

## **R2022-01: Resolution for Closure of St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, Maineville**

**Whereas**, representatives of the Diocese of Southern Ohio and the leadership of St. Mary Magdalene, Maineville have held discussions and finalized plans for the closure of St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, Maineville; *and*

**Whereas**, upon acceptance by the 148th Annual Convention, this resolution shall dissolve the union between St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, Maineville, Ohio and the Diocese of Southern Ohio; *therefore be it*

**Resolved**, that upon acceptance of this resolution by a vote of two-thirds of each order of the 148th Annual Convention, the union between St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, Maineville, Ohio and the Convention of the Diocese of Southern Ohio be dissolved and that the "Contract of Closure" as delivered to the Standing Committee be received and effective.

### **Explanation**

No explanation provided.

### **Impact**

No impact statement provided.

### **Presented by**

The Standing Committee of the Diocese of Southern Ohio

## **R2022-02: Resolution for Closure of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Bellaire**

**Whereas**, representatives of the Diocese of Southern Ohio and the leadership of Holy Trinity, Bellaire, have held discussions and finalized plans for the closure of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Bellaire; *and*

**Whereas**, upon acceptance by the 148th Annual Convention, this resolution shall dissolve the union between Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Bellaire, Ohio and the Diocese of Southern Ohio; *therefore be it*

**Resolved**, that upon acceptance of this resolution by a vote of two-thirds of each order of the 148th Annual Convention, the union between Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Bellaire, Ohio and the Convention of the Diocese of Southern Ohio be dissolved and that the “Contract of Closure” as delivered to the Standing Committee be received and effective.

### **Explanation**

No explanation provided.

### **Impact**

No impact statement provided.

### **Presented by**

The Standing Committee of the Diocese of Southern Ohio

## **R2022-03: A Resolution to rescind Resolution 2017-05**

**Whereas**, Resolution [2017-05](#) provided for alternating one- and two-day conventions of the Diocese of Southern Ohio, specified a preferred venue of parishes, and encouraged fiscally responsible budgeting, *and*

**Whereas**, it has been determined that no parish in the diocese (except Christ Church Cathedral) has the physical space, parking, and infrastructure necessary to accommodate the convention, *and*

**Whereas**, the advent of remote and hybrid technologies has opened up opportunities for rethinking future conventions; *therefore be it*

**Resolved**, that resolution R 2017-05 be rescinded; *and be it further*

**Resolved**, that location, manner, and duration of future sessions of diocesan convention, to be held at least once each year per Article III of The Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Southern Ohio, be determined by the Bishop and Standing Committee in consultation with Diocesan Council; *and be it further*

**Resolved**, that such diocesan convention be planned to be fiscally accessible to parishes, individuals, and the diocese, while meeting the canonical business requirements of convention as well as providing for the education, fellowship, and worship opportunities of the Body of Christ as gathered members of the diocese.

### **Explanation**

The Dispatch of Business Committee has requested Resolution 2017-05 be rescinded to allow for greater flexibility in planning future diocesan conventions. While the original resolution was well-intended, it placed specific requirements on Dispatch of Business that cannot be simultaneously met.

Our recent experiences with holding virtual and hybrid meetings throughout the diocese has demonstrated that there are mechanisms available to provide for a convention that accomplishes the necessary business, worship, education, and fellowship goals of convention while remaining mindful of expenses. Future conventions must be planned taking into account the financial impact of the event in order to minimize the impact of attendance on parishes, delegates, vendors, and the diocese.

### **Impact**

**Budgetary Impact:** The actual budgetary impact cannot yet be predicted but is anticipated to remain at or below average past costs, correcting for inflation.

**Program Impact:** Passage of this resolution will allow Dispatch of Business to plan annual conventions in the manner that best suits the particular needs of the diocese in any given year while remaining cognizant of the budgetary impact. The goal of this resolution is to keep the annual expenses for convention as low as reasonably possible. Similarly, it is intended to maintain the integrity of a vibrant convention experience for all participants.

**Temporal impact:** This resolution will take place immediately following passage.

**Compliance impact:** Diocesan Council will engage in a review of Annual Convention each year to provide guidance to the Bishop and Dispatch of Business.

**Presented by**

Diocesan Council (at request of Dispatch of Business Committee)

## **R2022-04: Resolution to Cancel Mission Share Incentive Plan**

**Whereas**, it has been determined by Diocesan Council that Resolution [R2020-02](#): Mission Share Incentive Plan adopted by the 146th Diocesan Convention in 2020 has not substantially accomplished its goal of incentivizing congregations to provide their Parochial Report, Audit, Annual Reporting Form and monthly mission share remittal on a timely basis; *and*

**Whereas**, the Mission Share Incentive Plan was a three-year plan scheduled to terminate in 2023; *and*

**Whereas**, the implementation of the plan has been problematic by Diocesan Council to administer; *therefore, be it*

**Resolved**, that the 148th Convention of the Diocese of Southern Ohio direct the Diocesan finance office to discontinue the Mission Share Incentive Plan effective January 1, 2023.

### **Explanation**

After a two-year trial of this mission share incentive plan, it has been apparent that it is not providing any meaningful incentive for congregations to file their required reports to the diocese on a timely basis.

The number of churches that Diocesan Council qualified for the incentive plan was 43 in 2021 rebating \$70,221.06 to the parishes and in 2022 YTD only 21 currently qualify. Several of the churches were granted the incentives, although not strictly complying with the resolution requirements. It was the decision of Diocesan Council to allow those churches to receive the mission share rebate based on Council's interpretation that a good faith effort had been made to comply.

It is the experience of Council that a personal contact with churches that appear to be missing the applicable deadlines is a more effective way to achieve compliance.

### **Impact**

Financially, there is no impact on the 2024 budget except that funds do not need to be reserved to pay out the incentives. Thus, there will be more unrestricted funds for the Convention side of the 2024 budget. The 2023 budget includes reserved funds for the 2022 budget year incentive plan.

Operationally, Diocesan Council members will continue to monitor compliance reports from the finance department. A small group will contact congregations struggling with compliance by offering assistance and support to meet obligations. This approach has proven effective based on Council experience in the last year.

### **Presented by**

Diocesan Council

## **R2022-05: A resolution to exclude PPP Loan/Grants from the estimated 2023 mission share calculation**

**Whereas**, the Diocese of Southern Ohio encouraged congregations to apply for Paycheck Protection Program loans/grants for the sake of continuing ministry of the Gospel and just compensation of employees (Luke 10:7, Matthew 10:10) during the Covid-19 pandemic, *and*

**Whereas**, 32 congregations applied for and received PPP monies totaling \$2,005,030, *and*

**Whereas**, these monies were spent in 2020 and 2021, thus not available in 2023, and upon becoming grants inflating the monies reported in Box A of the 2021 Parochial Report, *and*

**Whereas**, PPP loan/grants made in 2020 and 2021 were emergency funds but determined to be Normal Operating Income reported in Box A of the Parochial Report by The Episcopal Church, *and*

**Whereas**, The Episcopal Church does instruct dioceses and congregations on how to complete the parochial report, but it does not have the authority to determine how a particular diocese calculates its mission share, cf. every diocese having a different name and formula for congregational contributions to its diocesan budget, *and*

**Whereas**, other dioceses including, but not limited to, the Dioceses of East Tennessee, Hawaii, Kansas, Atlanta, and Spokane, chose not to assess PPP funds so that congregations could realize the full benefit of emergency assistance, *and*

**Whereas**, congregations are still dealing with the effects of the global pandemic and the challenges that brought to both the financial and human resources of the congregations, *and*

**Whereas**, the financial resources of the Diocese of Southern Ohio will not be noticeably reduced by excluding PPP loans/grants in the 2023 mission share calculation, *therefore be it*

**Resolved**, that the 2022 Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Southern Ohio instruct the Finance Office to exclude PPP Loans/Grants received by congregations reported in Box A of the Parochial Report for 2021 from the calculation of estimated Mission Share assessments for 2023.

### **Explanation**

Example: St. Bills To Pay in Over Yonder, OH took two PPP loans in 2020 and 2021 in an effort to retain their staff during the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic. The congregation spent this money on salaries and qualified for the loans to be transformed into grants in 2021. The Episcopal Church required the congregation to report the reception of these funds on their 2021 Parochial Report as Normal Operating Income if converted to a grant. Thus, they were accounted as normal operating income in 2021 even though most of the money was spent in 2020. Furthermore, since they were accounted as normal operating income in 2021, they would normally be included in the calculation of estimates of 2023 Mission Share Assessments because the formula utilizes Box A of the Parochial Report.

Keeping this figure in the calculation will inflate congregations' 2023 mission share rate and monies requested. Consequently, the diocesan true-up process will be convoluted and

disproportionate in the 2023 and 2024 budgeting cycles. More importantly, some congregations will be asked to pay more than their actual fair amount of mission share at a moment in time when they need all their financial and Human Resources to build (or rebuild) their mission and ministry in their communities.

### **Impact**

Congregations will be better able to pay their full Mission Share because they will not be using new revenue to pay for an inflated mission share calculated from old expenditures. Furthermore, the diocesan true-up process will be simplified because 2023 Mission Shares will not be overestimated against 2022 actual normal operating income. Consequently, we will have more accurate estimates for diocesan budgeting by excluding the PPP loan/grants. Of the \$2.5 million in diocesan revenue, we estimate a decrease of a little over \$200,000 as a result of this change. Adopting this resolution will benefit a significant number of congregations across the diocese and simplify diocesan accounting/operations.

### **Presented by**

The Rev. Jason Emerson, St. Patrick's, Dublin  
The Rev. Allison English, Calvary, Cincinnati  
The Rev. Gia Hayes-Martin, St. John's, Worthington  
The Rev. Benjamin Phillips, St. George's, Dayton  
The Rev. Michael Ralph, St. Paul's, Chillicothe and St. Philip's, Circleville  
The Rev. Canon Sallie Schisler, Missioner for the River Cities  
The Rev. Vicki Zust, St. Mark's, Columbus  
Mary Bailey, Senior Warden, St. John's, Worthington  
Helen Hays, Junior Warden, St. John's, Worthington  
Marshall "Chip" Montrose, Senior Warden, Calvary, Cincinnati  
Leslie Winters, Junior Warden, St. Mark's, Columbus  
Ed Yuhas, Senior Warden, St. Patrick's, Dublin

## **R2022-06: Recommitting to Support of the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals**

**Whereas**, in response to General Convention Resolution [2015-A021](#) the 141st Convention of the Diocese of Southern Ohio passed resolutions [R2015-01](#) and [R2019-02](#), directing the diocese to continue support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at a minimum of 0.7% of the diocesan mission share assessment to fund SDG mission grants for the calendar years 2017-2022; *and*

**Whereas**, during those years the diocese has supported SDG grants to organizations with missions throughout the world; *and*

**Whereas**, the SDGs are having a significant impact on eradicating disease and poverty worldwide; *therefore, be it*

**Resolved**, that in consideration of Resolution [B026](#) of the 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, the 148th Convention of the Diocese of Southern Ohio direct the diocese to continue to support the SDGs at a minimum of 0.7% of the diocesan mission share assessment for the calendar years 2024, 2025, and 2026; *and be it further*

**Resolved**, that SDG mission grants be used to fund world mission programs which address the SDGs and build long-term relationships among partners, with emphasis on leadership development and sustainability.

### **Explanation**

The following organizations have received SDG grants from the Diocese of Southern Ohio since 2017:

- Transformations CDC
- Caring Response Madagascar Foundation
- Infinite Chance
- Street Business School
- El Hogar Ministries
- Bread for Life
- Partners-in-Ministry-in-Liberia (PIMIL)
- Global Needs Fund
- Episcopal Relief and Development
- Global Episcopal Mission Network

For additional information on SDG grants visit [EpiscopaliansInConnection.org/financial-assistance-2/](https://episcopaliansinconnection.org/financial-assistance-2/) and click on “Sustainable Development”

For more on the SDGs and the global impact they are having: [un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda](https://un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda)



## **Impact**

This resolution continues the allocation of 0.7% of the diocesan mission share assessment to the support of World Mission through application of the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (formerly the Millennium Development Goals 2000-2015) to “build long-term relationships among partners, with emphasis on leadership development and sustainability.” This resolution will utilize approximately \$17,293.42 of mission share monies collected.

## **Presented by**

The Rev. David Kendall-Sperry, St. Peter's, Delaware  
The Rev. Abeoseh Flemister, Retired  
The Rev. Joseph Kovitch, St. Matthew's, Westerville  
The Rev. Bruce Smith, Retired,  
Ariel Miller, Ascension & Holy Trinity, Wyoming  
The Rev. Jason Emerson, St. Patrick's, Dublin  
The Rev. Christopher C. Richardson, St. John's, Columbus  
The Rev. Gia Hayes-Martin, St. John's, Worthington  
Deborah Stokes, St. Philip's, Columbus  
The Rev. George Glazier, Trinity, London,  
Lissa Barker, St. Patrick's, Dublin,  
James Allsop, St. Simon of Cyrene, Lincoln Heights

## **R2022-07: Celebration of the Sesquicentennial of the Diocese of Southern Ohio**

**Whereas**, the publication of the House of Bishops Report on Realizing Beloved Community commends the process of storytelling and listening to the stories of all means of building beloved community, *and*

**Whereas**, the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio will be in 2025, *and*

**Whereas**, the Rt. Rev. George Wayne Smith has appointed a Sesquicentennial Committee to assist his office and the diocese's preparation and observance of this event; *therefore be it*

**Resolved**, that the 148th Diocesan Convention affirm the work of this committee; *and be it further*

**Resolved**, that a task force be appointed to commission a comprehensive history of the diocese which will include the voices of all including those who have been oppressed or marginalized.

### **Explanation**

This project will be coordinated by the Office of Formation (which oversees Becoming Beloved Community) and the Parish History Project of the Reparations Task Force.

### **Impact**

The observations and celebrations of our Sesquicentennial will offer ways to affirm all people in our diocese, create new ways to build community, and thus advance the realization of Becoming Beloved Community. As a diocese, we will reform the way we do our history and archival work to include people who have experienced oppression and marginalization including, but not limited to, Black and Brown people, gender and sexual minorities, Indigenous peoples, Appalachians, rural people and city people. We want to do truth-telling but also celebrate with joy. We ask congregations to complete their brief history in accordance with [Bishop Smith's request letter](#) of January 20, 2022. Stories can be submitted at <https://episcopaliainsinconnection.org/parish-history-project/>.

### **Presented by**

Dianne Ebbs and the Rev. Karl Stevens, Co-chairs  
Reparations Task Force

## **R2022-08: A Call for Environmentally Responsible Investment**

**Whereas**, The Book of Common Prayer states that we can recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives when we, “are brought into love and harmony with God, with ourselves, with our neighbors, and with all creation” (The Episcopal Church, p. 852); *and*

**Whereas**, The Diocese of Southern Ohio and many parishes of the diocese have been blessed with great financial resources that are invested in various funds and endowments. Our diocese contains some of the largest and oldest endowments in The Episcopal Church and whose investments significantly contribute to the companies in which they are invested; *and*

**Whereas**, following the direction of General Convention in 2015, 2018, and 2022 and the efforts of The Church Pension Fund, The Church Investment Group and The Episcopal Church Endowment funds, the Trustees of the Diocese of Southern Ohio have divested much of the endowment investments in fossil fuels over the last six years and report a low ESG (Environmental, Social, Government) risk score of 20 out of a possible 100; *therefore, be it*

**Resolved**, that all institutions and congregations of the Diocese of Southern Ohio are strongly urged to engage the topic of divestment from fossil fuels and reinvestment in clean energy in a fiscally responsible manner by using resources from the Commission on Creation Care and Environmental Justice to

- a. Determine the current percent of investment in companies holding fossil fuel reserves.
- b. Work with financial advisors to develop a three-to-five-year plan to divest from the these investments focusing on reinvestment in clean energy industries while maintaining expected returns on investment.
- c. And share progress toward this goal with the diocese’s Commission on Creation Care and Environmental Justice annually beginning October 1, 2023, and share progress in the Parish Annual Report.

### **Explanation**

1. In August 2021, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reported that, “unless there are immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to close to 1.5°C or even 2°C will be beyond reach”. The report showed that, “emissions of greenhouse gases from human activities are responsible for approximately 1.1°C of warming since 1850-1900, and finds that averaged over the next 20 years, global temperature is expected to reach or exceed 1.5°C of warming” (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 2021).

2. The World Council of Churches (WCC) Central Committee released a “Statement on the Imperative for Effective Response to the Climate Emergency”, encouraging, “efforts to promote climate-responsible finance in the affairs of all members of the global ecumenical family, by ensuring that through our pension funds, banks and other financial service arrangements we are not complicit in financing climate-destroying fossil fuel industries but are supporting the accelerated development of an economy based on sustainable renewable energy and mutual solidarity” (World Council of Churches, 2022).

3. On July 11, 2022, the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church adopted a resolution to, “direct the Executive Council (Domestic & Foreign Missionary Society aka DFMS) and its Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility (CCSR), in conjunction with the Church Pension Fund (CPF), to establish and coordinate shareholder strategy addressing Carbon- Intensive Lending by U.S. Banks and other financial lending institutions” (Resolution C016).

4. On July 11, 2022, The House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church issued a statement during the final day of the 80th General Convention. “Climate change and environmental degradation are manifestations of our turning away from God,” the statement reads. “The effects of this willful separation from God resonate across our collective lives: All areas of justice are either worsened or made better depending on the health of the planet.” (Millard, 2022, July 11).

5. According to DivestmentDatabase.org, over 500 faith-based organizations have committed to partially or fully divesting from fossil fuel investments, including The Episcopal Church, Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in East Africa (AMECEA), Episcopal City Mission (Boston, MA), Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace, Episcopal Conference of Austria, Episcopal Conference of Belgium, Episcopal Diocese of California, Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles (California), Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska, Episcopal Diocese of Olympia, Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts, The Scottish Episcopal Church, St. Mary’s Episcopal Cathedral, Edinburgh (Scotland), and St. James Episcopal Church (New London, CT).

6. On July 6, 2022, the commissioners of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) voted to divest from Chevron, Exxon Mobil, Marathon Petroleum, Phillips 66 and Valero Energy (Smietana, 2022).

7. According to the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network, fossil fuel stocks have underperformed in recent years as the world moves toward renewable energy sources (IREJN, 2018).

8. The 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church (2012) called on congregations, institutions, dioceses, and the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of The Episcopal Church, to work for the just transformation of the world’s energy beyond and away from fossil fuels (including all forms of oil, coal, and natural gas) and toward safe, sustainable, renewable, community controlled energy, and that fossil fuel workers and their families be supported during the transition to a “postcarbon” society. They encouraged all to resist the development and expansion of ever more unconventional, dangerous, and environmentally destructive sources of fossil fuel and move toward conversion to more sustainable sources (Resolution 2012- B023).

9. The 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church (2015) called upon the Investment Committee of the Executive Council, the Episcopal Church Endowment Fund, and the Episcopal Church Foundation to divest from fossil fuel companies and reinvest in clean renewable energy in a fiscally responsible manner and to refrain from purchasing any new holdings of public equities and corporate bonds of fossil fuel companies. The convention also urged all dioceses and parishes of the Episcopal Church to engage the topic of divestment from fossil fuels and reinvestment in clean energy (Resolution 2015- C045).

## References

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- Smietana, B. (2022, July 7). Presbyterians to divest from 5 oil companies, including Exxon Mobil, after years of debate. Religion News Service. <https://religionnews.com/2022/07/07/presbyterians-to-divest-from-5-oil-companies-including-exxonmobil-after-years-of-debate/>
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## Impact

Divesting from companies that have fossil fuel reserves lowers the overall value of the reserves and encourages development of clean energy resources. The top 200 companies owning fossil reserves will see declining profits as more private companies and local, state, and national governments make commitments to have net zero emissions from 2035 to 2050. This means investment and endowment funds that own stock in these companies will have a lower return.

This resolution calls on all institutions and congregations of the Diocese of Southern Ohio to engage the topic of divestment from fossil fuels and reinvestment in clean energy in a fiscally responsible manner and share progress toward this goal with the diocese's Creation Care and Environmental Justice Commission annually beginning October 1, 2023. By implementing an investment strategy that divests from companies with fossil fuel reserves, parishes will realize two benefits. First, it is a witness to our care for creation and desire to reverse environmental injustices. Second, investments will maintain or increase current returns.

There is no impact to diocesan budget.

**Presented by**

Mr. Kyle Vath

The Diocese of Southern Ohio Creation Care and Environmental Task Force –

Mr. Ken Wright

Ms. Catherine Duffy

Mr. William Ubbes

The Rev. Warren Huestis

Ms. Ariel Miller

Mr. David Thomson

Ms. Dana Carlson

The Rev. Craig Foster

## **R2022-09: A Call to Participate in Care of Creation and Address Environmental Injustice**

**Whereas**, the proposed 6th Baptismal Covenant (General Convention 2015) asks “Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?”; *and*

**Whereas**, On July 11, 2022, The House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church issued a statement during the final day of the 80th General Convention. “Climate change and environmental degradation are manifestations of our turning away from God,” the statement reads. “The effects of this willful separation from God resonate across our collective lives: All areas of justice are either worsened or made better depending on the health of the planet.”; *and*

**Whereas**, Diocesan Council has formed a Creation Care and Environmental Justice Commission with the purpose to provide liturgical and formation activities and materials, support parish energy efficiency efforts and a move toward use of renewable energy, help parish creation care ministries to consider alternative land use, local food production, waste reduction, creation-based worship experiences, and other ministry concepts, support efforts for racial reconciliation; *therefore be it*

**Resolved**, that all institutions and congregations of the Diocese of Southern Ohio are strongly urged to engage the topic of care of creation and environmental injustices using the resources noted above

- a. To build creation care and environmental justice into worship and formation for children and adults,
- b. To look for and implement ways within the congregations, means to conserve energy and reduce pollution and solid waste
- c. To take action to overcome impacts like energy burden, air pollution, and excessive heat index on community members disproportionately exposed to environmental hazards

*and be it further*

**Resolved**, that all institutions and congregations take specific action within their communities to share widely these efforts as a witness to our neighborhoods, using social media, local media, and diocesan outlets and share this good news with the Commission on Creation Care and Environmental Justice.

### **Explanation**

1. In August 2021, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reported that, “unless there are immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to close to 1.5°C or even 2°C will be beyond reach”. The report showed that, “emissions of greenhouse gases from human activities are responsible for approximately 1.1°C of warming since 1850-1900, and finds that averaged over the next 20 years, global temperature is expected to reach or exceed 1.5°C of warming” (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 2021).

2. In January 2021, Diocesan Council formed a Creation Care and Environmental Justice Task Force. Since that time, the Task Force has

- a. Offered and sponsored creation-inclusive formation activities and eco-catechesis across the diocese to help people grow in their understanding of creation care and environmental justice as part of our expression of Christian faith
- b. Under the sponsorship of the Trustees of the Diocese, developed and administered the Energy Efficiency Grant Program which, to date, has awarded over \$180,000 in grants to parishes wishing to improve efficiency in their buildings
- c. Embarked on a liturgy and formation project, in partnership with Faith in Life/Formation and the Center for Deep Green Faith to develop seasonal creation centered liturgical and formation resources. (This project is in its second phase of several and will continue, at a minimum, through Summer 2023)
- d. Supported parishes wishing to form and grow Creation Care ministries
- e. Proposed resolutions to Convention (2022) to encourage environmentally friendly practices and alignment with General Convention Resolutions
- f. Supported creation and justice-focused bills in the Ohio Legislature

3. The General Convention of the Episcopal Church has a long history of addressing climate change and environmental injustice. Specifically, in 2022, the 80<sup>th</sup> Convention passed these related resolutions

- a. 2022 – A088 Commit to Pressing Work of Addressing Global Climate Change and Environmental Justice as detailed [here](#)
- b. A087 Net Carbon Neutrality by 2030 as detailed [here](#)
- c. D064 Endorse and Encourage Green Deal Legislation as detailed [here](#)

## **Impact**

When congregations and diocesan institutions address climate change and environmental injustice through worship, formation, and local actions, the following benefits will be realized:

1. Congregants will be formed theologically and spiritually and become motivated to affect change in their communities.
2. By taking direct action in the areas of energy efficiency, use of renewable energy, land use, local foods and products, waste reduction, and other ministry concepts, congregations and diocesan institutions will be a witness to our neighbors affecting change on their part.
3. A spirit of hope will be created in the diocese and our communities where we can “see a new heaven and a new earth” (Revelation 21:1-5a) and provide hope to our children and grandchildren.

## **Presented by**

The Diocese of Southern Ohio Creation Care and Environmental Task Force

Mr. Ken Wright  
Ms. Catherine Duffy  
Mr. William Ubbes  
The Rev. Warren Huestis

Ms. Ariel Miller  
Mr. David Thomson  
Ms. Dana Carlson  
The Rev. Craig Foster