

**Resolution passed in November 2005  
117<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Oregon**

**Environment: Stewardship of Water**

WHEREAS: Clean water is essential to the life and health of all species, including ourselves, and the waters of life are also the waters of baptism; and

WHEREAS: We have learned that all water that falls on our roofs, gardens and parking lots eventually flows into the rivers and streams and needs to be clean and unpolluted; and

WHEREAS: General Convention of 2003 passed 2 resolutions regarding the stewardship of water, one (C026) urging us to "initiate a plan in the next triennium for the management of Church buildings and grounds that phases out the use of pesticides and other toxic chemicals to control pests and institutes the use of alternatives, recognizing that children are the population most susceptible to toxins", and (D046) urging "dioceses, congregations, and members to regard water resources as precious, and to recognize that the right use of water is an explicit means to show love for one's neighbor, since water connects people and all creatures throughout the global community, and to undertake the steps outlined below; and

WHEREAS: In 2004 in response to the Bishop's address, this Convention passed a resolution challenging everyone in the Diocese to adopt at least one water conservation measure during the year and to learn more about the issues of water; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the 117th Convention of the Diocese of Oregon encourages all congregations, parishioners, and Diocesan institutions to undertake efforts to be good stewards of water through conservation efforts including reduction of consumption; and awareness and care for water discharge on our grounds and gardens in order to prevent contaminants from entering soil or streams, utilizing any of the following steps that are feasible:

- Install water-saving devices in churches and homes.
- Replant church grounds and home gardens with plants and trees that are drought-tolerant and/or native to the region.
- Devise drainage systems that allow rainwater to flow from gutters and drain pipes onto landscaping in order to reduce water loss to sewer systems.
- Pave new or repave existing parking lots with materials that are pervious, in order to allow water to percolate into the soil underneath, thereby reducing the flow of oil and other auto fluids into storm drains and streams; and

RESOLVED: That all congregations are encouraged to raise awareness of the life-giving gift of water, in our baptisms and in all life processes, and of the interconnection of all life through water; that all congregations are encouraged to deepen their understanding of the issues of health and justice with regard to water, by utilizing the resources of the Environmental Commission or the websites of Church World Service ([www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org)) and the United Nations ([www.un.org/waterforlifedecade](http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade).)

