

## General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

**Resolution No.:** 2024-D050  
**Title:** Resolution to Complete the Journey to Net Carbon Neutrality by 2030  
**Proposer:** Dolan, The Rev. Dr. Pamela  
**Topic:** Environment

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### Directly Related: (Attached)

2022-A086 Continue the Work of the Task Force for Care of Creation and Environmental Racism  
2022-A087 Commit to Net Carbon Neutrality by 2030  
2022-A088 Re-Commit to Addressing Global Climate Change and Environmental Justice  
2018-A011 Affirm Commitment to Address Environmental Racism  
2018-A013 Create a Task Force and Staff Position for Care of Creation  
2018-A213 Collect Data on Parish Energy Usage  
2018-C008 Encourage Sustainable Choices to Combat Climate Change  
2018-C020 Urge Support for Carbon Accounting Policies for Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions  
2018-D053 Call for Model Policies for Sustainable Church Land Use  
2015-A030 Support Ecologically Responsible Stewardship of Church Property

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

2022-C015 Create a Churchwide Internal Carbon Offset Program

*In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2022, 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 through the [Research Request Form](#).*

# D050 - Resolution to Complete the Journey to Net Carbon Neutrality by 2030

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**Final Status:** Not Yet Finalized

**Proposed by:** Dolan, The Rev. Dr. Pamela

**Endorsed by:** Elmquist, Mr. Jay, Wong, Mr. Warren

**Has Budget Implications:** Yes

**Cost:** \$225,000.00

**Amends C&C or Rules of Order:** No

**Requests New Interim Body:** No

**Directs an Interim Body:** Yes

**Directs Dfms Staff:** No

**Directs Dioceses:** Yes

**Directs Executive Council:** No

**HiA:** HB

**Legislative Committee Currently Assigned:** 15 - Environmental Stewardship & Care of Creation

**Completion Status:** Incomplete

**Latest House Action:** N/A

**Supporting Documents:**

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## Resolution Text

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring,

That the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church acknowledges the immediate and serious threat that climate change poses to humanity, including “the disproportionate impacts of climate change on low-income communities and communities of color around the world, the people and places least responsible for the problem” (according to the University of California Center for Climate Justice), a situation that is antithetical to the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and be it further

*Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church, as an institution that owns and manages properties and buildings, has an ethical obligation to make those properties and buildings part of the solution to our climate crisis, through concrete actions that will reduce or eliminate the use of fossil fuels, with the goal of becoming net carbon neutral; and be it further

*Resolved*, That this Convention direct dioceses, congregations, and all other institutions of The Episcopal Church to identify and adopt processes that will lead to the development of

site-specific plans for achieving net carbon neutrality by 2030, and that these plans and processes may include: the formation of local green teams; the completion of energy-efficiency assessments; the development of plans to reduce or eliminate reliance on fossil fuels, including transition to renewable energy sources; and purchasing offsets from duly investigated, responsible, and ethical partners; and be it further

*Resolved*, That these plans be reported to the Creation Care Ministry of The Episcopal Church as they are developed; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Creation Care Ministry of The Episcopal Church will support the development and implementation of these plans through the creation of a robust resource hub connecting individuals and organizations as they work on their carbon reduction plans, including the sharing of best practices, funding sources, and information about green energy technology; and be it further

*Resolved*, That General Convention request a budget allocation of \$225,000 to pay for the staffing needed to develop and manage the resource hub.

## Explanation

At General Convention 80, Resolution A087 *Net Carbon Neutrality by 2030* was passed. ([https://www.episcopalarchives.org/sites/default/files/gc\\_resolutions/2022-A087.pdf](https://www.episcopalarchives.org/sites/default/files/gc_resolutions/2022-A087.pdf))

This resolution committed the Episcopal Church to a goal of net carbon neutrality in its operations and the work of staff, standing commission, interim bodies, and General Convention by 2030. It also encouraged all other institutions within the Episcopal Church to pursue their own goal of net carbon neutrality by 2030.

Specifically, the resolution states: “Resolved, That the General Convention encourage parishes, dioceses, schools, camps, and other Episcopal institutions to pursue their own goal of net carbon neutrality by 2030 through a combination of reducing emissions from travel, reducing energy use, increasing energy efficiency in buildings, and purchasing offsets from duly investigated, responsible, and ethical partners...”

The resolution made it clear that achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 is a high priority for The Episcopal Church. **However, it didn’t provide funding or a roadmap to achieving carbon neutrality.** It is as if we have set out on a journey knowing only the destination, but with no idea of how to get there or what resources the trip will require. **The goal of the current resolution is to fund a position in the Creation Care ministry that will provide resources and guidance to dioceses and churches in their efforts to become carbon neutral, including one or more possible roadmaps.**

At the 2022 Diocese of Northern California convention, Resolution R1-2022 *Petition to Further Resolution A087 Through the Development of Congregation-Based Plans to Achieve Carbon-Neutral Facilities and Operations by 2030* was passed with overwhelming support. ([https://www.norcalepiscopal.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/R1-2022\\_Climate\\_Neutral\\_2030.pdf](https://www.norcalepiscopal.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/R1-2022_Climate_Neutral_2030.pdf))

This resolution specifically responded to the General Convention’s resolution encouraging dioceses to “pursue their own goal of net carbon neutrality.” It committed the churches in the Diocese of Northern California to complete an assessment of their current carbon footprint, including energy assessment, in order to develop a plan to be carbon neutral by 2030. The plan-creation process is to be completed by the end of 2024. At the same time, the Resolution committed the Diocesan Commission on the Environment to provide all of our congregations with the resources they need, both in terms of the tools (a roadmap) and possible sources of funding, that will be necessary to complete this work.

Through careful research and wide-ranging conversations, the Commission on the Environment created ***a clear, practical, achievable process for the Diocese of Northern California to reach the goal of having all congregations develop plans to be carbon neutral by 2030.***

This process is an innovative, unique, and replicable roadmap for other churches and Dioceses. The steps in the process are:

1. Create congregation-specific green teams that will lead the local effort.
2. Complete initial basic carbon assessments utilizing the church-focused tool created by Interfaith Power and Light.
3. Bring-in an expert to do energy-efficiency assessments to identify opportunities for increasing energy efficiency and transition to renewable energy sources. (According to a Department of Energy 2023 report, up to 30% of the energy in non-profit buildings is wasted,<sup>[i]</sup> so addressing energy efficiency is a critical step in the decarbonization process.)
4. Utilize information from the energy-efficiency assessment report to develop a plan to make changes to become carbon neutral.

The Diocese of Northern California encompasses 63 churches, ranging from very small (fewer than 10 ASA) to our Cathedral (approximately 400 ASA). To date, we have engaged with 40 congregations in this process and most of them are either at step 3 or 4 of the above four-step process.

Not every parish or diocese has to follow the roadmap we have created—but nor do they need to start from scratch or reinvent the wheel. What we all need to do is have a plan and begin to implement it. To reiterate, the goal of the current resolution is to fund a position in the Creation Care ministry that will provide resources and guidance to dioceses and churches in their efforts to become carbon neutral by 2030, as per the policy of The Episcopal Church.

[i] <https://www.energy.gov/scep/articles/renew-americas-nonprofits-grant-will-make-sustainable-savings-reality-hundreds#:~:text=After%20salaries%2C%20energy%20costs%20are,wasted%20due%20to%20building%20inefficiencies.>)

Note: this resolution and/or its explanation contains external references, such as URLs of websites, that may not be in the required languages of General Convention. Because of copyright restrictions, the General Convention cannot provide translations. However, your web browser may be able to provide a machine translation into another language. If you need assistance with this, please contact [gc.support@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:gc.support@episcopalchurch.org).



**Resolution Number:** 2022-A086  
**Title:** Continue the Work of the Task Force for Care of Creation and Environmental Racism  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred  
**Final Text:**

*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; and be it further*

*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.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), pp. 841-842.



**Resolution Number:** 2022-A087  
**Title:** Commit to Net Carbon Neutrality by 2030  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That The Episcopal Church commit to a goal of net carbon neutrality in its operations and the work of staff, standing commissions, interim bodies, and General Convention by 2030, through a combination of reducing emissions from travel, reducing energy use, increasing energy efficiency in buildings, and purchasing offsets from duly investigated, responsible, and ethical partners; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention encourage the Presiding Bishop's staff to take concrete actions to reduce fossil fuel emissions from travel by said groups, such as through online meetings or regional gatherings; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention encourage the Presiding Bishop's staff to draft a policy to offset one hundred percent of fossil fuel emissions from unavoidable travel by said groups, either through an internal offset program or through purchase from duly investigated, responsible, and ethical partners, with appropriate accountability and oversight; 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 \$70,000 per year for the implementation of this resolution, taken from existing travel budgets, in order to offset approximately 3500 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (the average annual travel emissions of said groups from previous years) at a rate of \$20 per ton; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention encourage the Presiding Bishop's staff to establish an internal offset program including such activities as carbon forestry and regenerative agriculture, with appropriate oversight to ensure that the program meet the five commonly accepted traits of responsible offset programs: real, permanent, verifiable, additional, and enforceable; 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 \$25,000 to establish this internal offset program, comprising \$15,000 to cover wages and benefits for a part-time Offset Specialist and \$10,000 for implementation and promotion of the program; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention encourage parishes, dioceses, schools, camps, and other Episcopal institutions to pursue their own goal of net carbon neutrality by 2030 through a combination of reducing emissions from travel, reducing energy use, increasing energy efficiency in buildings, and purchasing offsets from duly investigated, responsible, and ethical partners; and be it further*

*Resolved, that the General Convention request the diocesan bishops of every diocese to begin to build networks of landowners and creation trustees in each diocese who will devote portions of their land to reforestation, prairie restoration, wetland and coastland preservation; adopt and share regenerative agricultural and ranching practices; collaborate with neighboring dioceses for best water practices to protect our watersheds; collaborate on creative means of distributing food; and pray for future generations dependent on the land and water we steward; and be it further*



*Resolved, That The Episcopal Church support and advocate for the subsistence rights of Indigenous people and policies that protect and preserve land and resources solely for subsistence use; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention encourage the Presiding Bishop's staff to develop and share resources for parishes and dioceses to commit to and work toward this goal, such as the online carbon tracker already created by the Diocese of California, as well as other online and print resources; 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 \$50,000 to fund the development and promotion of these resources.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), pp. 545-546.



**Resolution Number:** 2022-A088  
**Title:** Re-Commit to Addressing Global Climate Change and Environmental Justice  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved,* That the 80th General Convention recognize as the Episcopal Church's position that global climate change is not only a scientific concern or environmental issue, but what the United Nations calls "the defining issue of our time... at a defining moment" (UN Secretary General, September 10, 2018), an all-encompassing social crisis and moral emergency that impacts and interconnects every aspect of pastoral concern including health, poverty, employment, racism, social justice, and family life and that can only be addressed by a Great Work involving every sector of society, including the Church; and affirm the commitment of the 79th General Convention to the House of Bishops' 2011 Pastoral Teaching on the Environment as an official position of the church; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Church recommit to the work done by previous General Conventions of The Episcopal Church on the pressing moral dimensions of global climate change and environmental justice, including resolutions 2000-D005, 2012-B023, 2015-C013, 2015-C045, 2018-A011, 2018-A018, 2018-A020, 2018-B027, 2018-C020, 2018-C021, and 2018-C064; and that General Convention reaffirm that the Episcopal Church shall support and advocate for policies, programs, pastoral responses, and theologies that work to ensure no community - especially financially impoverished communities, frontline residents, migrants, and BIPOC communities (Black, indigenous, and people of color) - shall bear a disproportionate impact of the environmental, health, and economic threats of climate change; and be it further

*Resolved,* That General Convention affirm the decision of the United States federal government to rejoin the Paris Climate Accord, while recognizing that the goals set forth in the Paris Accord are only a first step, insufficient in and of themselves to fully contain rising global temperatures and their impacts; and that General Convention encourage the Presiding Bishop's staff to continue, through our ongoing role as observers at the United Nations, to participate in all meetings of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change during the next triennium via delegations selected from an applicant pool and made up primarily of Episcopalians from financially impoverished communities, frontline locations, and BIPOC communities; 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 \$30,000 per triennium to support costs associated with travel to the COP conferences by delegation members who are not members of the Presiding Bishop's staff; and be it further

*Resolved,* That The Episcopal Church direct the Office of Government Relations and the Episcopal Public Policy Network to advocate for legislation and other public policies that directly address the impact of climate change among marginalized, indigenous, and frontline communities and that tangibly and financially assist those communities with the costs of both climate change and mitigation, and policies that prohibit the authorization and construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure including but not limited to coal, oil, or gas leases on public lands, all forms of mountaintop removal mining, and tar sands pipelines such as Keystone XL, Enbridge Line #3, and the Dakota Access Pipeline; and be it further

*Resolved*, That General Convention encourage all Church communities, especially parishes, dioceses, camps, conference centers, schools, and chaplaincies, to learn more about the pressing moral implications of climate change in their regions and existing local organizing efforts, then advocate for policies and solutions to address those local needs utilizing and adapting advocacy resources from General Convention and the Presiding Bishop's staff including the Episcopal Public Policy Network, asset map, carbon tracker, liturgical resources, and advocating at the local and state level, and incorporating local nature, environmental justice, and advocacy for creation care into all aspects of community life and Christian education.

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), pp. 546-547.



**Resolution Number:** 2018-A011  
**Title:** Affirm Commitment to Address Environmental Racism  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 79th General Convention affirm the need for governments, private industry and all people to act to protect the health of all persons from unsafe and unhealthy exposures to air and water pollution, toxic substances, or radiation in their food, water supply, living quarters, and work places; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Church recommit to the excellent work done by previous General Conventions of The Episcopal Church, specifically resolutions 2000-D005, 2012-B023, 2012-C079, and 2015-C013 and that General Convention affirm that no community, especially poor communities, those who live closest to the land in subsistence cultures, and members of marginalized ethnic groups, should bear a disproportionate risk of environmental pollution or degradation; and advocate for and support policies that protect these populations and the sanctity of communities and the livelihood of future generations from the disparate impact of climate change and environmental degradation; and be it further*

*Resolved, That General Convention direct the formation of a Task Force, not to exceed twelve people, including attorneys, health professionals, environmental professionals, and bishops and other clergy to study and report specific recommendations for appropriate changes in federal, state, or local law so that effective judicial remedies, based on a showing of disproportionate health or environmental impact on those living closest to the land in subsistence cultures, ethnic minorities or poor communities, can be obtained to address unwise governmental decisions with respect to land use, industrial, energy and transportation development, and application of environmental standards; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Task Force will report to Executive Council by the end of 2019; and be it further*

*Resolved, That Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$30,000 for the work of the Task Force for the Triennium.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 372-373.



**Resolution Number:** 2018-A013  
**Title:** Create a Task Force and Staff Position for Care of Creation  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 79th General Convention affirm the President of the House Deputies' and the Presiding Bishop's call to the Church to recognize Care of Creation as an integral part of The Jesus Movement; and be it further*

*Resolved, That, as disciples of Jesus Christ, we recognize that the Earth is the Lord's (Psalm 24), has been made in and through Christ (John 1) and we are placed in it as a garden planet (Genesis 2); and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention urge the establishment of an additional senior staff position for the Care of Creation as a member of the Episcopal Church Center staff; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this staff person shall serve as a resource for the Church, a liaison between Episcopal faith communities and institutions with their many creation care initiatives, network developer for sharing best practices, contact person for the denomination, partners and faith communities, ambassador between evangelism, racial justice and care of creation, and advocate for funding, visibility and action; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 79th General Convention authorize a Task Force for the Care of Creation to develop this aspect of the ongoing mission and ministry of The Episcopal Church; 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, people of color and native persons who are and will be disproportionately affected by climate change; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this Task Force work during the period of 2018-2021 and submit a report to the 80th General Convention; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Task Force shall develop and refine the small grants program begun by the 2015-2018 Advisory Council for Stewardship of Creation to support local and regional eco-ministry efforts; engage eco-justice site projects, and further develop creation care networks based on bioregions (a region defined by characteristics of the natural environment rather than by human-made divisions) and/or areas of affinity, (e.g. renewable energy, regenerative agriculture, liturgy, Christian formation); and be it further*

*Resolved, That the staff person for the Care of Creation shall liaise with and support the work of the Task Force for the Care of Creation; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Task Force shall receive and help disseminate case studies and best practices in keeping with the spirit of the Paris Climate Accord, that is, supporting humanity's transition from industrial life to sustainable life; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention recommend to the President of the House Deputies and the Presiding Bishop in consultation with the Task Force to establish and to appoint persons to a Theology of Creation Working Group tasked with facilitating innovative educational offerings in environmental ethics and theology for the formation of clergy and laity; and be it further*

***Resolved,* That the General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance allocate \$1.1 million for the implementation of this resolution and staff support and leadership from The Episcopal Church.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 375.



**Resolution Number:** 2018-A213  
**Title:** Collect Data on Parish Energy Usage  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 79th General Convention direct the Executive Council to create a mechanism to acquire data on energy and water sources, usage and efficiency from all church properties; and be it further*

*Resolved, That such data be used to create educational resources that will assist faith communities and other Episcopal institutions to reduce their environmental impact; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program Budget and Finance allocate \$30,000 for acquisition and dissemination of this information.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 688.



**Resolution Number:** 2018-C008  
**Title:** Encourage Sustainable Choices to Combat Climate Change  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 79th General Convention in keeping with the House of Bishops' 2011 commitment to combat climate change urge that the members of The Episcopal Church strive to transform our individual and communal lives towards sustainability; and be it further*  
*Resolved, That Episcopalians be encouraged to use a web-based tool to support healthy, sustainable choices; and be it further*  
*Resolved, That the General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance allocate \$30,000 to be devoted over the triennium 2019-2021 to make a web-based carbon tracking tool such as "Sustaining Earth, Our Island Home" available to all Episcopalians.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 404-405.





**Resolution Number:** 2018-C020  
**Title:** Urge Support for Carbon Accounting Policies for Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That The Episcopal Church shall work with people of good will to materially reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in order to stabilize our climate; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church support public policy which may include Carbon Fee and Dividend model or other means accounting for greenhouse gas emissions from carbon based fuels to mitigate further irreversible climate change; and be it further*

*Resolved, That in implementing any such policies, the church will advocate for appropriate measures to reduce the economic impacts on poor people and people of modest income, which means might include use of a trust fund paid for with carbon fees and distributed to the poorest people first.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 405.



**Resolution Number:** 2018-D053  
**Title:** Call for Model Policies for Sustainable Church Land Use  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 79th General Convention recommends that all dioceses, faith communities and institutions create partnerships enabling the use of church-owned land for regenerative agriculture and biodiversity conservation projects in order to sequester carbon and to mitigate climate change; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention direct the Executive Council to appoint a body to gather information from the Church Pension Group, dioceses and other sources in order to create an inventory of all church-owned properties; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention requests that each Diocese consider the potential for utilization of church-owned property for new ministries integrating the care of Creation, particularly in situations where properties are no longer regularly utilized; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the body appointed by Executive Council develop model processes by which dioceses, faith communities and institutions may collaborate with partner agencies to care for creation and sequester carbon through regenerative agriculture, biodiversity conservation, green burial, and habitat restoration; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the appointed body report back to the 80th General Convention.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 686-687.



**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.