



# THE 201<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MAINE

## Resolutions

### RESOLUTION 7 STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION AND PRACTICE OF JUSTICE/EQUITY

RE: Carbon Offset Program

SUBMITTED BY: Cathedral Public Policy and Environmental Action Team

CONTACT PERSON: Ms Elizabeth Parsons, (207) 899-2206, ecparsons33@hotmail.com

- 1           **RESOLVED** that following Bishop Brown's decision to offset all Loring House-related air travel
- 2           this policy cover the entire Diocese.
  
- 3           **RESOLVED** that this measure inspires individual and collective engagement by Maine
- 4           Episcopalians to do justice and love kindness towards human and non-human neighbors and
- 5           to Earth by choosing alternatives to air travel whenever possible.
  
- 6           **RESOLVED** that when air travel cannot be avoided, a carbon offset fee be paid to a fund
- 7           established and managed by the Diocese.
  
- 8           **RESOLVED** that said Fund be used to support Diocesan-related create care/climate justice
- 9           initiatives that reduce carbon emissions.

### EXPLANATION

*Scripture teaches that the created world is good (Genesis 1); that it does not belong to humans but to God (Psalm 24:1); and that God cares about the fate of all creatures (Luke 12:6).*

*Increased carbon emissions associated with human-produced industrial development have contributed mightily to an [increase in Earth's average temperatures](#) in the past two centuries.*

*The Rev. Jim Antal asserts in [Climate Church, Climate World](#) that "[b]ecause Christians regard God as Creator, the church must proclaim God's love for creation and work to stop humanity from running Genesis in reverse."*

*Air travel's energy intensiveness means that it has [a disproportionately large impact on Earth's atmosphere](#).*

*Air travel is also [generally a luxury of the rich](#) world even though climate change's effects are [more severe where the majority of people are poor](#).*

*The COVID-19 pandemic [has unexpectedly shown how people can adapt lives and livelihoods to avoid traveling](#) and how [emissions reductions produce good effects](#) quickly.*

*The proposed Diocesan fund would work in this fashion:*

- *Individuals and/or Diocesan groups planning to take air flights would estimate their carbon emissions*



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*(using a calculator such as [Cool Effect](#); the International Civil Aviation Organization's [Carbon Emissions Calculator](#); Virgin Atlantic's [Carbon Calculator](#) or [Terra Pass](#)) and contribute the requisite sum to the newly-established fund.*

- *As funds accumulate, parishes throughout the Diocese could apply for small grants that would support some sort of creation care/climate justice initiative in their church and/or civic community.*
- *This grant program could be modeled on the Diocese's New Initiatives Fund and Mission Priorities grant programs.*
- *Grant reviewers could be selected from around the Diocese with the entire process being conducted online/remotely if necessary. Site visits by members of the review team would be encouraged.*

*Additional resources for inspiration:*

[San Francisco Carbon Fund](#)

[Episcopal Diocese of Olympia Washington Carbon Offset Cooperative Mission](#)

[Blessed Tomorrow Carbon Offset Program](#)