

EPISCOPAL COVENANT TO CARE OF CREATION – PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

In Jesus, God so loved the *whole* world. We follow Jesus, so we love the world God loves. Concerned about the global climate emergency, drawing from a range of approaches for our diverse contexts, we commit to form and restore loving, liberating, life-giving relationships with all of Creation.

- ✚ **LOVING FORMATION:** For God’s sake, we will grow our love for the Earth and all of life through preaching, teaching, storytelling, and prayer.
- ✚ **LIBERATING ADVOCACY:** For God’s sake, standing alongside marginalized, vulnerable peoples, we will advocate and act to repair Creation and seek the liberation and flourishing of all people.
- ✚ **LIFE-GIVING CONSERVATION:** For God’s sake, we will adopt practical ways of reducing our climate impact and living more humbly and gently on Earth as individuals, households, congregations, institutions, and dioceses.

INTERNAL STRATEGY: In order to encourage engagement with the Care of Creation Covenant in ever-widening circles – among individuals, in our congregations/communities, our dioceses, and across the Church – the Task Force, Staff and allied leaders commit to the following ...

- ✚ **Frame and Name** Episcopal action around the Care of Creation.
 - The covenant serves as a compelling frame for understanding the why, what and how of our ministries and the collective impact we can make.
 - Reconciliation, Justice and Creation Care (RJCC) Department will maintain a list serve of individual, congregational, and diocesan adopters of the Covenant.
 - The Communications Department and Task Force will revamp the website by spring 2020 to gather and celebrate stories, and will develop the current Asset Map to feature vulnerable communities and climate crises.
- ✚ **Equip and Connect** a community of practitioners and leaders, especially across dioceses, contexts, and cultures.
 - The Task Force and RJCC will leverage the Grants program, online gatherings, the Asset Map and the website to share the financial, personal and formation resources necessary to build capacity, identify partners and deepen commitment.
- ✚ **Invite and Expand** the range and commitment of people/groups engaged in Care of Creation.
 - The Task Force, RJCC and Communications will partner with allies (Episcopal Communicators, Episcopal Camps and Conference Centers, FORMA, National Association of Episcopal Schools, etc.) to invite covenant engagement in a way that welcomes people to take their own next best step.
 - Special attention to communities with 1) greatest need for resources and 2) economic and political challenges regarding creation care.

EXTERNAL STRATEGY: Individuals, congregations/ministries/communities, dioceses, and Church-wide leaders can use this helpful grid to guide engagement with the Covenant for Care of Creation and its three commitments to *Loving Formation*, *Liberating Advocacy* and *Life-Giving Conservation*.

Individual	Congregation/Ministry/Community	Diocese	Church-wide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commit to Covenant and network - Use Asset Map, formation/liturgy resources, etc. on TEC website - Use Carbon Tracker to learn about and adapt energy use - Become a Climate Champion or Blessed Tomorrow Ambassador - Sign up for monthly newsletter and Episcopal Public Policy Network - Learn and practice simple, grateful living – TURN and BLESS - Make conscious choices about food and land use; employ carbon offsets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commit to Covenant and join church-wide network - Use Asset Map, formation/liturgy resources, etc. on TEC website - Apply for Creation Care Grant - Identify Climate Champion and form committee or task force - Teach and practice simple, grateful living – TURN and BLESS - Make conscious choices about food and land use - Employ carbon offsets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commit to Covenant and network - Discern long-term ambition for stewarding creation and resources - Use Asset Map, formation/liturgy resources, etc. on TEC website - Form group of Climate Champions/ Animators from each congregation - Support youth engagement, esp. via diocesan youth ministries - Teach and practice simple, grateful living – TURN and BLESS - Make conscious choices about food and land; employ carbon offsets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop website for formation/liturgy resources, communication and conversation - Develop Asset Map to track climate impact and vulnerable communities - Maintain monthly newsletter to inform and connect leaders - Activate youth via Youth/Young Adult Ministries and COP26 - Teach and practice simple, grateful living – TURN and BLESS - Make conscious choices about food and land; employ carbon offsets
<p>See full Covenant below for more specific actions related to Loving Formation, Liberating Advocacy and Life-giving Conservation at All 4 Levels</p>			

Individual	Congregation/Ministry/Community	Diocese	Church-wide
LOVING FORMATION: For God's sake, we will grow our love for the Earth and all of life through preaching, teaching, storytelling, and prayer.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tell your own story, using social media and StorySharing resources - Explore online formation and learning opportunities - Participate in the World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation (9/1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use online creation resources for preaching and liturgy - Organize formation opportunities - Support youth engagement - Organize pilgrimages and hands-on engagement with nature, inc. gardens, farms, and tree-planting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus clergy conferences and diocesan conventions on creation - Encourage use of Episcopal liturgical resources for Season of Creation and Rogation Days - Organize pilgrimages and hands-on engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Craft and communicate a theology of Creation and deepen biblical insights - Encourage liturgical resource development as part of Prayer Book renewal
LIBERATING ADVOCACY: For God's sake, standing alongside marginalized, vulnerable peoples, we will advocate and act to repair Creation and seek the liberation and flourishing of all people.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sign up for Episcopal Public Policy Network (EPPN) alerts - Affect policy through such means as advocacy, voting, community organizing, and trained civil disobedience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use Asset Map to learn about nearby climate crises and vulnerable communities - Learn about environmental racism, eco-justice and environmental justice - Consult EPPN and Office of Government Relations (OGR) to learn and support church policy - Support just transition and global climate resilience with partner groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use Asset Map to learn about nearby climate crises and vulnerable communities - Send leaders to DC for Ecumenical Advocacy Days - Consult EPPN and OGR to learn and support Episcopal policy - Support just transition and global climate resilience with partners - Affect policy through such means as advocacy, voting, community organizing, and trained civil disobedience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enact Episcopal policy through EPPN and OGR - Provide resources for recognizing indigenous land - Share Eco-Justice Glossary for understanding terms and issues - Connect eco-justice leaders across Episcopal organizations - Stand in solidarity with targeted and vulnerable communities, especially urban, indigenous, Province IX, Pacific Islanders and women
LIFE-GIVING CONSERVATION: For God's sake, we will adopt practical ways of reducing our climate impact and living more humbly and gently on Earth as individuals, households, congregations, institutions, and dioceses.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use Carbon Tracker in household - Use online resources to learn about practicing simple, grateful living, especially Way of Love practices of TURN (confession, repentance, amendment of life) and BLESS (sharing and using resources responsibly) - Use carbon offsets for travel - Make conscious choices about food and land use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organize ministry-wide use of Carbon Tracker - Perform energy audit and set energy consumption goals - Reduce energy consumption and waste, including eliminating disposable plastic bottles - Use carbon offsets for travel - Responsibly steward ministry-owned lands - Make conscious food choices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designate diocesan contact ("Climate Champion") to encourage use of Carbon Tracker (www.SustainIslandHome.org) - Set energy consumption goals - Assist congregations in understanding land stewardship - Use carbon offsets for travel - Make conscious choices about food and land use at diocesan level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Set ambitious conservation and energy consumption goals - Design conscious carbon offset options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Purchase offsets for churchwide staff travel o Develop offset programs with partners - Declare church-wide energy sabbath at Lent - Make conscious choices about food and land use across DFMS

LONG-TERM CHURCH-WIDE AMBITION FOR SAFEGUARDING CREATION AND STEWARDING RESOURCES

We will encourage dioceses to determine their own contextually appropriate approaches to the just transition to clean, safe, renewable energy (understood in some contexts as “net carbon neutrality”) through the following:

- ✚ Focus on diocesan commitments and connect with Bishops and Diocesan Champions
- ✚ Form three cohorts of dioceses, with two dedicated leaders responsible for convening cohort
- ✚ Gather cohorts via web
- ✚ Cohorts will encourage and resource member dioceses as they set and achieve their *respective* goals around energy use, land use, clean water, food waste, environmental justice, investment, etc.
 1. *Getting Started*: Group of dioceses with combination of interest and economic/political challenges to care of creation. Together name hopes and roadblocks, share about bright spots and leading edges within diocese, resource each other for pastoral care and unique strategies. Encourage each other to take next best step and determine areas for partnership.
 2. *On the Way*: Group of dioceses engaged but still developing commitment. Together name hopes, explore what tried so far, what is working, current ambition or strategy. Challenge and encourage each other to take next best step and determine areas for partnership.
 3. *Leading Edge*: Group of dioceses with existing and deep commitments. Together name ambitions, share resources and strategies, challenge and encourage to take next best step, determine areas for partnership.

TIMELINE

By April 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete website and Asset Map updates by April 2020 - Establish leadership for three cohorts
April 22, 2020 (50th anniversary of Earth Day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Launch Creation Care Covenant via social media and - Begin ongoing process of sign-ups, network development and engagement
October 4, 2020 (St. Francis Sunday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Celebrate Covenant engagement with special worship services across church - Support minimum 1,000 adopters at the four levels - Continue ongoing network development and engagement around individual, congregational/institutional, diocesan and church-wide goals and ambitions

BRIEF GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- ✚ **Climate Crisis:** Severe problems that arise as human activity increases the level of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere, and the world's average global temperature soars.
- ✚ **Climate Emergency:** A situation in which urgent action is required to reduce or halt climate change and avoid potentially irreversible environmental damage.
- ✚ **Clean, Safe, and Renewable Energy:** *Clean energy* is energy produced by methods that do not release greenhouse gases or other pollutants. *Safe energy* is energy produced with minimal harm to the environment and/or human health (for example, it does not require the disposal of radioactive waste or coal ash). *Renewable energy* is energy that comes from sources that are naturally regenerated over a short period of time (as opposed to the 300 million years required for fossil fuels). It is derived directly or indirectly from the sun or from Earth's natural movements and mechanisms, and it is appropriate in scale to work symbiotically with its ecological surroundings. *Clean, safe, and renewable energy* might be sourced from wind, solar, or geothermal power; it is not sourced from large-scale biofuel, biomass, mega-hydro dams, nuclear energy, or energy derived from burning waste.
- ✚ **Eco-Justice:** The well-being of humankind on a thriving earth. The condition or principle of being just or equitable with respect to ecological sustainability and protection of the environment, as well as social and economic issues.
- ✚ **Environmental Justice:** 1. Fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies (EPA). 2. The universal right to collective environmental, political, economic self-determination.
- ✚ **Environmental Racism:** 1. Environmental injustice that occurs in practice and in policy within a racialized context (*Benjamin Chavis*). 2. Any policy, practice, or directive that differentially affects or disadvantages (whether intended or unintended) individuals, groups, or communities based on race or color (*Robert Bullard*).
- ✚ **Fair Treatment:** No group should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences of industrial, governmental, commercial operations or policies.
- ✚ **Just Transition:** 1. The principle that a healthy economy and a clean, safe environment can and should co-exist. 2. The process for achieving this vision should be fair and should not cost workers or community residents their health, environment, jobs, or economic assets; losses should be fairly compensated. 3. The practice whereby people who are most affected by pollution – the frontline workers and the fence-line communities – should be in the leadership of crafting policy solutions.
- ✚ **Net Carbon Neutrality:** Achieving net zero carbon emissions either by balancing carbon emissions with carbon removal (often through carbon offsets) or by eliminating carbon emissions.
- ✚ **StorySharing:** The practice of telling and receiving stories around things that matter most, including faith, race, difference, creation, and justice.
- ✚ **Triple Emergency/Triple Urgency:** The intersection of climate change, poverty and inequality, and biodiversity loss.