

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A018
TITLE: Episcopalians Participating in Paris Climate Agreement
PROPOSER: Advisory Council on the Stewardship of Creation
TOPIC: Environment

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-C013 Oppose Environmental Racism
2012-B023 Seek Environmental Justice
2006-C018 Recognize Global Warming and Reaffirm Church's Environmental Responsibility
1979-D144 Call Upon Members to Exercise a Responsible Life Style

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

2015-A171 Give Thanks for the Papal Encyclical on Climate Change
2009-C011 Directs Advocacy on Renewable Energy and Environmental Stewardship
2009-D014 Direct Dioceses to Educate on Public Environmental Decisions

Supplemental Documents: (Linked)

Pastoral Teaching on the Environment, [House of Bishops](#), September 2, 2011

(Blue Book) Report to General Convention, [Advisory Council on the Stewardship of Creation](#), see page 590.

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.

A018 Episcopalians Participating in Paris Climate Agreement

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|-------------------------|--|
| Proposer | Advisory Council on the Stewardship of Creation |
| Topic | Environment |
| Endorsed by | |
| 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 the 79th General Convention recognize that there is an important shift toward renewable energy which will help protect God's good creation. Supporting this shift is part of the Church's call to being part of The Jesus Movement in the world and; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That climate change be recognized as a human-made threat to all God's people, creatures and the entire created order, while particularly placing unjust and inequitable burdens and stresses on native peoples, poor communities and people of color; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the 79th General Convention, to further advance the House of Bishop's 2011 Pastoral Teaching on the Environment commitment to "advocate for a fair, ambitious, and binding climate treaty," make every effort to fully and completely participate in future meetings of the United Nations Conference of Parties on Climate Change as an active, faithful and engaged voice for all of God's good earth; and be it further
- 4 *Resolved*, That as individuals and communities of faith, the Episcopal Church set an example, in the spirit of the Paris Climate Accord, by making intentional decisions about living lightly and gently on God's good earth, for example, through energy conservation, renewable energy, sustainable food practices, gardening, sustainable coffee hours in parishes (considering the carbon footprint, resourcing, health consequences, and waste streams of materials, locations) and be it further
- 5 *Resolved*, That dioceses, parishes and individuals making commitment to the Paris Climate Accord consider reporting on their commitments, actions and successes to the Advisory Council on the Stewardship of Creation.

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: 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: 1979-D144
Title: Call Upon Members to Exercise a Responsible Life Style
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 66th General Convention calls every Member of this Church to exercise a responsible life style based on real personal needs commensurate with a world of limited resources by:

Conserving energy in our homes, jobs, parishes, communities, travels, and leisure activities;

Altering our own eating and consumption habits;

Planning family size in a responsible manner;

and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention commends to every Member of this Church the spiritual resources of prayer and meditation and pastoral support as persons encounter the tensions of a changing life style, and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention calls on the several Committees, Commissions, and Agencies of this Church to exercise a responsible life style in planning the meetings and conferences to be held.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 1979* (New York: General Convention, 1980), p. C-125.