

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-C021
TITLE: Climate Change and additional support for EC Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility
PROPOSER: California
TOPIC: Employee Benefits

Directly Related: (Attached)

2006-B002 Acknowledge and Reduce Global Warming
1994-A042 Encourage Church Investment Strategy on Hazardous Chemicals

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

2015-C045 Call for Investing in Clean and Renewable Energy
1991-A195 Affirm Environmental Responsibility and an Environmental Stewardship Team

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.

C021 Climate Change and additional support for EC Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility

Proposer	Diocese of California
Topic	Employee Benefits
Endorsed by	
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
HiA / Leg. Cttee	/
Current Status	Resolution Filed
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Review Status	Not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church call upon the Executive Council and its Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility (CCSR), in conjunction with the Church Pension Fund, to identify 10 companies significantly impacting the environment, and be either the primary filer or co-filer for shareholder resolutions creating a designated climate scientist position on their boards of directors; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That the General Convention budget make this a priority for the triennial as the Stewardship of Creation pillar of the Jesus Movement by allocating \$12,000 - \$15,000 in addition to CCSR's budget for implementation.

EXPLANATION

The Episcopal Church has repeatedly called for strong measures to slow global warming and its concomitant climate change. This resolution, further implementing this policy in a modest fashion intended to be noncontroversial, calls upon the Church's Executive Council and its Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility (CCSR), in conjunction with the Church Pension Fund, to identify ten companies that would be appropriate candidates to have a designated climate scientist expert on their board of directors. It also directs CCSR to be either the primary filer or co-filer for shareholder resolutions to accomplish that result. This will ensure open discussion of issues, hold directors and officers accountable for their actions, and secure the rights of shareholders to be represented by independent directors who are competent in this critical area.

Implementing this and other resolutions, TEC's Executive Council, among other things, has instructed the Treasurer to vote in favor of all shareholder resolutions asking companies to adopt principles for national and international action to stop global warming; and to vote in favor of all shareholder resolutions asking companies to report on the financial risks resulting from climate change and their impact on shareholder value and related matters.

God calls us to be good stewards of God's good Creation (Gen. 1:31, 2:15). Jesus commands us to care for those who are vulnerable as if we were caring for Him (Mt. 25:40). The Fifth Mark of Mission of the Anglican Communion is "To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the

life of the earth.” The Episcopal Church, by its mission, is pledged to the protection and care of God’s people and God’s Creation.

Based on three resolutions, the Episcopal Church have established policies on Global Climate Change (GC 2006 B002), Care of Creation (Executive Council Minutes – February 21, 2010). Board Diversity, and Scientific Integrity in Environmental Policy (GC 2009 C012). With the increased call from institutional investors for transparency and reporting the impacts of climate change policies to shareholders, it becomes imperative that governing boards have climate scientist expert on corporate board of directors.



Resolution Number: 2006-B002
Title: Acknowledge and Reduce Global Warming
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention affirm that Global Warming threatens the future of God's good creation, and the effects of Global Warming disproportionately hurt the lives of the poorest and most vulnerable in the United States and around the world; and be it further

Resolved, That Episcopalians and The Episcopal Church at every level support efforts that seek to reduce Global Warming, including national and international legislation that increase the supply of clean energy and reduce consumption of fossil fuels; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention commend the Executive Council and particularly its Socially Responsible Investment Committee (SRI) for the work they are now doing with the Global Warming Shareholder Campaign (GWSC), and the Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies (CERES) and the leadership they exercise as a member of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR); and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention urge the Executive Council and its SRI to:

- (a) use resources of The Episcopal Church, including its investments, to promote a sustainable global environment;
- (b) seek by shareholder resolutions to change current policies and behaviors of those companies that are significant contributors to Global Warming, and if necessary, divest from those companies;
- (c) call upon the expertise of Episcopalians who are closely connected with the GWSC to assist in this initiative;
- (d) report the results of this initiative to Executive Council no later than its fall meeting in 2007.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 662.



Resolution Number: 1994-A042
Title: Encourage Church Investment Strategy on Hazardous Chemicals
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 71st General Convention of the Episcopal Church reaffirm its commitment to justice for all people inside and outside the United States, including those who, because of their race, poverty, and powerlessness, bear the brunt of hazardous waste disposal which endangers their health and safety; and be it further

Resolved, That investors--dioceses, congregations, Church institutions, and individuals--be encouraged to influence corporations through shareholder resolutions and proxy voting to find alternatives to the manufacture, use, and disposal of hazardous chemicals; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council through its Social Responsibility in Investments Committee be directed to screen its investment portfolios for environmentally responsible corporate behavior inside and outside the United States, and to pursue corporate dialogue and shareholder resolutions with those companies wherever they are located to assure compliance with environmentally sound practices, \$12,000 for the triennium allocated for implementation of these goals, subject to funding in the budget.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 1994* (New York: General Convention, 1995), pp. 327-28.