

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A011
TITLE: Oppose Environmental Racism
PROPOSER: Advisory Council on the Stewardship of Creation
TOPIC: Health

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-C013 Oppose Environmental Racism
2012-B023 Seek Environmental Justice
2012-C079 On the Topic of Fracking (Rejected)
2012-D055 Advocate for Reducing Climate-Changing Emissions
2006-D055 On the Topic of an ACC Resolution on Global Warming (Rejected)
2000-D005 Oppose Environmental Racism

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

2015-C045 Call for Investing in Clean and Renewable Energy
2006-B002 Acknowledge and Reduce Global Warming
2006-C018 Recognize Global Warming and Reaffirm Church's Environmental Responsibility

Supplemental Documents: (Linked)

(*Blue Book*) Report to General Convention, [Advisory Council on the Stewardship of Creation](#), see pages 586-587.

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.

A011 Oppose Environmental Racism

Proposer Advisory Council on the Stewardship of Creation

Topic Health

Endorsed by Johnson, The Rev. Stephanie

Sponsored by

Page numbers Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HiA / Leg. Cttee HB / 08 - Social Justice and United States Policy

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 that fossil fuel-based power plants are the single largest source of carbon dioxide pollution in the United States and major contributors to climate change; these emissions not only threaten the environmental stability of our planet, but also the health of young children and their families, disproportionately affecting the poorest among us; and be it further

- 2 *Resolved*, That the Church recommit to and direct the Office of Government Relations and the Episcopal Public Policy Network to oppose Environmental Racism expressed in such ways as the locating of extraction, production, and disposal industries where they disproportionately harm neighborhoods inhabited by people of color and low income communities. And to oppose coal, gas, oil, and uranium extraction and its subsequent transportation which threaten the health and sanctity of communities and the livelihood of future generations; especially as such industries are located disproportionately nearby low income communities and neighborhoods inhabited by people of color.

EXPLANATION

No explanation.



Resolution Number: 2015-C013
Title: Oppose Environmental Racism
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church recommit to oppose environmental racism, expressed in such ways as the locating of extraction, production, and disposal industries where they disproportionately harm neighborhoods inhabited by people of color and low income communities.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 731-732.



Resolution Number: 2012-B023
Title: Seek Environmental Justice
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention of The Episcopal Church stands in solidarity with those communities who bear the greatest burdens of global climate change: indigenous peoples, subsistence communities, communities of color, and persons living in deprivation around the world; and be it further

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention calls on congregations, institutions, dioceses, and the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of The Episcopal Church to support policies that provide tangible benefits to overburdened “frontline” communities (those already experiencing the impacts of climate change) and “fence-line” communities (those suffering in body and spirit for their proximity to the extraction and processing of fossil fuels); and be it further

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention calls on congregations, institutions, dioceses, and the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of The Episcopal Church, to work for the just transformation of the world’s energy beyond and away from fossil fuels (including all forms of oil, coal, and natural gas) and toward safe, sustainable, renewable, community controlled energy, and that fossil fuel workers and their families be supported during the transition to a “post-carbon” society; and be it further

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention calls on congregations, institutions, dioceses, and the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of The Episcopal Church to resist the development and expansion of ever more unconventional, dangerous, and environmentally destructive sources of fossil fuel and move toward conversion to more sustainable sources; and be it further

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention calls on congregations, institutions, dioceses and the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of The Episcopal Church to support the self-determined aspirations of communities around the world, who, like the Iñupiaq Community of Kivalina, Alaska, having emitted minimal amounts of carbon and having received negligible material benefit from fossil fuel consumption, nevertheless bear the brunt of climate-change impacts; and be it further

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention calls on congregations, institutions, dioceses and the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of The Episcopal Church, including Episcopal Relief and Development, to support the implementation of grassroots, community-based solutions to climate change, including, but not limited to, adaptations to improve local resilience, to build local food sovereignty, to support ecological restoration and economic re-localization.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), p. 324.



Resolution Number: 2012-C079
Title: On the Topic of Fracking
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected
Text of Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That The Episcopal Church be an advocate in protecting God's creation particularly with regard to the process of extracting natural gas from subterranean locations where water, air, and soil quality are at risk; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church advocate for proper testing for water quality control, contamination, radon; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church advocate for the protection of the most vulnerable: the young, the elderly, and the poor, in communities where fracking occurs.



Resolution Number: 2012-D055
Title: Advocate for Reducing Climate-Changing Emissions
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church urge the United States government to enact stricter controls on the use of carbon-based fuels, and create incentives for our nation's transitions from dependence upon fossil fuels to safe, clean, renewable energy and thereby curb emissions of heat-trapping gasses into the atmosphere; and be it further
Resolved, That this Convention encourage every member of The Episcopal Church to urge his/her members of Congress to enact such legislation.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), p. 299.



Resolution Number: 2006-D055
Title: On the Topic of an ACC Resolution on Global Warming
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected [Died with Adjournment]
Text of the Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 75th General Convention endorse and implement Resolution 13/32 of the Anglican Consultative Council's meeting in Nottingham in 2005, submitted by the Anglican Communion Environment Network, which:

Recommends all Anglicans be encouraged to:

1. recognize that global climatic change is real and that we are contributing to the despoiling of creation
2. commend initiatives that address the moral transformation needed for environmentally sustainable economic practices such as the Contraction and Convergence process championed by the Archbishop of Canterbury
3. understand that, for the sake of future generations and the good of God's creation, those of us in the rich nations need to be ready to make sacrifices in the level of comfort and luxury we have come to enjoy
4. expect mission, vision, and value statements to contain commitment to environmental responsibility at all levels of church activity
5. educate all church members about the Christian mandate to care for creation
6. work on these issues ecumenically and with all faith communities and people of good will everywhere
7. ensure that the voices of women, indigenous peoples, and youth are heard
8. press government, industry, and civil society on the moral imperative of taking practical steps towards building sustainable communities.

Asks Provinces to take the following steps urgently:

1. Include environmental education as an integral part of all theological training.
2. Take targeted and specific actions to assess and reduce our environmental footprint, particularly greenhouse gas emissions. Such actions could include energy and resource audits, land management, just trading and purchasing, socially and ethically responsible investment.
3. Promote and commit ourselves to use renewable energy wherever possible.
4. Revise our liturgies and our calendar and lectionaries in ways that more fully reflect the role and work of God as Creator.
5. Press for urgent initiation of discussions, which should include all nations, leading to a just and effective development beyond the Kyoto Protocol.
6. Support the work of the World Council of Churches Climate Change Action Group.
7. Bring before governments the imperative to use all means, including legislation and removal of subsidies, to reduce greenhouse gases.



Resolution Number: 2000-D005
Title: Oppose Environmental Racism
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention of the Episcopal Church call on those present at this Convention to seek every opportunity to oppose environmental racism; and be it further Resolved, That the Washington office track legislation seeking to eliminate the practice of locating polluting industries disproportionately near neighborhoods inhabited by people of color or the poor; and be it further

Resolved, That the Washington office monitor and issue policy alerts regarding the practice of mountain top removal and valley fill mining and other large scale mining operations that threaten the ecology and low income communities; and be it further

Resolved, That the Committee on Social Responsibilities in Investments review the environmental racism issue.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 677f.