RESOLUTION #1

TO: The 191st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky
FROM: Jean Christensen and the Department of Justice and Jubilee
SUBJECT: Carbon Tax

Whereas, the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church adopted resolution C020, that the Episcopal Church shall work with people of good will to materially reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in order to stabilize our climate; therefore be it

Resolved, that the 191st Convention of The Diocese of Kentucky concurring with resolution C020 support public policy which may include Carbon Fee and Dividend model or other means accounting for greenhouse gas emissions from carbon based fuels to mitigate further irreversible climate change; and be it further

Resolved, that the Diocese of Kentucky be encouraged to educate its members and to advocate at local, state, and federal levels for policies to rationally tax the production of greenhouse gas emissions; and be it further

Resolved, that the Diocese and its churches will advocate for appropriate measures to reduce the economic impacts on poor people and people of modest income, which means might include use of a trust fund paid for with these carbon taxes and distributed to the poorest people first.

EXPLANATION

As Christians and members of a faith community, we have a responsibility to care for the earth and for the peoples of the earth. “The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.” Psalm 24:1

Our denomination has long recognized a moral obligation to be faithful stewards of God’s creation. General Convention has previously adopted resolutions urging support for measures approving of efforts to reduce global warming, including Resolution GC2006-B002, “Acknowledge and Reduce Global Warming.” While local, regional, and state actions are important and necessary, they are not sufficient to solve this global problem which is accelerating ever more rapidly. The United States must take significant steps to participate fully in the international effort to preserve a livable world. Now is the time to move beyond pronouncements and symbolic actions into education and behavioral changes.

People of many faith traditions are recommitting to the theological call to stewardship in increasing numbers to include Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, as well as the mainline Protestant and Roman Catholic Christian traditions.

The non-partisan non-profit Citizens’ Climate Lobby offers a scientifically-based proposal with bipartisan appeal. This climate solution, known as Carbon Fee and Dividend, is a national, revenue-neutral carbon fee-and-dividend system (CF&D) that would place a predictable, steadily rising price on carbon, with all fees collected minus administrative costs returned to households as a monthly energy dividend.
In just 20 years, studies show, such a system could reduce carbon emissions to 50% of 1990 levels while adding 2.8 million jobs to the American economy.

The benefits of a fully-rebated revenue-neutral carbon tax are clear to and endorsed by leaders of faith, business associations, national security leaders, and energy and healthcare industry leaders. This market-based solution will save lives, create jobs, and boost our economy while reducing the risks associated with climate change.

**General Convention Resolution  C020 Carbon Tax**

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That the Episcopal Church shall work with people of good will to materially reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in order to stabilize our climate; and be it further

*Resolved, That the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church support public policy which may include Carbon Fee and Dividend model or other means accounting for greenhouse gas emissions from carbon based fuels to mitigate further irreversible climate change; and be it further*

Resolved, That in implementing any such policies, the church will advocate for appropriate measures to reduce the economic impacts on poor people and people of modest income, which means might include use of a trust fund paid for with carbon fees and distributed to the poorest people first.
RESOLUTION #2

TO: The 191st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky
FROM: The Bluegrass Deanery and the Justice and Jubilee Department
SUBJECT: Divesting in Fossil Fuel

Whereas, God calls us to be stewards of creation (Gen. 1:31,2:15) and Jesus commands us to care for those who are vulnerable as if we were caring for Him. (Mt. 25:40): and

Whereas, the Fifth Mark of Mission of the Anglican Communion is “To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.”: and

Whereas, the 2015 General Convention called for the Episcopal Church and its entities, including dioceses and parishes, to divest and refrain from investing in fossils fuels and to reinvest in clean and renewable energy in a fiscally responsible manner; therefore be it

Resolved, that the 191st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky commend and affirm the decision of the Investment Committee of the Diocese of Kentucky to refrain in the investment of fossil fuels, and be it further

Resolved, that the 191st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese Of Kentucky calls upon the Bishop Dudley Memorial Fund to divest from fossil fuel companies and if possible to reinvest in clean renewable energy in a fiscally responsible manner; and be it further

Resolved, that the 191st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese Of Kentucky calls upon the Investment Committee of the Diocese of Kentucky and the Bishop Dudley Memorial Fund to refrain from purchasing any new holdings of public equities and corporate bonds of fossil fuel companies; and be it further

Resolved, that the 191st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese Of Kentucky urges its parishes to engage the topic of and encourage divestment from fossil fuels and reinvestment in clean energy within the coming year.

Rationale: The Episcopal Church has long been on record calling for action to address climate change, and environmental justice, most recently with resolutions in 2006, 2009, and 2015. The Episcopal Church, by its mission, is pledged to the protection and care of God’s people and creation.

Climate change represents a titanic threat to all life, and especially to the poor. The biblical mandate and our church’s teachings could not be clearer that we must respond with faithful, prophetic action. For over two decades, the Episcopal Church and the wider faith community has utilized shareholder and legislative advocacy on climate change for little effect. (Adapted from the Episcopal Ecological Network.)

The scientific consensus is overwhelmingly clear that anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions from the burning of fossil fuels have already caused and will continue to cause climate change.
Without a swift, concerted, global shift away from the burning of fossil fuels, the effects of climate change will displace and impoverish hundreds of millions of people in the coming century and condemn many species to extinction. In recent years, super storms and droughts have plagued our planet. We witness an unprecedented melting of Greenland's ice cap, the Arctic ice pack, Antarctic glaciers and ice shelves, and mountain glaciers worldwide. Rising, acidifying seas coupled with more violent storms are threatening communities at sea level worldwide. An estimated 400,000 people a year die from the effects of climate change. A far larger number of people lose their homes, livelihoods, and health from climate-related droughts and storms, the increased spread of infectious disease due to rising temperatures, and related stressors. Climate change is, in profound ways, a matter of justice. As the climate crisis worsens, the church must increase its scope of response.
RESOLUTION #3

TO: The 191st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky
FROM: Justice and Jubilee Department
SUBJECT: Support of Refugees

Whereas, the Gospel of Christ calls us to welcome the stranger (Matthew 25:35) and to minister to “the least of these” among us (Matthew 25:40); and

Whereas, our nation has a history of being a place of refuge to persecuted persons, and refugee resettlement is a strong bipartisan tradition that reflects American values,

Whereas, The Episcopal Church has a long history of standing with refugees, people who are fleeing violence, war and political and religious persecution; and

Whereas, the Episcopal Migration Ministry has resettled more than 90,000 refugees over the last 30 years; and

Whereas, two years ago the United States admitted more than 80,000 refugees and has recently announced that next year it will reduce this number to under 30,000; and

Whereas, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry announced that the Episcopal Church was gravely disappointed by this decision; therefore be it

Resolved, that this 191st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky joins with the Presiding Bishop in expressing our disappointment at the reduced cap on the number of refugees to be admitted to the United States, and, be it further

Resolved, that as Episcopalians we commit ourselves to learn more about refugee resettlement and to support refugees in our advocacy, and voting and by welcoming them into our communities.

Explanation:

Presiding Bishop Curry’s statement;

“As followers of Jesus Christ, we are saddened by this decision. Our hearts and our prayers are with those thousands of refugees who, due to this decision, will not be able to find new life in the United States. This decision by the government does not reflect the care and compassion of Americans who welcome refugees in their communities every day. Our faith calls us to love God and love our neighbor, so we stand ready to help all those we can in any way we can.”