

The Covenant of Creation Care: An Episcopal Vision for Care of Creation

The Jesus Movement is the ongoing community of people whose lives are centered on Jesus of Nazareth. We follow him into loving, liberating, life-giving relationship with God, with each other and with Creation. As a whole church, we have promised to place the care of God's Creation at the heart of our common life. Together, we have taken up church-wide action in order to safeguard the integrity of Creation and to sustain and renew the life of the Earth. Learn more about our shared call at www.episcopalchurch.org/creation. Below are goals and a vision for Care of Creation, developed by the Presiding Bishop's Office and leaders of the Advisory Council on Stewardship of Creation and in alignment with actions by the 79th General Convention. Search for the resolutions at www.generalconvention.org/legislative-information-gc2018.

Loving – Goal #1

Create and sustain a network of Episcopalians dedicated to the care and protection of the whole Creation, especially by providing grants and cultivating circles for Story Sharing among practitioners in local and regional ministries.

- Introduce new staff position with special attention to Care of Creation (A013)
- Continue Care of Creation Grants program (A013, A008)
- Facilitate development of networks of practitioners, by state and/or affinity (A008)
- Link with StorySharing work like Beloved Community StorySharing Project, Called to Transformation, and Climate Reality to prepare to share stories of our love for God and Creation

Parish/Individual examples of specific Loving actions:

- Record a 1-minute video answering the questions "When have you experienced wonder in God's Creation? What is your commitment to protect what you love?" Stretch yourself and post to social media networks or to creation@episcopalchurch.org.
- Form a Care of Creation group in your congregation or diocese, or connect with a group in your local community. Stretch yourself and organize your group to apply for a Creation Care Grant.

Liberating – Goal #2

Stand in solidarity with the most vulnerable victims of the impact of climate change – particularly women, poor people, and people of color – as part of seeking the liberation and flourishing of all God's people.

- Develop 2-3 eco-justice sites where the church invests significant energy and resources
- Oppose environmental racism, sexism, classism (A011, B027)
- Support advocacy and governmental engagement via the Office of Governmental Relations, the Episcopal Public Policy Network, and participation in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Conference of Parties (A018, CO08)
- Advocate to protect vulnerable people/lands/species, especially in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Resolution X023)
- Inhibit exploitative extraction practices (A011)

Parish/ Individual examples of specific Liberating actions

- Stretch yourself and engage in advocacy around an environmental justice issue close to your heart. Sign for alerts from the Episcopal Public Policy Network at <https://advocacy.episcopalchurch.org>.
- Learn more about a specific way that climate change or environmental degradation affects people near you. Stretch yourself and listen to the stories of hurting neighbors, and find ways to ally with them.

Life-Giving – Goal #3

Set climate mitigation benchmarks as individuals and as a church, in order to live more simply, humbly, and gently on the Earth.

- Develop, curate and distribute formation resources to support Episcopalians who wish to commit to simple, humble, gentle living on the Earth
- Support use of the carbon tracker at www.diocal.org/climate (C008)
- Promote conscious food decisions and local, sustainable agriculture (C049)
- Support use of the carbon tax and carbon offsets (A014, C020)
- Ask diocesan officials to track energy use as part of the parochial report, and promote energy and water efficiency across the church (C039, A213)
- Adopt the Paris Accord at state, regional and local levels (A010)
- Work toward regenerative agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and habitat restoration (D053)
- Help communities to transition to clean energy economies and encourage stewardship of creation with church-owned lands (D081, D053)
- Promote ocean health and phase out use of bottled water in church-related facilities (C063)
- Incentivize renewable energy and track fossil fuel divestment/reinvestment (A020, C021)

Parish/ Individual examples of specific Life-Giving actions

- Personally use the carbon tracker at www.diocal.org/climate. Stretch yourself and organize your whole congregation to sign up and track their carbon footprint.
- Change your eating habits by consuming less meat and reducing the amount of food your family wastes. Stretch yourself by committing to a goal, like one meatless meal per day.

Using these guidelines and examples as a resource for conversations among the Vestry and congregation members, please prayerfully consider what specific actions your parish, and individual members, can commit to as we go forward together on the Way of Love. Use the Covenant Care form below to make this commitment, then sign it, and display it as a witness to your decision to put the care of Creation at the heart of your common life. Thank you. You can also make copies of the Covenant for individuals to sign as their own private pledge to Keep the Earth.

Episcopal Covenant of Creation Care

We the People of _____ Parish
In the Episcopal Diocese of Maine

as part of the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement, long for a loving, liberating, life-giving relationship with the whole of God's Creation. Together, we pledge to protect and renew the Earth and all who call it home. As we live the Way of Love, we make this commitment to specific actions.

1. **Loving: We will share our stories of love and concern for the Earth and link with others who care about protecting the sacred web of life.**

Because we want to share our strong love of God and God's Creation, we will...

2. **Liberating: We will stand with those most vulnerable to the harmful effects of environmental degradation and climate change – women, children, poor people and communities of color, refugees, migrants.**

Because we want to stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers, especially those being harmed by environmental degradation and climate change, we will...

3. **Life-Giving: We will change our habits and choices in order to live more simply, humbly and gently on the Earth.**

Because we want to change our own lives so that our flourishing is woven together with the flourishing of the Earth, we will...

This Covenant of Creation Care was signed on (date) _____

By the Wardens and Vestry of _____ Parish

With the support and guidance of _____ (Rector, priest-in-charge)

Senior Warden _____

Junior Warden _____

Vestry Members

Rector/priest in charge

The Earth Keeper(s) of our Parish is (are)

This pledge with the signatures attached may be placed prominently on a notice board or in some other suitable display so that the whole congregation can be aware of it and be inspired.