

# Episcopal Ecological Network



(EpEN)

Reflect † Educate † Act

[eenonline.org](http://eenonline.org)

[news@eenonline.org](mailto:news@eenonline.org)

This paper prepared for the EpEN by The Rev "Skip" Vilas Diocese of Newark July 1, 2009

---

## Resolution C034: Creation Cycle of the Pentecost Season

### Talking Points

#### 1. *Why have a Creation Season?*

The Creation Season brings the Liturgical Year into the 21st Century.

The traditional Liturgical Year, developed before the modern era, is based on the life and ministry of Jesus, and reflects the dualism of its time. It gives short shrift to God as Creator, and separates the believer from their position in the natural order. The Cycle reflects a call to reaffirm the Creator and to reconnect worshipers to God's Creation.

#### 2. *Is the Creation Season scriptural?*

The Creation Season expresses the cosmology of St. Paul, reflected in the scripture.

*In St. Paul's writings, both the themes of Redemption and that of New Creation are present. Paul saw Christ in cosmic dimensions as the healer of nature as well as of humankind. Creation Season restores this biblical dimension to the Liturgy.*

#### 3. *What does the Creation Season entail?*

The Creation Season is a period of time devoted to the celebration of God's created order, with scriptures, hymns, preaching and vestments that reflect the beauty of nature.

As celebrated in the United States in the 1990's, the Season began on St. Francis' Day with the blessing of animals, and continued through the eight weeks preceding Advent. It incorporated the theme of stewardship related to harvest time, celebrated All Saints' Day within the context of all Creation, and concluded with the celebration of Christ the King expanded to celebrate Christ in his cosmic dimensions.

#### 4. *Why is the Creation Season also referred to as the Creation Cycle?*

This title for the Creation Season originated with a resolution passed by the Diocese of Newark in 1994.

The originators of the Season were not attempting to amend the Prayer Book by Diocesan resolution, but to use the existing Pentecost Season to expand the understanding of the Holy Spirit to encompass Creation. Hence, the Creation Cycle of the Pentecost Season.

#### 5. *Isn't this just another liberal, progressive gimmick?*

No. The supporters of the Creation Season are from all over the church.

Dr. Charles Price, one of the authors of the 1979 Prayer Book, and Dr. Boone Porter, former editor of the Living Church magazine, both now deceased, affirmed the Creation Season and called for this action by the Episcopal Church. Supporters of the Season include the Rt.



# Episcopal Ecological Network Talking Points

## **Resolution C034: Creation Cycle of the Pentecost Season**

Page 2

Rev. Jeffrey Hawthorn, former chair of the Standing Commission on Music and Liturgy, as well as many bishops and clergy who have celebrated the season over the past two decades.

The idea of the Season has spread around the world to churches in Australia, New Zealand, Europe and Great Britain. The Archbishop of Canterbury has joined other leaders of English churches in calling for a "Creation Time" for the month of September each year.

**6. Does the resolution at General Convention make the Creation Season mandatory?**

**No.** The resolution asks that the Season be considered for inclusion in the new revision of the Book of Occasional Services.

*Those supporting the resolution (D001) understand that not everyone will want to observe the Creation Season. They seek to make the Season available as an option for those who wish to use it. The resolution also asks the Standing Commission on Music and Worship to make resources available to the whole church.*

**7. Isn't the Creation Season too long?**

**The length of the Season may vary, as may the time in the year it is celebrated.**

While the resolution reflects the experience of many who have celebrated the Creation Season since 1990, there is no reason that it may not be adapted to local needs. There may be those who wish to emulate the Archbishop of Canterbury, or may wish, as some have done, to celebrate the Season in the Spring. That is why the originators of the resolution have recommended it for the Book of Occasional Services.

**8. Where may I find out more about the Creation Season?**

**You may visit the website of the Episcopal Ecological Network ([eenonline.org](http://eenonline.org)).**

While this is the primary site for Episcopalians, there are many other resources that may be found online. They may be located by "googling" Creation Season, or Season of Creation