

## Policy Priorities for 28<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Dubai, United Arab Emirates, November – December 2023

The Episcopal Church is committed to growing loving, liberating and life-giving relationships across the human family and with all of God's creation. Our commitment to the call of Jesus has led us to engaging in mitigation and right sizing our lives as individuals and in our ministries, standing with frontline communities in laboring for environmental justice, ending environmental racism and finding a swift and just solution to the climate crisis.

During the COP28 negotiations, we urge Parties and all stakeholders to embrace these priorities:

- **ACCELERATE AMBITION.** We urge ALL stakeholders – member states, private sector, civil society, and individuals — to accelerate ambition, close emission gaps across all sectors and reduce carbon footprints to keep global temperature rise to 1.5C. We applaud member states for their ambitious Paris Agreement commitments reported in the Global Stocktake. We urge them to radically enhance their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), particularly through nature-based solutions, sustainable cities, and the blue economy. We call on member states to adopt the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty initiative and urgently accelerate their efforts to end expansion of any new coal, oil or gas production, phase out existing production of fossil fuels in a manner that is fair and equitable and ensure a global just transition to 100% access to renewable energy globally.
- **INCREASE SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITIES EXPERIENCING LOSS AND DAMAGE.** We urge all stakeholders to “leave no one behind” in accordance with Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, by prioritizing multilateral commitments to the most vulnerable. We commend member states for prioritizing Loss & Damage at COP27 and urge them towards generous political and financial support for international mechanisms and accountable and effective governing structures. We encourage member states and UN officials to recognize the unique contributions of faith-based actors in confronting climate change and to work with them in responding to ecoanxiety, trauma and climate grief resulting from Loss & Damage, especially engaging global youth and other voices whose futures will never be experienced.
- **PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS AND AFFIRM ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN ADDRESSING ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION.** We commend member states in their adaptation and mitigation commitments and ask for significantly increased adaptation finance and support for multinational and multi-sectoral initiatives. We call on negotiators to affirm climate justice, reject environmental racism and prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable, including small island states and least developed countries, financially impoverished and frontline communities, migrants and refugees, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities, youth, women, LGBTQIA2S+ persons and people with disabilities. We urge negotiators to design solutions that protect the human rights and authority of Indigenous peoples and local communities, upholding the principle of Free Prior and Informed Consent mandated by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We urge member states to protect human rights defenders and environmental protectors.
- **FULFILL CLIMATE FINANCE COMMITMENTS AND STRENGTHEN MECHANISMS.** We urge member states to fulfill their pledges to the Green Climate Fund, multilateral development banks and other international climate finance mechanisms and to enhance their reporting to improve honest tracking, transparency, and accountability. We support the USD \$100 billion mobilization goal towards climate action. We call on the U.S. to fulfill its unmet \$2 billion pledge.



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**For more information,** contact the Presiding Bishop's delegation leadership below or view the full delegation via the QR code:

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## How is our Church implementing the Paris Agreement and addressing the climate emergency?

In our commitment to lead sustainable lives, The Episcopal Church is taking thoughtful action and making choices that right-size our impact on the Earth, bearing witness to the challenges facing our frontline communities, strengthening the adaptive resilience of climate-impacted peoples, and supporting vulnerable populations facing irreparable loss and damage:

- Our churchwide [Covenant for the Care of Creation](#) invites individuals, churches, dioceses and Episcopal institutions to commit to deeper formation, public advocacy, and conservation practices focused on adaptation and mitigation.
  - Over 2,000 households and congregations are measuring their carbon footprint via our [Carbon Tracker](#).
  - We have set and are working towards church-wide goals for achieving net carbon neutrality by 2030.
  - We support rainforest protection in the Amazon and the Anglican Communion Forest initiative.
  - We are planting “[Good News Gardens](#)” and partnering locally to improve access to fresh, affordable food.
- **Enacting churchwide resolutions and policies on climate, environment, and sustainable development.** The Episcopal Church’s governing bodies have affirmed support for the Paris Agreement, Agenda 2030 and the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty initiative. Since 2018, our governing bodies have passed more than 25 resolutions relating to creation care, from adaptation projects to fossil fuel divestment, carbon tracking to carbon sequestration, ending environmental racism, supporting Indigenous peoples and women, carbon-intensive lending, green new deal legislation, and just transition.
  - **Partnering with the United Nations, UNFCCC, and UNEP as an observer.** The Episcopal Church is a Christian denomination with 1.8 million members in 17 countries in North America, Latin America & the Caribbean, Europe, Asia and the Pacific. It enjoys ECOSOC accreditation and DGC association with the UN, and observer status with the UNFCCC and UNEP. The Church promotes environmental priorities across multiple UN frameworks and meetings, including the Commission on the Status of Women, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and High-Level Political Forum on the SDGs.
  - **Participating annually at COPs since COP21 and the Paris Agreement.** Beginning with COP21 in 2015, The Episcopal Church’s Presiding Bishop has sent delegations to the annual UN Climate Change Conferences to advocate for strong and just climate policies. The Church also educates Episcopalians about the COP negotiations and opportunities to engage with Paris Agreement goals in their homes, communities, and churches.
  - **Collaborating with ecumenical, interfaith, and civil society partners.** As a member province of the worldwide Anglican Communion (third largest Christian communion, with 85 million members in 165 countries), The Episcopal Church joins Anglican and other faith-based partners in supporting spiritual approaches to climate action and advocating for climate responsive practices. At COP28, The Episcopal Church is partnering with the Anglican Communion, ACT Alliance ecumenical delegation, and UNFCCC Interfaith Liaison Committee for joint advocacy, social witness, prayer, and worship.
  - **Accelerating ambition targets.** The Episcopal Church has raised ambition towards implementing renewable energy and energy efficiency through resolutions and is developing a churchwide ambition as part of our Creation Covenant.
  - **Supporting the Green Climate Fund.** The Episcopal Church has urged support for the Green Climate Fund in past years through its [Episcopal Public Policy Network \(EPPN\)](#), a network of Episcopalians that organizes grassroots advocacy efforts directed toward U.S. government officials.
  - **Promoting adaptation and mitigation.** The Episcopal Church funds projects to advance climate change education, advocacy and adaptation, and awards grants to ministries undertaking innovative environmental work. Between 2015 and 2021, the Church allocated \$1.5 million for environmental justice work, pioneering networks, educational initiatives, and programmatic engagement around environmental stewardship. The Episcopal Church supports a [Carbon Tracker](#), designed by the Episcopal Diocese of California, to mobilize individuals, households, faith communities and the Church. The Episcopal Church encourages teaching simplicity and right-sizing personal consumption as a method of spiritual discipline and loving our neighbors.
  - **Helping people face Loss and Damage.** Episcopalians follow Jesus’ example in prioritizing concern for the most marginalized and vulnerable. As more and more people suffer from climate-induced Loss and Damage, the Church is providing hope and practical action, offering teachings on faith and creation, hosting community centers for action and refuge, and offering trauma counseling, liturgies, prayer, and spiritual support for climate grief.
  - **Standing with communities at risk.** The Episcopal Church is a strong partner in the Faith for the Arctic Network, a coalition of religious organizations committed to permanently safeguarding the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and supporting the Gwich’in people, an Indigenous Alaskan population heavily impacted by climate change. The Church also supports fossil-fuel dependent communities, understanding that a just transition must account for their needs.