

R24-1 Enable General Convention Resolution A084

1 *Resolved*, That the 118th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta, joining with the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church (Resolution A084), support 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:

2 The Anglican Consultative Council:

3 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;

4 2. affirms the potential of the Communion Forest initiative launched as a legacy of the 2022 Lambeth Conference;

5 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

6 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.

7 And be it further

8 *Resolved*, That the Diocese of Atlanta, joining with the 81st General Convention, encourage congregations to undertake appropriate projects in support of the Communion Forest initiative, efforts that may include:

9 1. 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;

- 10 2. Planting and protection of trees to conserve soil, improve biodiversity, and sequester carbon;
- 11 3. Protect marginal and indigenous communities from exploitation and displacement arising from resource extraction projects;
- 12 4. Join with other TEC institutions and with other faith communities in these efforts;
- 13 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;
- 14 And be it further
- 15 *Resolved* That the congregations of the Diocese of Atlanta be encouraged to:
- 16 1. Establish a congregational plan by September 30, 2026, guiding consumption and waste practices to reduce unintended negative impacts
- 17 2. Act with intention to increase the capacity to sequester carbon within Georgia’s natural land sinks while reducing emissions elsewhere
- 18 3. Plant native species to foster biodiversity, mitigate non-native harmful species, and prevent water run-off;
- 19 4. Establish informed intergenerational committees for creation care decision-making with members who hold a stake in creation care fifteen years out;
- 20 5. Weave spiritual and liturgical practice monthly with rich and researched resources.

Sponsor: Christine Difeliciantonio, St. Thomas, Columbus, on behalf of the St. Thomas Green Team

Explanation:

The 81st General Convention of the Episcopal Church meeting in Louisville affirmed support for the Anglican Communion Forest Initiative, along with the 18th meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council meeting in Accra in 2023.

The Diocese of Virginia, the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, and the Episcopal Diocese of Washington have all pledged support for the Communion Forest Initiative.

Resources to support this work in Georgia include the following:

Drawdown Georgia is a statewide initiative working to accelerate Georgia's response to solve the warming climate impacts of carbon emissions. The road map in scaling Georgia-specific climate solutions prioritizes equity and public health, job creation, and the nurturing of the natural environment.

Georgia Interfaith Power & Light (GIPL) partners with Drawdown Georgia to help communities of faith engage in practical climate solutions. Drawdown Georgia is building a movement across the state to accelerate progress toward net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. Their goal is to reduce Georgia's carbon impact by 30% by 2030, and they've identified 20 high-impact solutions to help cut emissions. The Drawdown Georgia solutions provide practical steps for congregations to take climate action and lower their personal and institutional carbon footprint.