

The Episcopal Church

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Executive Council

Urge Prohibition of Strip Mining, 1973

Whereas, the Commission on Religion in Appalachia, a coalition of seventeen Christian communions and ten state council of churches, have adopted a Statement of Concern on Strip Mining in Appalachia; and

Whereas, the Board of C.O.R.A. has called upon us to support federal legislation prohibiting strip mining; therefore be it

Resolved, That this Executive Council requests the United States Congress to adopt prohibiting strip mining where reclamation is not possible, reasonable, or enforceable, particularly in the mountainous areas; and be it further

Resolved, That the various Dioceses of this Church be supplied with the Statement of Concern prepared by C.O.R.A. and other materials, and urged to support legislation which prohibits strip mining where reclamation is not possible, feasible or enforceable.

Clean Air and Environmental Protection, 1989

Resolved, That the Executive Council commend President George Bush for his recent presentation of his program for clean air and environmental protection; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Executive Council convey our appreciation to and support for

President Bush for this beginning work in this important area of our country's life.

Global Warming, 2001

Resolved, that the Salt Lake City meeting of the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church urges the President of the United States to address the issue of global warming and take the necessary steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the United States.

Resolved, that the Episcopal Church urges the President of the United States and Congress to provide financial support and leadership for developing nations to control their emissions of greenhouse gases in order to reduce the vulnerability to climate change and severe weather disasters.

Resolved, that the Episcopal Church urges the President of the United States and Congress to provide funds and leadership in an effort to encourage renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation.

Conservation-Based Energy Legislation, 2002

Resolved, that the Executive Council meeting in San Antonio, TX, February 21-25, 2002, calls on the U.S. Congress and Administration to pass meaningful conservation-based energy legislation consistent with the long-standing belief that we are stewards of God's creation, responsible for its care and preservation; and be it further

Resolved, that the Church urges government and industry to consider raising vehicle fuel economy for all vehicles in the United States, increasing funding for mass transit, investing in renewable energy research and development, regulating carbon dioxide increasing energy efficiency for consumer products, and increasing funds for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program; and be it further

Resolved, that the Episcopal Church strongly opposes drilling or mining in our nation's dwindling wild lands and places important to the traditional cultures of indigenous peoples, including oil and gas exploration and drilling in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge that threaten the life and culture of the Gwich'in people.

For the Explanation that accompanies this resolution, go to www.episcopalchurch/peace-justice/resolution_15.asp.

General Convention

Call Upon Members to Exercise a Responsible Life Style, 1979

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 66th General Convention calls every Member of this Church to exercise a responsible life style based on real personal needs commensurate with a world of limited resources by:

1. Conserving energy in our homes, jobs, parishes, communities, travels, and leisure activities;
2. Altering our own eating and consumption habits;
3. Planning family size in a responsible manner;

And be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention commends to every Member of this Church the spiritual resources of prayer and meditation and pastoral support as persons encounter the tensions of a changing life style, and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention calls on the several Committees, Commissions, and Agencies of this Church to exercise a responsible life style in planning the meetings and conferences to be held.

Urge Local Churches to Influence Land Development in Their Communities, 1979

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That this 66th General Convention urge that the Dioceses and congregations of the Episcopal Church seek to assure that the appropriate public agencies in their communities examine all proposals to convert undeveloped lands to recreational, residential, or commercial use in the light of long-term and irreversible effects of such conversion upon local and worldwide food, energy, housing needs, and supplies.

Give Priority to Educating Congregations on Energy and the Environment, 1979

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That this 66th General Convention directs the Executive Council to 1) continue the work of the Task Force on Energy and Environment; and 2) give a high priority to developing and promoting an educational process to assist the several congregations in assessing and

understanding our Christian responsibilities and actions as we are confronted with increasing consumption and dwindling resources throughout the world.

Judicious Use of Land Resources, 1982

Whereas, the Archbishop of Canterbury, during his 1981 visit to Iowa, and John Paul, the Bishop of Rome, during his 1980 visit to Iowa, called the attention of people the world over to Christian responsibility in relation to land use; and

Whereas, worldwide problems of hunger and malnutrition are shockingly evident at present and may increase in the future, causing social tension and warfare; and

Whereas, the world's farmland base is threatened by the conversion of prime cropland to non-agricultural uses; and

Whereas, soil erosion is increasing and topsoil is disappearing at unacceptable rates; and

Whereas, the land is God's gift to us for nourishment of all his children; and

Whereas, as God's stewards we are responsible and accountable for the use and care of the land; therefore be it

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 1982 General Convention directs the Executive Council to:

1. Give high priority to developing and promoting an educational process to assist congregations in understanding our Christian responsibilities and actions in our several Dioceses as we are confronted with the increasing problems of land use, soil erosion, and their relationship to world hunger and arms control.
2. Urge the President and the Congress to proceed, without delay, to draft and enact legislation to promote the judicious use of our land resources and to develop and declare a national Land Use Ethic.

Request a Statement of Policy and a Plan for Environmental Stewardship, 1988

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 69th General Convention request the Executive Council to give high priority during the next triennium to develop a comprehensive statement of policy and a plan of action regarding stewardship of the global environment; and be it further

Resolved, That this policy and plan pay particular attention to the potential massive environmental problems of ozone depletion and the global warming trend; and be it further

Resolved, That said policy statement and action plan be presented to the 70th General Convention for approval.

Oppose Oil Development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, 1991

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church protect the sanctity of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska by opposing the opening of this refuge for oil development; and be it further

Resolved, That the Washington Office of the Episcopal Church work toward opposing legislation that would open up the refuge, and work on behalf of legislation that would improve energy sufficiency and conservation so that drilling in this pristine area would not be necessary.

Support Reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act in 1991

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church support the reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act by the Congress in 1991; and be it further

Resolved, That the Washington Office of the Episcopal Church work toward strengthening this act in whatever way possible.

Implement 1988 Lambeth Resolution No. 040 on the Environment, 1991

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That this 70th General Convention call for the implementation in this Church of Resolution #040 of the 1988 Lambeth Conference which states: "This Conference:

1. Identifies four inter-related areas in which the misuse of people or resources poses a threat to the life system

of the planet, namely,

- a. unjust distribution of the world's wealth
- b. social injustice within nations
- c. the rise of militarism
- d. irreversible damage to the environment

and therefore:

2. calls upon each Province and Diocese to devise a program of study, reflection and action in which the following elements should play a part:
 - a. as a matter of urgency, the giving of information to our people of what is happening to our stewardship of God's earth for the care of our neighbors as a necessary part of Christian discipleship and a Christian contribution to citizenship;
 - b. actively to support by public statement and in private dialogue, the engagement of governments, transnational corporations, management and labor in an examination of what their decisions are doing to our people, and our land, air and water;
 - c. the opposition to the increase in the arms trade; questioning both excessive expenditure of scarce resources on weapons and trade policies which look upon arms sales as a legitimate source of increased export revenue;
 - d. the encouragement of Christians to re-examine the currently accepted economic policies which operate to the disadvantage of those with less bargaining power at every level from international to personal, and to use God's gifts of technology for the benefit of all;
 - e. the critical examination of the exercise of power, first within congregations and all other church bodies, and then in secular institutions which affect the lives of all. Insofar as the aim is to achieve a just and sustainable society world-wide, priority must be given to those modes which nurture people's gifts and evoke responsible participation rather than those which dominate and exclude;
3. a. commends, in general, the participation by every Province in the WCC's program for "Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation,"
 - b. urges churches, congregations and individual Christians to actively support all other agencies which share this urgent concern. In particular we commend a widespread study of the United Nations' report, "Our Common Future", and a participation by church bodies in the local responses it requires;
 - c. recommends that, in view of the resolutions passed by ACC-7, information concerning local needs and initiatives be shared throughout Provinces, possibly by extending the terms of reference for the existing Peace and Justice Network;
 - d. encourages people everywhere to make changes, personal and corporate, in their attitudes and lifestyles, recognizing that the wholeness of living requires a right relationship with God, one's neighbor and creation."

Oppose Use of Foreign Countries as Dumping Places for Waste, 1991

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church express its vigorous opposition to the U.S. use of foreign countries, especially the Latin America and Caribbean countries as dumping places for waste, prohibited pesticide and other chemical residue that pollute the environment of these countries and endanger the lives of their inhabitants; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be sent by the Secretary of the General Convention to the President, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Interior, and appropriate members of Congress.

Affirm Environmental Responsibility and Establish an Environmental Stewardship Team, 1991

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, affirming our responsibility for the earth in trust for this and future generations:

1. Declares that Christian Stewardship of God's created environment, in harmony with our respect for

human dignity, requires response from the Church of the highest urgency;

2. Calls on all citizens of the world, and Episcopalians in particular, to live their lives as good stewards with responsible concern for the sustainability of the environment and with appreciation for the global interdependence of human life and the natural worlds; and
3. Urges all Episcopalians to reflect on their personal and corporate habits in the use of God's creation; to share with one another ideas for new responses; and to act as individuals, congregations, dioceses and provinces of the Episcopal Church in ways that protect and heal all interdependent parts of creation. Such action should include prayerful theological discernment and factual knowledge. It should also consider global and local links and the balance of environmental integrity with economic sufficiency for human living;

And be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church, acknowledging the sovereignty of God and God's call to us in the servanthood of Christ, continue to engage environmental issues, passionately caring for the earth and striving to live into the promises and mandates which are ours as stewards of creation; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention calls upon the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies to appoint an interdisciplinary, multicultural Environmental Stewardship Team, 14 members, representing each Province and a broad spectrum of Church membership, whose gifts and expertise are suitable to the task. The mission of the Environmental Stewardship Team is to educate, motivate and facilitate congregations, dioceses and provinces toward local and regional plans, advocacy and action. The Team will work with other environmental groups of common interest; and be it further. . . .

Resolved, That the 70th General Convention requests the Presiding Bishop to communicate immediately and directly to all Episcopalians, the scope and urgency of this resolution.

Promote the Valdez Principles, 1991

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That the Episcopal Church, through its Social Responsibility in Investments Committee, promote the Valdez Principles, as a model through which industry can address: Protection of the Biosphere, Sustainable Use of Natural Resources, Reduction and Disposal of Wastes, Wise Use of Energy, Risk Reduction, Marketing of Safe Products and Services, Damage Compensation, Disclosure, Environmental Directors and Managers, Assessment and Annual Audit; and be it further

Resolved, That diocesan Social Responsibility in Investments Committees or other appropriate agencies be urged to promote the National Church's SRI Committee's leadership in its shareholder activism with regard to corporate utilization of the Valdez Principles.

Encourage Governments to Seek Remedies to Reverse Rapid Population Growth, 1994

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 1994 General Convention of the Episcopal Church affirm the rapid global population growth adversely affects the prospects for peace and justice by exacerbating poverty, deprivation and suffering, and depleting environmental resources; and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church reaffirm the 1930 Lambeth Conference of the Anglican Communion, which approved contraception for purposes of family planning; and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church, in order to improve the quality of life for all, commend to the several dioceses and agencies of the Episcopal Church as well as to the relative structures of the Anglican Communion: programs and projects provide information to all men and women on the full range of affordable, acceptable, safe, and non-coercive contraceptive and reproductive health care services, utilizing educational programs which start with parents and their children; and be it further

Resolved, That governments everywhere be encouraged to recognize, acknowledge, and seek remedies to reverse the rapid global population growth that adversely affects the health, education and quality of life of women; the prospects for peace; and depletes environmental resources; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary to the 1994 General Convention be requested to send a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Vice-President of the United States, the Undersecretary for Global Affairs of the Department of State, the chairman of the International Conference on Population and Development, the representative of the Anglican Consultative Council to the United Nations, the Secretary General

of the United States Catholic Conference, the Administrator of USAID, and the Secretary General of the United Nations, together with a letter expressing the hope that the actions proposed above be carried out world-wide.

Prepare for Jubilee 2000, 1994

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the year 2000, which will commemorate and joyfully celebrate two millennia since the birth of Jesus, the herald of God's Jubilee, be a Jubilee Year, to be known as Jubilee 2000; and be it further . . .

..... Resolved, That the Episcopal Church prepare for Jubilee 2000 by seeking to implement the biblical Jubilee imperative of faithful stewardship of God's creation by:

- Working to alter lifestyle patterns of resource use among Episcopalians and fellow citizens at home and abroad through implementation of this Church's vision for "communion with the environment"; and
- Working to encourage responsible use of the earth's resources by other peoples and nations; and be in further....

Adopt Environmentally Sound Practices at Church Meetings, 1994

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the Episcopal Church adopt practical, environmentally sound and energy-efficient lifestyle behaviors that discourage wasteful consumption and encourage the recycling of material resources; and be it further

Resolved, That all future General Conventions of the Episcopal Church be models of the stewardship of God's Creation, and that the General Convention Office and the Planning and Arrangements Committee be directed to implement the following actions:

1. Provide recycling centers for newspapers, office paper, computer paper, aluminum cans, glass and plastics;
2. Use pottery or glassware instead of plastic or paper cups when possible;
3. Photocopy both sides of papers distributed to deputies;
4. Use recycled papers, non-toxic dyes and/or appropriate technologies for printing;

and be it further

Resolved, That, if necessary, registration fees be increased to cover any additional cost incurred to implement these changes; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council implement these changes and other environmentally responsible actions at the Episcopal Church Center and any conference it sponsors to reflect (and model) a commitment and desire to restore God's Creation to wholeness; and be it further

Resolved, That all dioceses and provinces be strongly urged to take corresponding actions.

Encourage Church Investment Strategy on Hazardous Chemicals, 1994

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 71st General Convention of the Episcopal Church reaffirm its commitment to justice for all people inside and outside the United States, including those who, because of their race, poverty, and powerlessness, bear the brunt of hazardous waste disposal which endangers their health and safety; and be it further

Resolved, That investors – dioceses, congregations, Church institutions, and individuals – be encouraged to influence corporations through shareholder resolutions and proxy voting to find alternatives to the manufacture, use, and disposal of hazardous chemicals; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council through its Social Responsibility in Investments Committee be directed to screen its investment portfolios for environmentally responsible corporate behavior inside and outside the United States, and to pursue corporate dialogue and shareholder resolutions with those companies, wherever they are located to assure compliance with environmentally sound practices, \$12,000 for the triennium allocated for implementation of these goals, subject to funding in the budget.

Authorize Continuation of the Environmental Stewardship Team, 1994

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That this 71st General Convention of the Episcopal Church affirm the accomplishments of the Environmental Stewardship Team in the last triennium in environmental education curriculum, in theological dialogue, and in identification of existing models of environmental stewardship

throughout our Church; and be it further

Resolved, That this 71st General Convention of the Episcopal Church authorize the continuation of the Team, maintaining its current structure of 14 members, accountabilities to the Executive Council, and collaboration with appropriate staff structure, at a cost not to exceed Team expenses for the triennium of \$80,000, subject to funding in the budget.

Reaffirm Resolution on Environmentally Sound Behavior, 1997

Resolved, That the 72nd General Convention of the Episcopal Church reaffirm Resolution 1995-A044, adopted by the 71st General Convention, calling upon the Church to adopt practical, environmentally sound, and energy-efficient lifestyle behaviors that discourage wasteful consumption and encourage the recycling of material resources; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council implement this resolution in concrete ways that are accountable to the Church at large through annual written reports of accomplishments during the remainder of the triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That all future General Conventions and conferences of the Episcopal Church be models of the stewardship of God's Creation, and that the General Convention Office and Planning and Arrangements Committee be directed to implement the following:

- Provide recycling centers for newspapers, office paper, computer paper, aluminum cans, glass and plastic;
- Use pottery or glassware instead of plastic cups, when possible;
- Eliminate the use of polystyrene cups and plates due to their toxic by-products;
- Photocopy both sides of paper distributed at conventions and conferences;
- Use recycled papers, non-toxic dyes, and/or appropriate technologies for printing;

and be it further

Resolved, That, if necessary, registration fees be increased to cover any additional costs incurred to implement these changes; and be it further

Resolved, That Executive Council be the model for such environmentally responsible behavior, and implement these changes at the Episcopal Church Center, conference centers, and Episcopal Church-sponsored conferences.

Considering Environmental Safety and Sustainable Energy Sources when Choosing Electrical Suppliers, 2000

Resolved, that the 73rd General Convention encourage all members, congregations, dioceses, and other church institutions, in choosing electric energy suppliers, to examine the choices of energy generation, and to use environmentally safe and sustainable energy sources, especially those deriving from sun and wind; and be it further

Resolved, That the church at every level seek out expertise in selecting an energy provider through such resources as Episcopal Power and Light.

Environmental Racism, 2000

Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention of the Episcopal Church call on those present at this Convention to seek every opportunity to oppose environmental racism; and be it further

Resolved, That the Washington office track legislation seeking to eliminate the practice of locating polluting industries disproportionately near neighborhoods inhabited by people of color or the poor; and be it further

Resolved, That the Washington office monitor and issue policy alerts regarding the practice of mountain top removal and valley fill mining and other large scale mining operations that threaten the ecology and low income communities; and be it further

Resolved, That the Committee on Social Responsibilities in Investments review the environmental racism issue.

Reduce the Use of Toxic Chemicals, 2003

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That this 74th General Convention urge congregations, dioceses, provinces and all church institutions to initiate a plan in the next triennium for the management of Church buildings

and grounds that phases out the use of unsafe pesticides, herbicides and other toxic chemicals to control pests and undesirable plants, and institutes the use of alternatives, recognizing that children are the population most susceptible to toxins, and be it further

Resolved, That the appropriate standing committee report back to the 75th General Convention regarding the ongoing effectiveness of this work.

Spirituality of Food Production, 2003

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That this General Convention accept the Episcopal Ecological Network's offer to continually provide its Bishops, clergy and lay persons with information and educational opportunities concerning the issue of food sources, biodiversity, genetic engineering, ownership and distribution of our food sources, and related issues concerning the health and well-being of ourselves and future generations and encourage them to work in conjunction with the Peace and Justice Ministries office of the National Church Center in this regard; and be it further

Resolved, That the Office of Governmental Relations and other appropriate bodies will advise elected and appointed government officials and other secular and religious bodies of its concerns about food sources, biodiversity, genetic engineering, ownership and distribution of our food sources, and related issues concerning the health and well-being of ourselves and future generations; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention support the rights of consumers to know the source and content of their food stuffs; and that the farming and processing practices used are healthy and sustainable for all of creation and The Episcopal Church is committed to making this a reality; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention refer this position to the Committee on Social Responsibility in Investment for consideration when developing and managing stock portfolios and for use in making shareholder resolutions.

Stewardship of Water, 2003

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 74th General Convention urge dioceses, congregations and communicants to regard water resources as precious, and to recognize that the right use of water is an explicit means to show love for one's neighbor, since water connects people and all creatures throughout the global community; and be it further

Resolved, That the 74th General Convention encourage dioceses, congregations and communicants to become active stewards of their water resources through conservation efforts including reduction of consumption; through examination of water discharge such that contaminated water does not improperly leave church grounds; and through the creation of environmental programs for stewardship of water and the whole of creation and for the education of congregants in regard to good and faithful stewardship of the earth's resources; and be it further

Resolved, That the 74th General Convention encourage dioceses, congregations and communicants to undertake one or more of the following four stewardship steps:

- When and where possible, install water-saving devices, such as low-flow commodes and aspirators on sink faucets;
- Replant church grounds and home gardens with plants and trees that are drought-tolerant and have low needs for water, and that are native to the region and therefore able to survive local climatic conditions;
- Devise drainage systems that allow rainwater to flow from gutters and drain pipes to spread onto the lawn and landscaped areas of church grounds and home gardens, thereby reducing water lost to sewer systems;
- Pave new or repave existing parking lots with materials that are pervious, so that water penetrates into soil beneath parking areas, thereby reducing the flow of oil and other auto fluids into streams.

Declaration on Sustainable Development, 2003

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 74th General Convention endorse and implement the four

resolutions passed by the September 2002 Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) meeting in Hong Kong which:

- Ask all churches of the Anglican Communion to place environmental care on their agenda;
- Ask all Anglicans to make their own personal commitments to care for God's world, respecting all life, for "the Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it." (Psalm 24);
- Establish the Anglican Environmental Network as an official network of the Anglican Communion; and
- Endorse for immediate action the declaration of the Global Anglican Congress of the Stewardship of Creation.

Water Policy, 2003

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 74th General Convention ask the Office of Governmental Relations to work on public policy to ensure that clean water is accessible and available to all; and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns be urged to make water a priority.