Amended: Reduce our Carbon Footprint


Resolved, that the 233rd Convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut affirm the House of Bishops’ 2011 Pastoral Teaching of the Environment, as described in Appendix A of this resolution; and be it further

Resolved, that as individuals and communities of faith of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, we set an example, in the spirit of the Paris Climate Accord, by making intentional decisions about living lightly and gently on God’s good earth, for example, through energy conservation, renewable energy, sustainable food practices, gardening, and resting off the grid; and be it further

Resolved, that the worshiping communities of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut work collaboratively with local governments, other denominations and communities of faith, as well as community partners and other stakeholders, to take concrete steps to address climate change in our local communities; and be it further

Resolved, that the 233rd Convention of the Diocese of Connecticut submit to the 79th General Convention this resolution as a memorial resolution. We ask that it be memorialized by General Convention as a witness to our individual and communal commitments to living lightly, while advancing the House of Bishop’s 2011 commitment to "advocate for a “fair, ambitious, and binding climate treaty,”" by participating in future meetings of the United Nations Conference of Parties on Climate Change as an active, faithful, and engaged voice for all of God’s good earth.

Explanation

Perhaps the most dangerous and daunting challenges we face is global climate change. Human activities could raise worldwide average temperatures by three to eleven degrees Fahrenheit this century. Rising average temperatures are already wreaking environmental havoc. Unchecked, they portend devastating consequences for every aspect of life on earth. Leaders of over 190 countries have signed the Paris Accord, acknowledging the critical role every country must play if the climate of the earth is to continue to sustain life. The Episcopal Church, as an international faith
community, is and should remain an accredited observer at the international talks on climate change.

**How does this Resolution further God’s mission of restoration and reconciliation with all of creation?**

At the heart of this resolution is the acknowledgement that God’s church and its entire people are called to reconcile itself with all the created order. It recognizes that individual and communal actions reveal our faithful response to God’s wonderous works and the bounty that God has created.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

This resolution does not seek funding or committee work from the ECCT. Rather, it seeks intentional and faithful raising of awareness in community, personal and communal life style changes that demonstrate respect for all God’s creation and creatures, and collaborative efforts across the ECCT to advocate for the goals and implementation of the Paris Climate Accord, for the sustaining of life as we know it on this “fragile earth, our island home,” and the dignity and safety of all God’s people.

**Sources**

ESUSA House of Bishops Pastoral Letter of 2011

**Appendix A**

House of Bishops’ 2011 Pastoral Teaching of the Environment, calls the church to:

- make connections between life choices and the corresponding participation in systems of injustice toward our neighbors, and examine ways to adopt more sustainable ways of living
- identify particular actions local faith communities can take in the areas of repentance, worship, stewardship, justice and advocacy, and to commit to those actions
- advocate for the implementation of the fair, ambitious, and binding climate treaty known as the Paris Climate Accord, and to work toward climate justice through reducing our own carbon footprint and advocating for those most negatively affected by climate change.