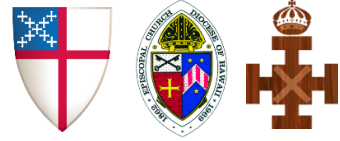


## From the Bishop

The Right Reverend Robert L. Fitzpatrick  
The Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i



January 21, 2022

### UPDATE ON OUR DIOCESAN COMMITMENT TO ADDRESS THE CLIMATE CRISIS

At the annual meeting of the Convention of the Diocese of Hawai'i in October, the clergy and elected delegates overwhelmingly resolved to have this Diocese address “the climate crisis and global warming, to urgently accelerate and expand the level of discourse on these topics with the members of the congregations.” Please take a look at [the full text of the adopted resolution](#) and share it within your congregation – especially with the members of your Vestry/Bishop's Committee.

We resolved to do some things within our congregations:

- Form a “Green Team” in every congregation (or hui of congregations) 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. The Diocesan Support Center Staff, the Diocesan Council, and the Bishop were asked to monitor the creation of such “Green Teams” and report to the Diocese on the progress of their creation by April 1, 2022. As of January 20, only four congregations have informed us that they have a “Green Team” with a designated “Environmental Coordinator” (St. Peter's, St. Mark's, Holy Innocents and St. John's [Kula]). Creation Care and Environmental Justice Task Force hopes to hear from the other congregations in the very near future. Please contact Denise Esposito [HERE](#) with the name of your “Environmental Coordinator” and what church or churches are represented.
- Congregations were urged to undertake an energy audit for all buildings in order to reduce the church's carbon footprint, and implementing actions that reduce, reuse, and recycle.
- Prioritize care for God's creation through the mission, liturgy, prayer life, education, work, and budget of the Diocese and each congregation.

Grants from the Diocesan 2022 budget and from some reserve funds are available on a limited basis to assist congregations with “greening” their buildings (e.g., LED lightbulbs, energy efficiency improvements, etc.) and to help with the cost of energy audits. Applications for such grants will be entertained with other grants requests from congregations. An online application form will soon be posted for all grant requests.

The Commission on Investments was asked to confirm that the Diocese follows the ["Socially Responsible Investing"](#) guidelines of The Episcopal Church including non-investment in companies (and funds) where more than 10% of revenue is derived from fossil fuels. The

Commission confirms that the investment managers the Diocese engages adheres to the guidelines and refrains from ["Companies Subject to No-buy Portfolio Restrictions"](#) including owning “shares of companies where more than 10% of revenue is derived from fossil fuels.”

The Convention of the Diocese of Hawai‘i further acknowledged “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, and/or who have been overlooked as possible guides for alternative and sustainable livelihoods,” and it urged “the Bishop, Standing Committee, Clergy and all Episcopalians in this Diocese to be actively engaged with the political and policy leadership of Hawai‘i and of the United States to advocate for such action that will immediately address the climate crisis and global warming recognizing the public health and even existential crisis facing our Islands and God’s world with the support of the Diocesan Creation Care and Environmental Justice Task Force and the resources of The Episcopal Church.”

As a Diocese, we have made this a key priority by this action of the Diocesan Convention. As Episcopalians, important information and resources can be found from the Episcopal Church’s website on [Creation Care](#). Your congregation might consider adopting the [EPISCOPAL COVENANT TO CARE OF CREATION](#).

Bountiful God, you call us to labor with you in tending the earth: Where we lack love, open our hearts to the world; where we waste, give us discipline to conserve; where we neglect, awaken our minds and wills to insight and care. May we with all your creatures honor and serve you in all things, for you live and reign with Christ, Redeemer of all, and with your Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Aloha ma o Iesu Kristo, ko mākou Haku,

+Bob

The Right Reverend Robert L. Fitzpatrick, Bishop  
The Episcopal Diocese of Hawai‘i