

Actions Needed At This Time of Climate and Ecological Emergency

Proposer of Resolution: The Reverend Dr. Matthew Calkins

Parish or Organization: Committee on the Care of Creation of the Social Concerns Commission

Telephone and E-mail: 845-677-3064, calkins@gracemillbrook.org

Title of Resolution: Actions Needed At This Time of Climate and Ecological Emergency

Whereas, stewardship of creation is rooted in the theology and teachings of the Episcopal Church; and

Whereas, current climate and ecological emergencies dictate prompt actions on the part of the Episcopal Diocese of New York and its member congregations.

TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION(S):

[15] Resolved: that the 243rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York and its member congregations recognize through its liturgy and mission that we are living in a time of climate and ecological emergency and commit to a time of diocesan-wide discernment, taking into account both past actions in the stewardship of creation, and actions that we must begin now; and further

[16] Resolved: that the 243rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York and its member congregations, in response to Resolution DO53 of the 2018 General Convention of The Episcopal Church, “consider the potential for utilization of church-owned property for new ministries integrating the care of Creation,” including situations “where properties are no longer regularly utilized;” and further

[17] Resolved: that the Episcopal Diocese of New York and its member congregations, in response to Resolution D053 of the 2018 General Convention of the Episcopal Church, “collaborate with partner agencies to care for creation, sequester carbon through regenerative agriculture, biodiversity conservation, green burial, and habitat restoration;” and inspired by our companion Diocese of Tanganyika, implement and support tree planting and reforestation programs in response to the climate emergency; and further

[18] Resolved: that the Episcopal Diocese of New York and its member congregations recall a resolution adopted at our 237th Diocesan Convention in 2010, “urging member congregations to (1) work with the Diocese Property Support Committee in auditing energy use in their church buildings;” leading to (2) develop a ‘self-study’ plan for the conversion to renewable energy sources within the next ten years;” and further

[19] Resolved: that the Episcopal Diocese of New York and its member congregations also recall and pursue the goals of resolutions submitted by the Task Force on Socially and Environmentally Responsible Investing adopted at the 239th Diocesan Convention in 2015, focusing on community investing, fossil fuel divestment, and working with fund managers toward a larger vision of investment in renewable energy, development of green technologies, and environmental justice; and further

[20] Resolved: that the Episcopal Diocese of New York and its member congregations applaud, support and pursue the passage and goals of the NY State Legislature’s (June, 2019) “Climate and Community Protection Act,” which calls us to pursue environmental justice, green jobs, the care of creation, and an 85% reduction of greenhouse emissions below 1990 levels by 2050; and further

[21] Resolved: that given these past and present commitments, the Episcopal Diocese of New York and its member congregations take every step available, given the climate and ecological emergency, to meet these goals with all due speed.

Explanation

Humankind has never faced a crisis as urgent or as serious as climate change and the species extinctions currently underway. This crisis calls into question the confidence that the younger generation might have in core values and institutional commitments needed to guide humankind through what scientists now recognize as a true planetary emergency. It also raises questions about sustainability (including financial) that we must begin to address in a substantial way now. We must carry the vision and actions that “Caring for Creation” implies to a higher level of action, which will both transform and stabilize our life together in the church and the world.