

TITLE: Calling for Collaborative Creation Care

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BE IT RESOLVED, the 53rd annual meeting of the Convention of the Diocese of Hawai‘i urges each congregation to

- 1) Form a “Green Team” and begin by identifying one member to act as an “Environmental Coordinator” who will serve as a liaison to the Diocesan Creation Care and Environmental Justice Task Force (hereafter referred to as CC and EJ Task Force);
- 2) Communicate with members of the CC and EJ Task Force for support around creation care and environmental justice work. Discuss resources needed for this work and available for this work. Examples might be having space available for a thrift store or community gardens; having finances available for educational workshops and speakers; needing educators for community discussion; having parish members available for advocacy or environmental education; or needing environmental advocates to help with community organizing;
- 3) Undertake an energy audit for all parish buildings in order to reduce the parish’s carbon footprint. Or otherwise prioritize care for God’s creation throughout the church’s mission, liturgy, prayer life, education and work. This includes actions around reducing, reusing, and recycling.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the 53rd annual meeting of the Convention of the Diocese of Hawai‘i requests that the Bishop and Diocesan Council provide grants in the 2022 budget to assist congregations with “greening” their buildings (i.e. LED lightbulbs, energy efficiency improvements, etc.) and to help with the cost of energy audits if need be.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the 53rd annual meeting of the Convention of the Diocese of Hawai‘i recommends that the Commission on Finance and Administration explore divestment from fossil fuels and find alternative investments in renewable energy or carbon-free energy sources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the 53rd annual meeting of the Convention of the Diocese of Hawai‘i acknowledges that human-caused climate change disproportionately affects those that have been least responsible for these changes, who have the least amount of power and resources to alter their circumstances, or who have been overlooked as possible guides for alternative and sustainable livelihoods.

RATIONALE/EXPLANATION. The 50th annual meeting of the Convention of the Diocese of Hawai‘i resolved to create a Creation Care task force, which was formed and

has been working to help congregations move toward living more lightly on the Earth. The Task Force has been focusing on gathering information from congregations about their own activities related to creation care and environmental justice. Because climate change has become a crisis, the time to step up our efforts as faithful stewards of God's creation has come. Each congregation can participate in this communal effort to tread more lightly on the 'āina, protect those who are harmed by the changing crises, encourage each other, and advocate for proactive policies that promote stewardship of creation.