Amended: Proposed Baptismal Covenant Language
Reflecting Our Unity with All Creation

Submitted by: The Baptismal Covenant Working Group of 2013-2014

Resolved, that the 233rd Convention of the Diocese of Connecticut submit to the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church the following proposed resolution:

Resolved, the House of _______ concurring, that the 79th General Convention authorize the trial addition to the Baptismal Covenant of an additional question concerning our responsibility as baptized Christians to care for God’s creation; and be it

Resolved, that the additional question and response be worded as follows:

“Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect and restore the beauty and integrity of all creation?”

“I will, with God’s help.”; and be it further

Resolved, that use of this additional question and response be authorized for trial use as part of the Baptismal Covenant for the triennium following the 79th General Convention, beginning on the first Sunday of Advent 2018.

Explanation
In 2014 the 230th Convention of ECCT passed Resolution 11, which referred identical language to the 78th General Convention. The Convention tabled the resolution pending anticipated Prayer Book revision. Over the three years since, there has been evidence that increasingly destructive climate change is a reality that will only worsen, despite the denial of many in government. It is more imperative than ever for the Church to witness to the responsibility of all people to care for creation. One meaningful way to do this is to expand the Baptismal Covenant—the central guidepost for Episcopal members of the Body of Christ.
How does this resolution further God’s mission of restoration and reconciliation with all of creation?
By thus expanding the language of the Baptismal Covenant, The Episcopal Church would invite all its members to publicly witness and commit to God’s mission of restoration and reconciliation for all creation.

Statement of Requirements to Implement the Resolution:
Appropriate procedures for referral of the proposed resolution and explanation to the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church.