throughout the global community; and be it further

Resolved, That the 74th General Convention encourage dioceses, congregations, and communicants to become active stewards of their water resources through conservation efforts including reduction of consumption; through examination of water discharge such that contaminated water does not improperly leave church grounds; and through the creation of environmental programs for stewardship of water and the whole of creation and for the education of congregants in regard to good and faithful stewardship of the earth's resources; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention encourage dioceses, congregations, and communicants to undertake one or more of the following four stewardship steps:

- **When and where possible, install water-saving devices, such as low-flow commodes and aspirators on sink faucets.**
- **Replant church grounds and home gardens with plants and trees that are drought-tolerant and have low needs for water, and that are native to the region and therefore able to survive local climatic conditions.**
- **Devise drainage systems that allow rainwater to flow from gutters and drain pipes to spread onto the lawn and landscaped areas of church grounds and home gardens, thereby reducing water lost to sewer systems.**
- **Pave new or repave existing parking lots with materials that are pervious, so that water penetrates into soil beneath parking areas, thereby reducing the flow of oil and other auto fluids into streams.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 314f.