

Resolution 207.8

On Expansion of Creation Care Work and Engagement in the Communion Forest Initiative

The 207th Annual Convention enacts:

“Resolved that the 207th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina calls for the expansion of creation care engagement by all congregations in the Diocese, including but not limited to engagement in the Communion Forest Initiative of the 2022 Lambeth Conference, in support of our Biblical call to care for God’s creation (Gen. 2:15), our Mission Strategy priority of Creation Care and our recognition that each and every time we abuse or fail to protect God’s creation, we are impacting our global neighbors, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable; and

Be it further resolved that the Convention calls for the following actions to serve God’s creation and by doing so, our global neighbors, so that all our communities and lives are protected from temperature extremes, wildfires, extreme rain events and flooding, and loss of plant and animal species:

- A. That the Chartered Committee on Environmental Ministry survey congregations to determine their current and planned involvement in creation care initiatives and activities, so as to promote collaboration and mutual learning;
- B. That the Chartered Committee on Environmental Ministry, working in partnership with Diocesan Formation staff and other Diocesan and non-Diocesan entities, provide resources, curricula, and concrete suggestions for congregational engagement in this work;
- C. That every congregation at some point during 2023:
 - a. Engage in the Communion Forest Initiative, which may include tree-planting, protection of meadows and grasslands, work to preserve wetlands, stream restoration, etc.;
 - b. Include in their Christian Formation programming information about the importance of creation care from Biblical, Baptismal Covenant, and Way of Love perspectives, recognizing that climate change impacts the poorest and most vulnerable populations throughout the world, who often live in the locations most vulnerable to climate change impacts or work in the jobs that put them most in danger from those impacts; and
 - c. Work collaboratively with other congregations and organizations, both locally and globally, on initiatives deemed particularly important in their communities.
- D. That the Chartered Committee on Global Mission engage with our Companion Dioceses of Botswana and Costa Rica, and that other congregations having global relationships, engage with their global partners, to learn of the impacts of climate change, to share how those Dioceses and congregations are addressing creation care, and to work together to address the global climate crisis; and
- E. That these Committees and congregations share their stories, insights, and photos through Diocesan and other avenues, to inform and inspire congregational and convocational efforts, including appropriate use of social media so that these efforts are more widely accessible to all generations and available to a wider audience.
- F. Acknowledging the devastating environmental impact on congregations and communities of color, that we seek partnership with those whose voices have not been heard and yet who are most impacted, in conversation and planning.
- G. That these Committees prepare a report on the outcomes of this resolution for presentation at the 208th Annual Convention.”

Submitted by the Chartered Committee on Environmental Ministry and the Chartered Committee on Global Mission