



EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT  
PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S MISSION

**CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION AND CREATURES RESOLUTION**

**Submitted by:** The Rev. Anita Schell, The Rev. Virginia Army, Dr. Letitia Naigles, The Rev. Stephanie Johnson, The Rev. Ann Lovejoy Johnson, The Rev. Anne Fraley, The Rev. Brian Blayer, The Rev. Gillian R. Barr, The Rev. Sandra L. Cosman, Mr. Jim Hutton, The Rev. Dr. Bennett Brockman, The Rev. David M. Carter, The Rev. Adam Thomas, Mr. Steve MacAusland

RESOLVED, that parishes, worshipping communities, and Intentional Episcopal Communities, commit to a climate advocacy initiative. This initiative can include a single event such as a worship service focused on care of creation, parish hikes, book and film studies, and long term advocacy around local environmental issues; and be it further

RESOLVED, that each congregation will complete an energy audit within the next two years; and be it further

RESOLVED, as much as feasible, each congregation shall follow through in making improvements and changes to their buildings which can save these congregations money over the longer term, and be it further

RESOLVED, that each parish, worshipping community, and Intentional Episcopal Community, report the status of their energy audit, related improvements, and their climate advocacy initiative as part of the Parochial Report addendums currently in use; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this data be shared with the Mission Council and the Creation Care Ministry Network to enable collaboration and the of sharing resources, best practices, creative solutions, and economies of scale in purchasing energy.

**Explanation:**

Care for God's creation is a spiritual and moral issue of vast urgency, all ECCT parishes, worshipping communities, and Intentional Christian Communities with facilities are strongly encouraged to conduct an updated or new energy audit to reduce their carbon footprint, within the next two years. The Creation Care Ministry Network will be a resource for developing and supporting these efforts. There is extensive intersectionality between the three crises of climate change, racism, and COVID-19. The extreme weather and fires witnessed in the US in 2020 and 2021, the acute heat, rain, and flooding events both locally and globally this year, the advent of the virus related to humans' too close proximity to and encroachment upon wild animals' habitats, are merely a few examples which point to the enormous challenges we, our children and grandchildren, and our communities face. Climate change impacts communities of color disproportionately, and further endangers



communities that are already marginalized by poverty and a lack of access to appropriate healthcare.

**Statement:** This resolution furthers “God’s mission of restoration and reconciliation with all of creation” in direct and explicit ways by challenging each parish and its people to examine their relationship with God’s creation and to engage with the existential crisis at hand. Having to describe and account for how we are caring for God's creation and creatures and bearing witness to the urgency of climate change and climate justice would convey the importance we as the ECCT attach to this faithful work and imperative witness, encourage collaboration and best practices, and would put our environmental work and witness on the same level as the anti-racism work and witness are. Addressing both crises is absolutely imperative to walking the Way of Love. We pray that the ECCT make care for God’s creation and environmental witness a commitment for every parish, just as racial reconciliation and justice work currently and rightly are.

**Requirements to Implement the Resolution:** Energy audits would have to be conducted. The Creation Care Ministry Network would share resources and ideas to help parishes get energy audits done in a timely fashion. There are a variety of ways to get this done. Audits are sometimes free and not generally expensive. They often pay for themselves in energy savings in a surprisingly fast time frame. Often the results of an energy audit compel or suggest further work on a building. Such improvements or updates can be costly. There are subsidized programs across the state that may help with many sorts of improvements meant to reduce carbon consumption. The Creation Care Network would help identify sources of financial assistance and granting opportunities.

In terms of the witness and advocacy around the challenges and threats of climate change, happily no financial resources are required. There is an abundance of rich liturgical resources available to guide worship, communal music and singing, and prayer and study groups. We can lift our voices in prayer and song, in teaching and preaching, in sharing the Word and speaking up and out, and in making substantive changes to our ways of living so as to exist more “lightly” as creatures in and stewards of God’s creation. We seek to protect and preserve God’s creation and creatures for our children and grandchildren and for all God’s people. Every single thing we choose to do as persons and communities of faith can have an authentic and powerful impact if we do it together.