

TASK FORCE ON THE CARE OF CREATION & ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM

Membership

The Rev. Stephanie Johnson, Chair	Connecticut, I	2024
Ms. Alexandria Link, Vice-Chair	Western Massachusetts, I	2024
Dr. Delia Heck, Secretary	Southwestern Virginia, III	2024
The Rt. Rev. Cathleen C. Bascom	Kansas, VII	2024
The Ven. Betsy Bennett	Nebraska, VI	2024
The Rev. April Berends	East Tennessee, IV	2024
The Rev. Lynne Bleich Weber	Newark, II	2024
The Very Rev. Ellis Clifton	Michigan, V	2024
The Rev. Glenna Huber	Washington, III	2024
Ms. Sarah Nolan	Virginia, III	2024
Canon Barbara Okamoto Bach	New Jersey, II	2024
The Rev. Br. Simeon Lewis Powell (<i>resigned 12/2022</i>)	Northern California, VIII	2024
The Rt. Rev. Juan Carlos Quinonez	Central Ecuador, IX	2024
The Rt. Rev. David Rice	San Joaquin, VIII	2024
The Rt. Rev. Daniel Richards	Upper South Carolina, IV	2024
The Rt. Rev. Gregory Rickel	Olympia, VIII	2024
Dr. Andrew Thompson	East Tennessee, IV	2024
Ms. Ana West	Chicago, V	2024
Mr. Warren Wong	California, V	2024
Ms. Julia Ayala Harris, Ex Officio	Oklahoma, VII	2024
The Most Rev. Michael Curry, Ex Officio	North Carolina, IV	2024

The Task Force composition includes seven (7) lay, seven (7) clergy, and five (5) bishops totaling nineteen (19) members. One resignation occurred during the biennium period.

Meetings

The Task Force held two in-person meetings on November 14-17, 2022 and October 9-11, 2023 during the joint interim bodies' sessions in Linthicum Heights, Maryland. Monthly virtual meetings took place on February 1, March 1, April 12, May 3, June 7, July 5, September 6, October 4, November 1, and December 6, 2023. Starting in March 2023, the Task Force hosted a monthly Episcopal Creation Care Compline on the third Mondays which was led by Task Force members and attended by over 40 people monthly.

Mandate

The following resolution was assigned to the Task Force:

Resolution 2022- A086 Continuing the Task Force for Care of Creation and Environmental Racism

Resolved, That the General Convention affirm the Presiding Bishop's and the President of the House of Deputies' continued call to the Church to recognize Care of Creation and Environmental Justice as integral and ongoing parts of the Church's loving, liberating, and life-giving work; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention commend the good work done by the Task Force for Care of Creation and Environmental Racism in the triennium following the 2018 General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention authorize a Task Force for Care of Creation and Environmental Racism to continue this work on behalf of the Episcopal Church in the next triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That this Task Force of up to 20 persons be appointed jointly by the President of the House of Deputies and the Presiding Bishop, with members to include a geographically diverse representation from the Church mindful to include younger generations, persons of color and Native persons who are and will be disproportionately affected by climate change; and be it further

Resolved, That this Task Force submit a report to the 81st General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention direct this Task Force to make as a priority the development and support of programs that respond to eco-justice concerns, address systemic environmental racism, and work to alleviate environmental burdens on indigenous communities. Ensure that programs can be modeled across the provinces of the Episcopal Church; and to provide training and financial and other resources to facilitate these projects; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention directs the Task Force to further expand, support and promote the Creation Care Covenant recognizing that this work seeks to align with the loving, liberating and life giving work of evangelism and beloved community.

Resolved, That the General Convention direct the Task Force to continue its work on developing theological resources and materials on a range of environmental topics including but not limited to the sin of environmental racism, an exploration of environmental reparations and the ethical and moral implications of responding to climate change: and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention direct this Task Force to continue the work of the previous Advisory Council (GC 2015) and Task Force (GC 2018) to implement the carbon offset program, support the efforts for just transition, increase and utilize the capabilities of the Episcopal Asset Map to support and respond to environmental injustices and to establish the network of asset-based programs; to continue to work within the partnerships established in the previous triennium with environmental justice organizations nationwide; and to continue the grants program in order to accomplish the above objectives; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$850,000 during the triennium for the work outlined above.

The Task Force was asked to advise and consult with Church Center staff and other interim bodies on the following three resolutions passed at GC 2022:

A087 [Net Carbon Neutrality by 2030](#)

A088 [Commit to the Pressing Work of Addressing Global Climate Change and Environmental Justice](#)

A089 [Resolution on Divestment & Just Transition](#)

Summary of Work

From the perspective of the Task Force, this ministry sits at the intersection of the three pillars of the church's work: Evangelism, Reconciliation and Creation Care. It is also intersectional across time and scale. We are grappling as a church with the sins of our past, while dealing with local, regional and global challenges. The earth is facing an existential crises in the form of the triple emergency: pollution,

biodiversity loss and climate change. We know that those who were least responsible for these challenges are being impacted the most.

Since the 1970's, the Episcopal Church has been a leader, both within our denomination and around the world, in responding to concerns and issues about God's creation. We stand at a nexus as a church and as a world. Decisions and choices made a century or more ago are playing out today in neighborhoods and communities across our church. The challenge for The Episcopal Church is deciding if we have the courage to continue to lead as we face hard truths about our past, present and future practices. If we as individuals, and as corporate members, are willing to follow the Way of Love we will find a future filled with hope and resurrection rather than despair and loss. This faithful calling to respond requires us to engage in truth-telling while listening carefully to the voices of those who have long been silenced through unequal power dynamics.

The Church's commitment to this urgent, faithful work can only be done when we dedicate enough resources. Our budgeting reflects our values and moral compass. Therefore we urge the Church to fully recognize our shared calling around creation care, climate change and ecojustice by allocating a total budget of \$1,800,000. We specifically request \$250,000 for climate mitigation, \$300,000 environmental racism redress, \$600,000 for creation care/ecojustice grants, \$37,000 for a new Standing Commission on Creation Care and Environmental Racism, \$150,000 for "Love God, Love God's World" curriculum on truth telling, \$75,000 for ongoing commitment to COP and COP focused on Biodiversity and \$472,000 for staffing including a dedicated full time staff person.

The Episcopal Covenant for Creation Care is a commitment to practice loving formation, liberating advocacy and life-giving conservation as individuals, congregations, ministries and dioceses. In this biennium, the Task Force focused on the following priorities flowing from this Covenant and established at its first meeting in Baltimore, November 14th – 17th, 2022.

1. Define and accelerate an eco-justice movement in the Episcopal Church through structures, processes, and institutional mechanisms including the ecojustice and care of creation grant program and eco-justice fellows.
2. Provide congregational and wider-church liturgy, worship and spiritual formation resources
3. Expand story-telling and advocacy around ecojustice, particularly using mapping as a tool.
4. Respond to the church's call for carbon neutrality through net zero grants, carbon offsets and land .

In just 12 months of meetings and small working group efforts, the TFCCER accomplished much toward our goals. As noted above, we had our first meeting in November 2022. Many of us met for the first time that month, but we are all equally passionate about God's creation, responding to climate change

and addressing environmental racism. We wondered together how best to draw the church closer together around these spiritual, moral and ethical challenges, and with God's help, opportunities for new life for Creation and the church. Intentional monthly meetings with shared prayers and concerns deepened our personal relationships, forging new friendships and opportunities for working together.

The following highlights our year long efforts with further details below, including supporting resolutions and budget requests.

- 1) A Eco-justice and creation care grant round with over \$160,000 awarded to 12 recipients and the planned launch of a 2nd round.
- 2) The start of a monthly Creation Care Compline (attended by 40-45 people regularly) and a "pilot" eco-grief space in Baltimore to be offered at GC 81.
- 3) Thoughtful, creative visioning for the future including a plan for an ecojustice loan program to meet net zero goals responding to A087 and the creation of a new Standing Commission. (Resolutions 1 and 2)
- 4) Ecojustice summer fellowship program summer 2023 with 6 young adults
- 5) Expanding use of the asset and environmental mapping program at COP28 and the All About Love Conference to respond to issues of ecojustice.
- 6) An exploration of environmental reparations for the church to consider in the next triennium.
- 7) A white paper with specific recommendations for carbon offsets for DFMS travel for 2024/25 implementation.
- 8) A biodiversity resolution approved at Executive Council for continued engagement at COP and the biodiversity COP adjacent meetings.
- 9) A series of questions centered on environmental justice and climate change for the Presiding Bishop candidates.
- 10) A growing collaboration with the Standing Committee on World Mission based on two meetings and a shared resolution to GC 81 for Anglican Communion Forests. (Resolution 3)
- 11) Networking and sharing of ideas with DFMS and across the church.

Eco-Justice and Creation Care Grant Program

Since 2017, the Advisory Council on Care of Creation or subsequent Task Force on Care of Creation and Environmental Racism, has developed grant standards, offered training webinars for potential applicants, and grant applicant coaching. In every round, the reviews of the grant applications are done by the TF members in teams. The support of the DFMS staff in organizing this effort has been invaluable. Since the program began, \$960,000 has been awarded. The TF believes that this program is some of the most important and critical work that can be done for the Church and God's creation. The local, diocesan and regional impacts of this grant program is incalculable from supporting startup ministries to helping to sustain visionary, cutting edge programs and initiatives. We urge the GC to expand this program in the next triennium requesting \$600,000.

The 2023 Creation Care Grant round aimed to support long-term ministries that focus on addressing the inequitable and systemic impacts of environmental racism and support regional and local collaborative ecojustice projects. Projects that respond to these pressing justice matters by engaging in advocacy, civic engagement, and developing climate change resiliency were given priority. Programs that resourced faith-based theological engagement around environmental issues in local communities, including responding to environmental racism and making progress toward environmental reparations were also favorably considered. Priority was also given to efforts that involved youth and young adult participation, communities of color and Indigenous peoples.

The Task Force received 51 applications from communities throughout the Episcopal Church. Each application was separately reviewed by two members of the task force, and then discussed by the entire team of eight grant readers. Eleven grants totaling \$168,267 were awarded in the first round of funding.

There will be one more round of granting in 2024 following the submission of our Blue Book report. There is approximately \$100,000 remaining. The following shows the breadth and variety of the grants awarded in just the 2023 round awarding a total of \$168,267 to 11 recipients. The Task Force requests \$600,000 to continue this transformative and life giving efforts across the church.

2023 Creation Care Grants:

Solar Equity Project in Peoria, Illinois – \$9,000

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Episcopal Diocese of Chicago

“Community education and engagement to support access and equity for a 1,000-household solar project in Peoria.”

Energy Literacy, Advocacy, and Connection – \$9,700

Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, Waco, Texas, Episcopal Diocese of Texas

“Host and facilitate workshops with local communities of faith focusing on renewable energy; conduct energy audits to improve the energy efficiency of buildings; weave global environmental justice connections.”

Environmental Repair: Eco-theology and the care of our common home / Curso de Reparación Ambiental mediante la cartilla: La eco teología y el cuidado de nuestra casa común, un aporte para el eco ministerio en Colombia y el Mundo – \$10,000

Diocesis Episcopal de Colombia

“Faith formation on ecological crises and environmental repair, and scaling up of an existing “circular economy” program recycling second hand materials and goods.”

Food Justice for Upper South Carolina – \$13,387

St. Martin’s in-the-Fields Episcopal Church, Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina

“Campaign on addressing food insecurity and environmental injustice with the grassroots coalition organization MORE Justice and 27 local congregations, including St. Luke’s Episcopal Church and Trinity Episcopal Cathedral.”

The Big Book of Creation and Environmental Racism – \$14,700

Christ Church Glendale, Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio

“Collaborative partnership with Tikkun Farm, an urban farm in Mt. Healthy, Ohio, to improve access to green space, support urban farms and gardening, and host worship and formation events related to environmental justice.”

Gardens and Pollinators: Enhancing Sustainability Awareness Among Youth Who Are Incarcerated- \$15,000

St. James Episcopal Church and Grace Episcopal Church, Episcopal Diocese of Central New York

“Expansion of community garden and apiary program for incarcerated youth; two Central New York congregations in collaboration with Helping Hands Urban Farm Garden.”

HOPE – Faith and Resilience in Marginalized Communities – \$15,000

St. James House of Prayer Episcopal Church, Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida

“Addressing flooding and water-quality impacts by strengthening five stormwater drainage ponds in East Tampa with natural and sustainable green infrastructure, in collaboration with nine interdenominational congregations and the Hillsborough Organization for Progress and Equality.”

Green Refuge: Tackling Environmental Racism in an Urban Environment through Refugee Empowerment – \$18,480

St. Paul’s Within the Walls, Rome, Italy, Italy Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe

“Project of Joel Nafuma Refugee Center, an outreach ministry of St. Paul’s Within the Walls Episcopal Church in Rome to address issues of environmental racism and urban pollution while empowering refugees through environmental stewardship and community engagement.”

Rhode Island Episcopal Relief and Resilience Pilot Project – Aquidneck Island – \$18,000

Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island, Creation Care Ministry

“Pilot climate resilience project on Aquidneck Island to assess climate vulnerabilities, enhance community emergency preparedness and adaptation planning, host environmental justice liturgy events and pilgrimage, and share model with other Episcopal dioceses and communities.”

An Episcopal Path to Creation Justice Pilot Program – \$20,000

The Creation Care Justice Network, Episcopal Dioceses in Massachusetts

“Support the continued development of the Episcopal Path to Creation Justice with resources for creation justice prayer and formation, advocacy, and action, running a pilot program and preparing to make the program publicly available in 2024.”

Answering the Call for Climate Justice: Planning for Carbon Neutrality by 2030 – \$25,000

Episcopal Diocese of Northern California, Commission on the Environment

“Partnership with Interfaith Power and Light and Energy for Purpose to pursue the climate justice goals of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California through training, goal-setting, and in-depth

energy-efficiency assessments for 10 congregations to build a roadmap for achieving carbon neutrality by 2030.”

Environmental racism and eco-justice initiatives

Ecojustice Fellows Pilot Project

In 2023, the Episcopal Church’s Task Force on the Care of Creation and Environmental Racism piloted an Ecojustice Fellows program to engage young people and attend to specific environmental racism and justice intersections. Six Episcopal young adults were selected as fellows. All were between the ages of 22 and 28, with varied races, genders, and sexualities; collectively, they represented six dioceses in Provinces III, IV, V, and VIII.

Fellowship priorities included relationship building, skill development, and development of independent projects. These priorities were supported through regular online gatherings from June through October and attendance at It’s All About Love in Baltimore (July 2023). The conference allowed fellows to establish relationships that carried through the rest of the fellowship, to connect to the wider Church, and to make connections critical to their project development. Online training included data mapping and eco-theology (from Task Force members), story sharing, and organizing. Each fellow designed and implemented an independent, creative project. These included an ecojustice liturgy for a local food support organization, a mid-autumn vesper service combining Asian and Episcopal spirituality, a workshop for LGBTQ youth to make climate zines, a podcast on Episcopal responses to the climate crisis, data support on environmental racism for a local nonprofit, and workshops for congregations conflicted about the climate crisis. Partners included Episcopal and ecumenical groups (in-person and online) and climate-concerned nonprofits. A fellowship coordinator and staff from the Department of Reconciliation, Justice and Creation Care provided one-on-one support for these independent projects. The energy and enthusiasm among the fellows was unmistakable. As a group, they reported deepened commitments to the Episcopal Church, especially the church’s ecojustice efforts. Several cited It’s All About Love as a defining moment in understanding the church’s commitment to ecojustice; others were enthusiastic about linking concern about climate change with their faith. All described how important it was to connect with other young Episcopalians with similar interests. Anecdotally, fellows and their projects have been well-received by the church; at least two have been invited to share their projects beyond the original audiences. The Task Force highly recommends funding to invest in young adults through fellowships and similar programs. Given the robust response to this pilot program and the growing concerns about climate and justice from our young adults, we request a total of \$120,000 to expand this program.

Environmental Reparations

The concept of environmental reparations was a significant theme in the Task Force's discussions and work. Environmental reparations emerge from the recognition that the legacies of colonialism and slavery leave lasting scars not only on human communities but also on the land and on human relationships with the land. Plantation agriculture degraded lands across the south, and the descendants of enslaved people continue to suffer disproportionately from the effects of that degradation. Additionally, the effects of climate change today and in the future follow the tides established by colonialism, in which the Church played a significant role. Finally, most churches in the U.S. sit on land that was taken by coercion from its original inhabitants. Reconciliation with oppressed communities therefore requires some method of correcting these past ecological violations; this is the insight of environmental reparations.

The work of environmental reparations must be a central mandate for any future work in environmental justice and creation care. This may look like divestment from industries that perpetuate ecological violence, such as fossil fuels, and reinvestment in the resiliency of communities of color, or it may involve supporting social and environmental work that empowers marginalized groups. At a minimum it must include sincere efforts toward land restitution; that is, toward finding mechanisms for returning control of land to the descendants of its original Indigenous inhabitants. The TF requests \$35,000 to foster this work through workshops and training.

Carbon Offsets

In response to General Convention resolution 2022-A087, members of the Task Force developed a set of policy guidelines for purchasing verified carbon offsets. Resolution A087 commits the Church to carbon neutrality by 2030. While the primary focus must be on reducing actual emissions, carbon offsets, when done responsibly and in good faith, can be a secondary part of work toward this goal by compensating for emissions from unavoidable travel. The guidelines developed by the Task Force emphasized transparency and accountability, as well as an insistence that offsets should never take the place of meaningful steps toward reducing emissions. It is the hope of the TF that DFMS will begin using carbon offsets for travel in 2024. It is expected that \$90,000 will be necessary to implement this effort.

Ecojustice Advocacy through mapping

The Task Force partnered with the General Convention Office, building on the work of the Rev. Dr. Molly James in the Explore Your Neighborhood Tool. This tool provides a demographic overview of Episcopal congregation's physical locations. It includes parameters such as poverty, housing cost, race, education, and access to groceries and internet. The Task Force developed resources that allow

congregations to add eco-social justice data layers such as historical areas of redlining, the EPA's Eco-Justice Screen, the CDC's Social Vulnerability Index, NOAA's 3-meter sea level rise data and a plethora of other easily accessible and free government data. These materials were presented at sessions during the It's All About Love Festival in Baltimore, July 9th – 12th, 2023. It was also showcased at two talks at the COP28 meetings in Dubai, December 5th and 6th, 2023. In the previous triennium the TF has begun to pilot advocacy training using the maps however given the shorter timeframe for the TF this biennium we were unable to continue this effort. . The next step then is to expand regional advocacy trainings to make broader use of the maps engaging Episcopalians across the church in lifting their voices against eco-injustices and environmental degradations. The Task Force remains committed to growing this advocacy work in the next triennium and requests \$105,000 to partner with faith based advocacy groups in training around eco-justice and responding to environmental racism.

Support for “Love God, Love God’s World” Curriculum

Members of the Task Force served as advisors to the forthcoming creation care curriculum (Love God, Love God’s World) developed by the office of Reconciliation, Justice and Creation Care. Focusing on climate change and eco-justice this initiative will invite small and large group learning and reflection to deepen faith based engagement and love for God’s creation. This project, designed similarly to the Sacred Ground project, will focus on truth telling while expanding understanding across the church concerning environmental racism, local and regional eco-justices concerns and the climate change crisis. Funding of \$150,000 is requested to broadly expand this work across the church.

Continued commitment to financial efforts to respond to the climate crisis

The Task Force on Care of Creation and Environmental Racism continues to support resolutions from 2015 through 2022 which called on the DFMS to divest from Fossil fuels and reinvest in renewables, support just transition and consider banking practices in light of climate change. The TF also urges the Church Pension Fund to be mindful of the church’s desire to become more invested in renewables and to continue reporting back to GC about its efforts toward sustainability.

Liturgy and liturgical resources for God’s Creation

Compline and prayers

The Task Force recognized the power of communal prayer for the sake of God’s creation and for the nourishing of those who are engaged in eco-ministry around the church. A small team of task force members began developing outlines for creation centered compline services in early 2023. On March 20, 2023, we began offering monthly Creation Care Compline services via zoom that continues to

attract worshippers internationally from the British Virgin Islands, the United States, Canada, and Africa. Attendance has been consistently high as people from TEC and other denominations join together to pray for current environmental concerns, local eco-justice ministries, and hopes for the world. The international attraction of these worship experiences was made even more significant that the format and services were included in the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) from November 30th until December 12th, 2023 in Dubai, UAE. These evening worship offerings help to emphasize God's common call to all for proper care of creation and the collaborative work we are called into to reverse the environmental damage humankind has done to our world. An unanticipated but meaningful outgrowth of our monthly prayer time is a time for sharing at the conclusion of our worship, offering announcements about local, diocesan, and provincial events and initiatives. From this, ideas have been shared for adaptation and implementation by others and the task force has started an informal networking group. These monthly services are scheduled until General Convention. Given how well received and meaningful these services have become, we anticipate offering them throughout the next triennium.

Another offering in the area of prayer was a workshop offered by The Reverend Ellis Clifton, Jr. (Diocese of the Virgin Islands) during *All About Love*. Assisted by the Reverend Betsy Bennet (Diocese of Nebraska) the international and multi-generational grouping of participants in this interactive workshop were offered an opportunity to reflect on the different forms of prayer listed in the Catechism of our Book of Common Prayer and the group was reminded of the richness of our prayer life when we offer our prayers in the many forms of prayer that exist. Workshop participants were invited to create original care of creation/eco-themed prayers in one or more of the various prayer types just discussed. The workshop ended with participants submitting copies of their prayers for possible inclusion in a compilation of original eco-themed prayers for use at GC 81.

Eco-grief space

The Task Force's emphasis on prayer and worship was an important component of our participation at *All About Love* in Baltimore, Maryland. In a July 2022 article published in *Everyday Health*, Ecological (Eco) Grief is defined "as mourning of the loss of ecosystems, landscapes, species, and ways of life due to climate change." The medical profession has begun the study of this human condition and its effects on humankind. At *All About Love*, the Task Force created a beautiful Eco Grief Space as a respite from the day's busyness, as a holy and prayerful space where festival participants could process information received at the event and to consider how ecological concerns may affect them personally. The space was wonderfully adorned by lighting, greenery and water filled bowls, effectively giving the indoor meeting area a "garden effect" allowing visitors to thoughtfully address the impact of eco-grief in our lives through: prayer, reading, listening, grieving, and engaging in quiet conversation about areas of ecological concern and the appropriate care and ministry to God's world. members of the TF were available as eco-chaplains to share and pray with visitors. At times, the various sights and smells

offered a multi-sensory experience. We discovered that the space was utilized intergenerationally - teens, young adults, and seniors as well as some of the staff from the host facility.

Proposed Resolutions

A020 Establish a Standing Commission on Care of Creation and Environmental Racism

Resolved, that the 81st General Convention amend Canon I.1.2.n by adding a new subsection 6 thereto, to read as follows:

I.1.2.n

6. A Standing Commission on Care of Creation and Environmental Racism shall be created to continue the work of the Advisory Council (GC 2015), Task Force (GC 2018), and Task Force (GC 2022). Establishment of this Standing Commission will be an important step in acknowledging that care of creation and response to environmental injustices is an integral and ongoing work of God's people and church.

It shall be the duty of the Commission to:

- i. Support programs that respond to eco-justice concerns, address systemic environmental racism, and work to alleviate environmental burdens on indigenous communities and actively respond to the call for environmental reparations.*
- ii. Continue to lead the church is responding to the moral and ethical implications of climate change, biodiversity loss and local environmental degradation.*
- iii. Expand, support and promote the Creation Care Covenant recognizing that this work seeks to align with the loving, liberating and life giving work of evangelism and beloved community.*
- iv. Provide expertise on programs that respond to the climate crisis and eco-justice including a carbon offset program, efforts for just transition, land based carbon capture initiatives, increase and utilize the capabilities of the Episcopal Asset Map.*
- v. Continue the creation care and ecojustice grants program and ecojustice fellows program to accomplish the above objectives.*

vi. Develop theological materials and liturgical resources to support church wide creation efforts.

v. Recommend strategies to Executive Council and DFMS for the development and support of networks concerning eco-justice and care of creation.

vii. As requested, provide policy support to Executive Council and the Office of Governmental Relations on environmental and eco-justice matters.

And be it further

Resolved, that General Convention approve a budget of \$1, 412, 500 to complete the tasks noted above.

A021 Create a Care of Creation Loan Program for Episcopal Dioceses

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church (TEC) affirms its Episcopal Covenant to Care of Creation commitment to form and restore loving, liberating, life-giving relationships with all of Creation; and be it further

Resolved, the General Convention allocates \$3 million in TEC endowment funds as a loan portfolio to establish a Care of Creation loan program for dioceses to utilize as a funding resource for primarily capital projects to advance the goal of bringing the Church into carbon net zero compliance by 2030 (2022-A087), and that start up funds of \$30,000 annually be allocated to launch this effort; and be it further

Resolved, this General Convention directs the Executive Council to assign responsibility for oversight of these assets to its Economic Justice Loan Committee (EJLC) for loans that support greater Care of Creation and eco-justice initiatives; and be it further

Resolved, that the Economic Justice Loan Committee, consult with the Task Force on Creation Care and Environmental Racism (or its successor) and will add a liaison, to create and implement a program format mirroring EJLC best practices by the Treasurer's Office.

Explanation

The funds in the portfolio are used on a revolving basis to provide loans directly to dioceses for development capital programs and projects. The principal, upon repayment, is then re-loaned to

other dioceses. All the loans pay interest, and that interest income is used to support TEC's programs. The net carbon zero resolution passed at the 80th General Convention, while ambitious and visionary in scope, did not provide financial resources to implement this mandate. Using a revolving loan fund model, already successfully used by the Episcopal Church, will help advance this mandate and other critical eco-justice mandates.

A022 Support the Anglican Communion Forest Initiative

Resolved, that in support of The Anglican Consultative Council resolution passed at ACC 18 in Ghana in February, 2023, we recognize that the integrity of creation is under threat and at risk of collapse and there is urgent need to reduce our carbon footprint and protect biodiversity; and be it further

Resolved, that the Episcopal Church affirms the potential of the Communion Forest initiative launched as a legacy of the 2022 Lambeth Conference; and be it further

Resolved, that the Episcopal Church join with other Churches of the Communion to join in this initiative to be ambitious in using their God-given assets, to weave creation care into the spiritual and liturgical life of the Church; and be it further

Resolved, that we commend the collaboration of the Anglican Alliance and Anglican Communion Environmental Network, and encourages the dioceses, seminaries, congregations and other ministries in the Episcopal Church to share with them information about their existing and new activities.