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## 2022 FINAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

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The Committee on Resolutions received five proposed resolutions by the January 15, 2022 deadline for submissions. The proposals are reported below, having been edited as to form. Hearings were held on Saturday, February 26, 2022, by Zoom conference, at which proposers had an opportunity to amend their original proposals, and following which the Committee met and decided on recommendations. This Final Report thus supersedes the Preliminary Report.

As provided by the Rules of Order, proposed resolutions not timely submitted to the Committee on Resolutions, and not required by canon to be submitted to some other committee, may be brought to the floor of Convention for consideration only upon a two-thirds vote of Convention.

*Respectfully submitted,*

The Rev. Susanna Paige Cates, Chair  
The Rev'd Amy S. Cornell  
The Rev'd Terry Martin  
The Rev'd Dr. John P. Mitchell  
Canon Paul Ambos, Esq.  
Mr. Curtis Hoberman  
Mrs. Cynthia A. Miller  
Ms. Mary Anne Rhoads, Diocesan Liaison

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### RESOLUTION 2022-1:

*Subject: To establish a Creation Care Committee in the Diocese of New Jersey*

*Be it resolved,* That the 238th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey reaffirm and act on The Episcopal Church missional pillar to care for all of God's creation as stewards of the earth especially toward climate change solutions; and be it

*Further resolved,* That the Diocese of New Jersey reinvent the inactive Environmental Commission to establish a Creation Care Committee to lead individuals, parish communities and the diocese on environmental subjects, with special focus on the present climate emergency.

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*SUBMITTED BY: Canon Barbara O. Bach, St. Paul's Church, Westfield; Lynn Schambach, St. Mary's-By-The-Sea Church, Point Pleasant Beach; the Reverend Alan Leonard, Church of the Advent, Cape May; the Reverend Christopher Cox, Deacon, Trinity Cathedral, Trenton; and Dr. John Francis, Church of the Advent, Cape May*

*Statement in Support of Resolution 2022- 1 by Proposers:*

In holy scripture (Genesis 2:15), creation care is the first and primary vocation God gave humans: "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it." Creation Care is a moral priority, one of the three missional pillars of The Episcopal Church, and expressed in the Marks of Mission: *To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth; To respond to human need by loving service; and To seek to transform unjust structures of society.* Several resolutions of the 75th, 77th, 78th, and 79th General Conventions and even earlier called for Creation Care action and attention to climate change (reference 1).

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry reminds us that "This is not secular do-goodism, this is the Jesus movement. As followers of Jesus, we care for God's world because God cares for God's world, and this means that we care about climate change." In 2011 the House of Bishops issued a Pastoral Letter on care of the environment (ref. 2) that is a clear position paper for this work. The Episcopal Church supports diocesan Creation Care ministries with a Pledge to Care for Creation (ref. 3) and reflection guide (ref. 4), a household carbon tracker calculator (see ref. 5), and other resources.

World leaders who gathered for the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in November 2021 accepted scientific conclusions that human actions are responsible for the degradation of the environment and must be addressed urgently. Increasing atmospheric, land, and ocean temperatures from burning fossil fuels threaten all life on earth. World leaders also call for immediate action to reforest, conserve energy, cut emissions, transition to renewable clean energy sources, restore nature and nature-based solutions, redesign agriculture, and require individuals to make personal lifestyle changes.

The Diocese of New Jersey Creation Care Committee will respond to our Christian call to be stewards of creation and celebrate and protect creation, especially at this time responding to the climate crisis. It will organize Christian Formation and environmental education sessions, prayers for Creation Season and worship services, and community activities for diocesan members of all ages. The Creation Care Committee will identify how Episcopalians can partner with ecumenical, inter-religious and secular organizations to share resources and programs regarding climate solutions, care for creation, and active advocacy for carbon reducing legislation and policies. The committee will monitor and report on how the diocese is caring for creation. The benefits will show in caring for the health of each other, life on earth, nature, the economy, climate justice, and the future we prepare for generations to come. Relationships in our churches and with our communities will grow stronger and healthier as we show our love for God, God's Creation, and each other.

## REFERENCES

1. Acts of Convention: Digital Archive 1973-2018, [www.episcopalarchives.org](http://www.episcopalarchives.org):  
 1991-A195 Affirm Environmental Responsibility and an Environmental Stewardship Team  
 2006-B002 Acknowledge and Reduce Global Warming  
 2006-C018 Recognize Global Warming and Reaffirm Church's Environmental Responsibility  
 2012-B023 Seek Environmental Justice  
 2015-A030 Support Ecologically Responsible Stewardship of Church Property  
 2015-C013 Oppose Environmental Racism  
 2015-C045 Call for Investing in Clean and Renewable Energy  
 2018-A008 Continuing the Advisory Council on the Stewardship of Creation  
 2018-A011 Oppose Environmental Racism  
 2018-A013 Facilitating the Development of the Church's Ministry of the Care of Creation: Create a Task Force and Staff Position for Care of Creation  
 2018-A014 Create a Pilot Carbon Offset Program  
 2018-A018 Adopt Bishops' Pastoral Teaching and Commit to Paris Climate Accord  
 2018-A213 Collect Data on Parish Energy Use  
 2018-B025 Recognize Clean Water as a Human Right and Public Trust  
 2018-B027 Encourage Gender-Inclusive Responses to Climate Change  
 2018-C008 Encourage Sustainable Choices to Combat Climate Change  
 2018-C020 Urge Support for Carbon Accounting Policies for Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions  
 2018-C021 Call for Shareholder Advocacy for Environmental Impact  
 2018-C049 Urge Episcopal Institutions to Source Food Locally  
 2018-C063 Advocate for Ocean Health  
 2018-C064 Support Tribal Opposition to a Minnesota Pipeline  
 2018-D053 Call for Model Policies for Sustainable Church Land Use  
 2018-D081 Call for Community Development Efforts and Government Policy Initiatives to Address Transition to Clean Energy
2. A Pastoral Teaching from the House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church; Quito, Ecuador; September, 2011. <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/publicaffairs/episcopal-church-house-of-bishops-issues-a-pastoral-teaching/>
3. Episcopal Covenant to Care of Creation –[https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/02/CC-creation\\_care\\_covenant\\_action.pdf](https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/02/CC-creation_care_covenant_action.pdf)
4. Meditation Guide for the Pledge to Care for Creation:  
[https://r.search.yahoo.com/\\_ylt=AwrC3Ou3D9FhDGUACQAPxQt.;\\_ylu=Y29sbwNiZjEEcG9zAzEEdnRpZAMEc2VjA3Ny/RV=2/RE=1641119799/RO=10/RU=https%3a%2f%2fwww.episcopalchurch.org%2fministries%2fcreation-care%2fpledge%2f/RK=2/RS=VrRRXdROFdWJw1AjNNjrv8g.zdE-](https://r.search.yahoo.com/_ylt=AwrC3Ou3D9FhDGUACQAPxQt.;_ylu=Y29sbwNiZjEEcG9zAzEEdnRpZAMEc2VjA3Ny/RV=2/RE=1641119799/RO=10/RU=https%3a%2f%2fwww.episcopalchurch.org%2fministries%2fcreation-care%2fpledge%2f/RK=2/RS=VrRRXdROFdWJw1AjNNjrv8g.zdE-)
5. Carbon tracker app is supported by Sustain Island Home: <https://www.sustainislandhome.org/>

***Recommendation by Committee on Resolutions:***

**The Committee recommends the adoption of this proposal. It will appear on the Consent Calendar for adoption unless removed.**

## RESOLUTION 2022-2:

*Subject: Submission of Resolution to the 80th General Convention — Resolution to Include the name Bishop Barbara Clementine Harris in the Lesser Feasts & Fasts Calendar*

*Be it resolved,* That the 238th annual Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey submit the following resolution to the 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church meeting in 2022:

*Resolved,* the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That this 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church hereby direct the inclusion of the name Bishop Barbara Clementine Harris in the Lesser Feasts & Fasts Calendar of The Episcopal Church, and authorize trial use of the proper for the triennial 2023-2024 to be celebrated on March 13; and be it further

*Resolved,* that this 80th General Convention approve the appropriate proper to be prepared by the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music.

## EXPLANATION

When Barbara Harris was confirmed in the Episcopal Church as a young girl the bishop wore gloves so his hands would not have to touch the heads of the black people he was confirming. Despite this demeaning and undeniably racist "welcome" to the church, Barbara Harris was undeterred in her commitment to Christ, living her life as a powerful example of faith, both as dedicated and engaged lay woman and as the first woman bishop in the Anglican Communion. Her humble but unrelenting and heroic witness to those on the margins of the church and larger society, her warmth and generous spirit and her tireless energy and humor made her one of the most beloved and noteworthy bishops in the church, if not the world. In the eyes of God, Bishop Barbara Harris was an inspiration to Episcopalians and others as a follower of Jesus, servant of God and the church, and lover of justice and peace.

The criterion for inclusion: "Before a commemoration is included in the Calendar, proposers must establish that significant, enduring local and regional commemoration in corporate worship exists." Local observances will occur on Sunday March 13, 2022 and subsequent March 13ths in the Diocese of New Jersey according to liturgical materials to be provided to Trinity Cathedral and all 140 congregations of the diocese. In the past year in the wider Episcopal Church, commemorations have occurred in the Diocese of Massachusetts at St. Paul's Cathedral and seven parishes; the Diocese of California at Grace Cathedral; the Diocese of Los Angeles; the National Union of Black Episcopalians; the Diocese of Western Massachusetts; the Diocese of Missouri; and others. Sixteen dioceses have passed resolutions that are similar to this resolution to ask the 80th General Convention to include Bishop Barbara Clementine Harris in the Calendar of the Church Year to be celebrated on March 13. By the time of General Convention in 2022 there will have been another year (two years in some places) of commemorations throughout the Church.

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*SUBMITTED BY*

*The Reverend Canon Valerie Balling, Chair of Diocese of New Jersey 80th General Convention Deputation; Canon Barbara O, Bach, Vice-Chair of Diocese of New Jersey 80th General Convention Deputation; and the entire Deputation: Canon Paul Ambos, the Reverend Emily Mellott, the Reverend Trisha Thorne, Canon Annette Buchanan, Canon Noreen Duncan, Mr. Marcus Gales, Canon Wendy Blackman, Dr. Karen Bemis, the Reverend Alan Wakabayashi, the Reverend Daniel Scott Russell, the Reverend Canon Ted Moore, Dcn., the Reverend Benjamin Maddison, the Reverend Gail Bennet, Dcn., and Capt. Louis Cavaliere*

*Statement in Support of Resolution 2022-2 by Proposers:*

See the "Explanation" to be included in the resolution to be proposed to the General Convention.

***Recommendation by Committee on Resolutions:***

**The Committee recommends the adoption of this proposal. It will appear on the Consent Calendar for adoption unless removed.**

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RESOLUTION 2022-3:

*Subject: Financial Support for Deacons*

*Be it resolved,* That the 238th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey require each parish with a serving deacon to pay at least \$25 a month to their deacon as remuneration, and that each such parish also make the required contribution to the Church Pension Fund on that payment for the benefit of the deacon; and be it

*Further resolved,* That this resolution go into effect as of January 1 2023; and be it

*Further Resolved,* That this resolution not apply to any deacon who is 72 or older as of January 1, 2023.

*SUBMITTED BY*

*The Rev. W. Keith McCoy, Dcn., and the Ven. Theodore Foley, Dcn.*

*Statement in Support of Resolution 2022-3 by Proposers:*

Deacons in The Episcopal Church generally serve in their parish positions without remuneration. However, it has been the practice in this diocese since 1998 that all deacons have a letter of agree-

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ment which includes an allowance to cover expenses. In fact, this diocese was a pioneer with that requirement.

The Church Pension Group ("CPG") provides resources for clergy and lay employees of churches in The Episcopal Church, particularly retirement benefits. One of the resources is CREDO, a program that helps both active and retired clergy pension plan participants by presenting a holistic approach to wellness for mind, body, spirit, and heart. Participants examine and evaluate their health and wellness from the spiritual, vocational, physical and emotional health and financial points of view. CPG also provides pension and retirement savings plans, health benefits, and educational services.

One must be a contributor to the Church Pension Fund in order to access any of these benefits. At recent conferences, representatives of CPG have stated that if deacons were paid even a nominal amount, those deacons would be eligible for access to these benefits.

While those benefits would not be on the level of retirees from full time employment, it could be part of a package, especially for younger deacons. Nominal remuneration also opens up the opportunity for eligible deacons to participate in CPG programs of interest.

This resolution asks that congregations with an eligible deacon make such a nominal payment of at least \$25 a month to that deacon, as well as a payment of 18% (\$4.50) to the Church Pension Fund to enable the deacon to participate in the programs and benefits available through CPG.

Similar resolutions have been passed by conventions in the dioceses of Vermont (2020), New York (10/21), Western Massachusetts (11/21), Rhode Island (11/21), Connecticut (11/21), Long Island (11/21), and Virginia (11/21). Further information is available on the website of the Association for Episcopal Deacons, specifically at <https://www.episcopaldeacons.org/uploads/2/6/7/3/26739998/dcncompns-learned.pdf>

***Recommendation by Committee on Resolutions:***

**The Committee recommends the adoption of this proposal. It will appear on the Consent Calendar for adoption unless removed.**

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RESOLUTION 2022-4:

*Subject: Remembering the Victims and Survivors of the Coronavirus Pandemic*

*Be it resolved, That the 238th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey commend the reading of the names of those parish members lost to COVID-19 on the anniversary date of November 17, 2022; and be it*

*Further resolved*, That we continually pray for those who have perished, and for those who survived, and that God's Grace will heal and comfort all those affected and restore them to health; and be it

*Further resolved*, That the Secretary of the Convention forward a copy of this resolution to the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church.

*SUBMITTED BY: Mr. Thomas J. Meehan III & Mrs. JoAnn Meehan, Christ Church Toms River, the Rev. Lisa Hoffman, the Rev. Petrina Pyatt, the Rev. Joan Pettit Mason, and the Ven. Theodore Foley, Dcn., Christ Church, Toms River*

*Statement in Support of Resolution 2022- 4 by Proposers:*

November 17th, 2022 will mark the third Anniversary of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The question to be asked is "Who Will Speak Their Names?" The quote by graffiti artist Banksy has great truth in it: "I mean, they say you die twice. One time when you stop breathing and a second time, a bit later on, when somebody says your name for the last time." It is with this quote that I offer this resolution, so that all the victims of this pandemic will not be forgotten, that they are remembered in prayer, and that those whom still suffer in body and mind are comforted and healed by our Lord, Jesus Christ.

***Recommendation by Committee on Resolutions:***

**The Committee recommends the adoption of this proposal. It will appear on the Consent Calendar for adoption unless removed.**

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RESOLUTION 2022-5:

*Subject: Remembering the September 11, 2001 World Trade Center Victims*

*Be it resolved*, That the 238th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey reaffirm Resolution 2004-1 of the 220th Convention of the Diocese; and be it

*Further resolved*, That that Episcopalians in the Diocese continually pray for all those lost on September 11, 2001; all others lost at the hand of terrorism; those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the days since the attacks; those who still suffer in body and mind as a result of terrorist attacks; and all those we call peacemakers; and be it

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*Further resolved*, That churches of the Diocese on September 11, 2022 join in observing the Six Moments of Silence that mark the loss of life in New York City, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia:

1. At 8:46 a.m., on September 11, 2001, hijacked American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into the upper portion of the North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City, New York.
  2. At 9:03 a.m., hijacked United Airlines Flight 175 crashed into the South Tower of the World Trade Center.
  3. At 9:37 a.m., the west wall of the Pentagon was hit by hijacked American Airlines Flight 77, the impact of which caused immediate and catastrophic damage to the headquarters of the Department of Defense.
  4. At 9:59 a.m., the South Tower of the World Trade Center collapsed.
  5. At 10:03 a.m., the passengers and crew of hijacked United Airlines Flight 93 acted heroically to retake control of the airplane and thwart the taking of additional American lives by crashing the airliner in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, and, in doing so, gave their lives to save countless others.
  6. At 10:29 a.m., the North Tower of the World Trade Center collapsed;
- and be it

*Further resolved*, That the Secretary of the Convention forward a copy of this resolution to the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church.

*SUBMITTED BY: Mr. Thomas J. Meehan III & Mrs. JoAnn Meehan, Christ Church Toms River (parents of Colleen Ann Meehan Barkow, WTC Victim, Age 26), the Rev. Lisa Hoffman, the Rev. Petrina Pyatt, the Rev. Joan Pettit Mason, and the Ven. Theodore Foley, Dcn., Christ Church, Toms River*

*Statement in Support of Resolution 2022- 5 by Proposers:*

September 11th, 2022 will mark the 21st Anniversary of the attacks upon United States.

The names of the Episcopalians of the Diocese of New Jersey adorn a wall in the Cathedral who were lost that day, and to whom we keep the promise “Never To Forget”, and acknowledge our duty that all of the Victims are not forgotten, by those of us who remain behind, as Bishop Stokes has reminded us.

It is with this reminder that I offer this resolution, so that all the victims of terrorism will not be forgotten, nor the sacrifices made by those we call peacekeepers, in the years that followed. That they are remembered in prayer, and that those whom still suffer in body and mind are comforted and healed by our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Resolution 2004-1 is reprinted below for reference.

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Resolution 2004-1  
Concerning the World Trade Center Victims

*Whereas*, The unprovoked attack on the United States carried out by international terrorists on September 11, 2001 against targets in New York City, Washington, D.C. and Arlington, Virginia, resulted in the deaths of thousands of innocent people, injury to countless others and the destruction of innumerable lives; and

*Whereas*, Among the victims of this depraved act were civilian and government workers, military personnel, airline passengers and crew members, and police officers, firefighters, and paramedics, many of whom reside in this State; and

*Whereas*, The remains of many victims of the World Trade Center attacks were never located; and

*Whereas*, The ash from the World Trade Center site that contains the remains of victims of September 11, 2001 has been held at Fresh Kills Landfill in Staten Island, New York; and

*Whereas*, It is fitting and proper for the State and City of New York to honor the victims of September 11, 2001 by returning their ashes to the site of a memorial in their honor, or a suitable resting place other than a landfill; and

*Whereas*, The Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey understands that the right to a proper burial is fundamental to the healing process and should be accorded to the victims of the September 11, 2001 attack upon the WTC; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That this 220th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey go on record as supporting and endorsing the request of the WTC Families for Proper Burial organization to have the ashen remains of those lost on September 11, 2001 covered and placed in containers to eventually be transported to an appropriate site to become a part of a memorial that will be built at that location, and be it

*Further Resolved*, That, as we continually pray in the Diocese of New Jersey for all those lost, the Secretary of Convention forward a copy of this Resolution to George W. Bush, the President of the United States, the Hon. Sheldon Silver, Speaker of the New York State Assembly, to the Hon. Joseph L. Bruno, Majority Leader of the New York State Senate, to the Hon. George E. Pataki, Governor of the State of New York, to the Hon. Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor of New York City, to the Episcopal Diocese of New York, to Mr. Joseph J. Seymour, Executive Director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, to the Hon. James E. McGreevey, Governor of New Jersey, and to the Standing Commission on National Concerns of The Episcopal Church.

***Recommendation by Committee on Resolutions:***

**The Committee recommends the adoption of this proposal. It will appear on the Consent Calendar for adoption unless removed.**