

Call for Creation Care Action

In October 2022, the 135th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Colorado passed the resolution “Call for Creation Care Action” sponsored by the Creation Care Team for the Episcopal Church in Colorado. Here is the text:

Whereas, In July 2022 the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church concurred with Resolution A086 directing the Task Force for Care of Creation and Environmental Racism 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;”

Whereas, In July 2022 the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church concurred with the bishops and adopted Resolution A086 Continuing the Task Force for Care of Creation and Environmental Racism;

Whereas, The House of Bishops issued a statement during the final day of the 80th General Convention naming the climate crisis as an urgent and overarching issue that affects all the other issues of social justice that the convention considered: “Climate change and environmental degradation are manifestations of our turning away from God. The effects of this willful separation from God resonate across our collective lives: All areas of justice are either worsened or made better depending on the health of the planet. A changing climate and degraded environment worsen conflict, forces human migration, and causes food insecurity. These related crises increase the rate of violence, cause more natural disasters and humanitarian crises, and deepen the wounds of those already suffering from racism. People living in poverty are plunged further into poverty by the deteriorating condition of the planet.”

Resolved, that the 135th Episcopal Church in Colorado Annual Convention affirms the climate crisis as an urgent and overarching issue that affects all other issues of social justice considered by the General Convention and that it is the responsibility of every Episcopalian to live out our baptismal vows by responsibly caring for God’s creation on this fragile earth, our island home.

Resolved, that the 135th Episcopal Church in Colorado Annual Convention encourages all congregations, diocesan institutions, and Episcopal Church in Colorado governing entities to engage in the work of care of creation, relying on scripture as well as learning and teaching about and implementing best practices supported by scientific research.

How will the Resolution build up and strengthen one or more of the marks of mission: proclamation, discipleship, servanthood?

Passage of this resolution will 1) raise awareness that as followers of Christ we are also stewards of God's creation and 2) strengthen diocesan, congregational and personal servanthood, empowering all to do what we can to mitigate the effects of the climate crisis, safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Who will be impacted by the resolution, and how?

The resolution impacts all congregations and their surrounding communities within the diocese, especially those communities disproportionately affected by harmful environmental practices, by creating a more healthy and sustainable environment. Congregations will not only save financial resources by reducing consumption but also favorably enhance the sustainable practices in their respective communities and in the State of Colorado.

How will the resolution be enacted, including an estimated timeframe for enacting the resolution? Who is responsible for enacting the resolution? Who will be accountable? Against which criteria will it be evaluated (how will we know it's been done) and specifically how long implementation will take.

Following God's call to care for creation, this ongoing work will be encouraged and supported by the diocesan Creation Care Team and the diocesan network of creation care advocates through the provision of communications, resources, and workshops offered to congregations.

Upon passage of this resolution, the Creation Care Team will conduct a survey of churches and ways they are engaged in various aspects of care of creation. A second survey will be conducted prior to the 136th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Colorado in 2023, to determine any notable changes in state-wide engagement as well as identify care of creation practices that congregations have found effective.

Are there budgetary implications? What is the source of funding? It should include a cost estimate and detail the source.

Care of creation measures have the potential to save congregations money. There is no expectation of funding from the diocese for this resolution.

What is the impact on the time and workload of diocesan staff, congregations and other responsible parties?

Congregation resources of time and talent will be offset by the environmental benefits experienced by their parishes and respective communities.