

RESOLVED, that the 118th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon, in accord with General Convention resolution C018, recognizes that the use of fossil fuels harms air quality and public health and is contributing to changes in the global climate that threaten the lives and livelihoods of our neighbors around the world; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Convention affirms that our Christian response to global warming is a deeply moral and spiritual issue; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Convention declares that Christian Stewardship of God's created environment, in harmony with our respect for human dignity, requires response from the Church of the highest urgency; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Convention encourages all members, congregations, and other church institutions to increase the use of environmentally safe and sustainable energy sources wherever possible and practical; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Convention encourages all members, congregations, dioceses, and other church institutions to consider prayerfully incorporating respect and care for Creation into programs of worship and education, reducing energy use through conservation and increased efficiency, and by replacing consumption of fossil fuels with energy from renewable resources to the extent feasible.

RATIONALE

It is increasingly clear that humanity's use of fossil fuels is causing the world to warm. Climate changes are already apparent, and the increased intensity of hurricanes and melting of glaciers and ice caps are among the predicted effects. These changes in many cases are having direct and harmful impacts on the two-thirds of humanity who depend on natural resources for their livelihoods. As each of us is responsible for the use of fossil fuels through transportation and electricity consumption, each of us must consider how to diminish the damage we are causing to our environment and our neighbors. Also, the direct health effects of fossil fuel combustion are well known - whether the emissions come from the tailpipes of cars or the smokestacks of power plants. The skyrocketing incidence of asthma among young people, especially in urban areas, the pulmonary damage caused by urban smog, and acid rain are examples of these effects. In addition, the 7th Millennium Development Goal calls for environmental sustainability.

In our Baptismal Covenant we promise to love our neighbors as ourselves and to respect the dignity of every human being. In Eucharistic Prayer C we remember God's creation of "this fragile earth, our island home." Since our very lives depend upon a healthy earth it is necessary for us all to be good stewards of creation.