

**Affirming Church Land Use and the Harmony of Creation,
United Methodist Book of Resolutions Par. 1214**

When God created the heavens and the earth, God put into place systems and cycles that would be life promoting and sustaining and made humans caretakers of all life on earth. God gave the earth clean water and nutrient-rich soil.

God gave the earth plants that grow from the combination of nutrients in the soil, the sunlight, and the water, and that are used as food and shelter by other life forms on earth. These plants absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen, which cleans the air and provides humans and other animals with oxygen they require to live.

God created humans, animals, creatures of the sea, and birds of the air, to live upon the earth. And God created all these things, and more, to work together in harmony in a manner that promotes and sustains all life on earth.

At present, humans are not working together in harmony with the rest of Creation as God intended. We are in the midst of a Sixth Extinction, a human-caused biodiversity and wildlife crisis which, according to the [Center for Biological Diversity](#), causes as many as 30,000 species to go extinct annually.

Use of chemical pesticides and biocides, as well as other harmful synthetic chemicals that persist in the environment known as “forever chemicals,” water pollution, and air pollution, including excessive release of carbon dioxide and methane into the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels, are causing this crisis.

The good news is this: Since human actions are the cause of these problems, they can also be the solution. And, because God created the earth to incorporate life-promoting and life-sustaining systems, we humans can follow God’s intended order and renew the life-giving abilities of these systems that we have been harming.

THEREFORE, as United Methodists and persons of faith who wish to promote and sustain life and follow God’s intended order for Creation,

BE IT RESOLVED that all local churches and other holders of church lands, such as camp and retreat centers, as well as offices of general boards and agencies, conference offices and district locations, implement actions in their settings that bring their land back in harmony with God’s intentions and systems. 1214. 2025 Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church, page 100.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Horizon Texas Annual Conference affirms the resolution for Church Land Use passed by the 2024 General Conference. The conference Creation Care/Justice Team, Board of Trustees, and Caretaker of God’s Creation Coordinator will facilitate the creation of a conference plan to address the properties held by local churches and conference camps and offices by January 1, 2026. The conference and each local church will commit to taking one or more action per year as recommended by the conference plan and land use resolution, with those commitments,

learnings and completion reported and celebrated during the 2026 and each subsequent annual conference.

Actions for implementation may include, but are not limited to evaluating vegetation to remove non-native plants and plant native plants in harmony with native birds, wildlife, and pollinators; plant native trees and edibles; replace at least 50% of lawns with native plants to reduce chemical runoff and promote native diversity; discontinue use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides; become a teaching garden for regenerative practices; plant a rain garden to support healthy water systems; install clean energy systems; support regenerative land practices by curtailing forest, wetland, peatland, and grassland destruction; restore degraded land; and avoid purchases that cause deforestation. See the resolution for more on recommended actions: 1214. 2024 Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church, pages 102–103.