

Resolution F-185
Join The Communion Forest Initiative

Submitted by the Diocese of Missouri's GC81 Deputation

The following has been forwarded to Dioceses per Resolution 2024-A084 of the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church.

Resolved, That the Diocese of Missouri commends the 81st General Convention's endorsement of the Anglican Consultative Council's Communion Forest resolution, number 5.c., passed at ACC 18 in Ghana in February 2023, the text of which reads:

The Anglican Consultative Council:

1. recognizes that the integrity of creation is under threat and at risk of collapse; and there is urgent need to reduce our carbon footprint and protect biodiversity;
 2. affirms the potential of the Communion Forest initiative launched as a legacy of the 2022 Lambeth Conference;
 3. invites Churches of the Communion to join in this initiative to be ambitious in using their God-given assets; to weave creation care into the spiritual and liturgical life of the Church; and
 4. commends the collaboration of the Anglican Alliance and Anglican Communion Environmental Network, and encourages Churches of the Communion to share with them information about their existing and new activities.
- be it further

Resolved, That the Diocese of Missouri and its Congregations and other institutions as well as individual members of The Episcopal Church (TEC) in the Diocese, undertake appropriate projects in support of the Communion Forest initiative, efforts that may include:

Placement of conservation easements on land, forests, wetlands, and waters to protect biodiversity and to prevent additional emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane;
Planting and protection of trees to conserve soil, improve biodiversity, and sequester carbon;
Protect marginal and indigenous communities from exploitation and displacement arising from resource extraction projects;
Join with other TEC institutions and with other faith communities in these efforts;
And such other efforts to reduce emissions, protect biodiversity, and protect people whose homes, health, and livelihoods may be threatened by unwise resource extraction projects, as may best fit the circumstances.

Explanation:

The original text of Resolution 2024-A084 which was Concurred (passed by the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops) is as follows:

Resolution Text

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention, endorse the Anglican Consultative Council's Communion Forest resolution, number 5.c., passed at ACC 18 in Ghana in February 2023, the text of which reads:

The Anglican Consultative Council:

- 1. recognizes that the integrity of creation is under threat and at risk of collapse; and there is urgent need to reduce our carbon footprint and protect biodiversity;*
- 2. affirms the potential of the Communion Forest initiative launched as a legacy of the 2022 Lambeth Conference;*
- 3. invites Churches of the Communion to join in this initiative to be ambitious in using their God-given assets; to weave creation care into the spiritual and liturgical life of the Church; and*
- 4. commends the collaboration of the Anglican Alliance and Anglican Communion Environmental Network, and encourages Churches of the Communion to share with them information about their existing and new activities.*

And be it further

Resolved, That General Convention urge its Provinces, Dioceses, Congregations and other institutions of The Episcopal Church (TEC), as well as members of TEC, to undertake appropriate projects in support of the Communion Forest initiative, efforts that may include:

Placement of conservation easements on land, forests, wetlands, and waters to protect biodiversity and to prevent additional emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane;

Planting and protection of trees to conserve soil, improve biodiversity, and sequester carbon; Protect marginal and indigenous communities from exploitation and displacement arising from resource extraction projects;

Join with other TEC institutions and with other faith communities in these efforts;

And such other efforts to reduce emissions, protect biodiversity, and protect people whose homes, health, and livelihoods may be threatened by unwise resource extraction projects, as may best fit the circumstances.

What is the Anglican Communion (<https://www.anglicancommunion.org>)?

The Anglican Communion is one of the world's largest Christian communities. It has tens of millions of members in more than 165 countries around the globe.

Anglicanism is one of the traditions or expressions of Christian faith. Others include Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodox, Lutheran and Baptist.

The Communion is organized into a series of provinces and extra-provincial areas. The provinces are subdivided into dioceses, and the dioceses into parishes.

All of the provinces are guided by recommendations from the four Instruments: the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lambeth Conference, the Primates' Meeting and the Anglican Consultative Council.



Anglican Consultative Council (ACC)

The role of the ACC is to facilitate the co-operative work of the churches of the Anglican Communion, exchange information between the provinces and churches, and help to co-ordinate common action. It advises on the organization and structures of the Communion, and seeks to develop common policies with respect to the world mission of the Church, including ecumenical matters.

The ACC has byelaws and a constitution and through its networks and programs seeks to serve the needs of member churches. There is a chair, vice-chair and standing committee elected by the members. The current chair is Canon Maggie Swinson. The Vice-chair is Archbishop Hosam Naoum of Jerusalem. The Archbishop of Canterbury is the President of the ACC.

The ACC can be seen as the most representative body of gathered Anglicans among the Instruments of Communion. It includes members of the laity, archbishops, bishops, priests, and deacons. Provinces send two or three representatives and select them in different ways. For the first time, at ACC-17, there were youth delegates from the regions.

Meetings are held around the world approximately every three years. The most recent plenary meeting (ACC-18) was held in Accra, Ghana, in February 2023.