

TITLE: Making Climate Change and Global Warming More Central to the Parishes of Hawai'i

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BE IT RESOLVED, the 2021 General Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawaii urges parish leadership, drawing upon previous initiatives and positions of the Episcopal Church and of the Diocese dealing with the climate crisis and global warming, to urgently accelerate and expand the level of discourse on these topics with the members of the congregation and with the political and policy leadership of Hawaii, so that it becomes adequately recognized as the major threat to public health in Hawaii and in the world.

RATIONALE/EXPLANATION. This resolution is proposed because in spite of the previous work of the Episcopal Church and of the Hawaii Diocese in calling attention to this issue, and in spite of almost daily national new coverage, the urgency of these issues still does not rise to the top of government policy agendas or to the top-of mind of our congregations, our pastors and our communities.

As Christians, our moral obligations as stewards of the earth are well acknowledged, but our awareness of the issues of climate change and global warming doesn't receive the attention that these dire times demand. Just this month, according to the Sept 6, 2021 Insider, the editors of the world's top 251 medical journals issued a joint warning to world leaders that they must urgently focus on the climate crisis - even before COVID-19 is under control because it is "the greatest threat to global public health." They said, "many governments met the threat of COVID-19 with unprecedented funding. The environmental crisis demands a similar emergency response."

And, just this week, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch issued a Joint Message for the Protection of Creation.

Now is the time to urgently make it central to the parishes.