

1 **Resolution on Behalf of a Diocesan and Parish-Level Response to the Urgent Issues of Climate**
2 **Change and Environmental Justice (Final Version After Resolution Hearing)**

3
4 Resolved, that the Diocese of Oregon commit to a goal of net carbon neutrality by
5 2030 for all facilities, churches, and operations through reducing emissions from
6 travel, reducing energy use, increasing energy efficiency in buildings, supporting
7 green energy production, and purchasing offsets from duly investigated,
8 responsible, and ethical partners; and be it further
9

10 Resolved, that the diocese commit to exploring creative ways to support parishes
11 in taking actions toward mitigating their negative impacts on the viability and
12 beauty of God’s world; and be it further
13

14 Resolved, that the Creation Care Working Group appointed by Bishop Akiyama
15 collaborate with others in the Diocese in pursuing their charge and report to the
16 Bishop, the Diocese’s governing bodies, and the congregations within the Diocese
17 regarding its work, and provide resources that can assist the Diocese, the
18 congregations, and individuals to move toward carbon neutrality by 2030.
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20 **Explanation:**
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22 We believe as Christians that God’s first charge to us was to care for and protect “our island
23 home,” and all its inhabitants. Many of us confronted the awesomeness of that charge, and the
24 power of its call on us to *act*—to translate words and intentions into deeds—when we heard
25 the Episcopal Church’s voice raised on behalf of creation care.
26

27 Growing out of our Presiding Bishop’s passionate concern, and following on the work
28 accomplished at the 79th General Convention, our Church made available to us a beautifully
29 written *Pledge to Care for Creation* as a way of encouraging climate change mitigation efforts
30 and creation care work in general. (You can find it on the National Church’s website, at
31 <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/creation-care/pledge/>)
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33 It was written for us as individual Episcopalians, and aimed at encouraging individual
34 commitment to living into God’s charge to care for creation. But beyond *individual*
35 commitment, *collective* commitment—congregational and diocesan commitment—is possible
36 and desirable as well.
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38 In keeping with that understanding, the 80th General Convention this year affirmed that “global
39 climate change is not only a scientific concern or environmental issue, but what the United
40 Nations calls ‘the defining issue of our time... at a defining moment’.” Resolution AO87*,
41 passed on July 11, 2022, defined this commitment as follows:
42

- 43 1) “that the Episcopal Church commit to a goal of net carbon neutrality in its
44 operations and the work of staff, standing commissions, interim bodies, and General
45 Convention by 2030, through a combination of reducing emissions from travel,
46 reducing energy use, increasing energy efficiency in buildings, and purchasing offsets
47 from duly investigated, responsible, and ethical partners;” and
48
49 2) “that the General Convention encourage parishes, dioceses, schools, camps, and
50 other Episcopal institutions to pursue their own goal of net carbon neutrality by
51 2030 through a combination of reducing emissions from travel, reducing energy use,
52 increasing energy efficiency in buildings, and purchasing offsets from duly
53 investigated, responsible, and ethical partners.”
54

55 The Episcopal Diocese of Oregon is thus enjoined by the General Convention to address in a
56 meaningful way this Great Work. This resolution proposes action necessary for the Diocese of
57 Oregon to *positively affirm the National Church’s commitment represented in Resolution A087*.
58

59 As part of our commitment to doing so, Bishop Akiyama has commissioned a Creation Care
60 Working Group, charged with implementing a much increased communicational and
61 organizational diocesan focus on the urgent issues of climate change and environmental justice
62 in Western Oregon—this land we care for, its people, and all its other living things. Please
63 support this resolution and affirm in this way our love for God and for our place in God’s
64 creation.
65

66 * The full text of Resolution A087 and report of its adoption can be found at:
67 [https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2022/07/11/general-convention-affirms-](https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2022/07/11/general-convention-affirms-series-of-environment-creation-care-measures/)
68 [series-of-environment-creation-care-measures/](https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2022/07/11/general-convention-affirms-series-of-environment-creation-care-measures/)
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70 **Proposed by:**

71 The Rev. Allan Miles, Chair of Creation Care Working Group, Trinity Episcopal Church, Ashland
72

73 **Endorsed by:**

74 Members of the Creation Care Working Group of the Diocese of Oregon

- 75 • The Rev. Dawn Reynolds, Saint Andrew, Florence
- 76 • Cheryl Braginsky, Saint Michael and All Angels, Portland
- 77 • Dick Zeller, Saint Mary, Eugene
- 78 • The Rev. Lainie Allen, Saint Matthew, Eugene
- 79 • Katharine Hunt, Saint Mary, Eugene