

# Episcopal Ecological Network



(EpEN)

Reflect † Educate † Act

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## Resolution C070: Memorializing the Genesis Covenant

### Talking Points

#### 1. *Why vote for the Genesis Covenant?*

It affirms that The Episcopal Church is making a public commitment to work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from every facility it maintains by a minimum of 50% within ten years.

#### 2. *Why now?*

The threat to low-lying nations and cities, and to all people is becoming more and more evident. Further, the increasing CO2 is acidifying the oceans, thereby threatening all sea creatures that make shells, and thus the entire ocean food chain. There is no time to waste.

#### 3. *Why is this an issue for Christians?*

"The crisis of climate change presents to us unprecedented challenge to the goodness, interconnectedness, and sanctity of the world God created and loves...and the church's commitment to ameliorating it is a part of the ongoing discovery of God's revelation to humanity and a call to the fuller understanding of the scriptural imperative of loving our neighbor". Bishop Katherine Jefferts-Schori, in her testimony before the Senate in 2007.

#### 4. *What would be the effect?*

Communities of faith have the power to inspire, to create momentum, and to become a catalyst for addressing climate change. By becoming a signatory to the Genesis Covenant we live into our Christian values and also model the kind of leadership that we hope other religious organizations and our public policy makers will provide.

#### 5. *Is the Genesis Covenant a budgeted item?*

No, it is a covenant only, inviting us to take the issue of climate change seriously and faithfully, and to make a serious effort at every level, by every vestry, board, Standing Committee and Bishop - to find and implement ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% as quickly as we are able.

#### 7. *Where is the hope?*

The Genesis Covenant is an invitation to every community of faith to take action to reverse global warming, with the Episcopal Church leading, and inviting others to join in the effort.

#### 8. *How can this be implemented since it is such a big problem?*

Communities of faith have the power to inspire, to create momentum, and to become a catalyst for addressing climate change. Practical resources are available through the *Genesis Covenant Network* ([www.genesiscovenant.org](http://www.genesiscovenant.org)), the *Episcopal Ecological Network* ([eenonline.org](http://eenonline.org)), *Earth Ministry*, *Interfaith Power and Light*, dioceses that have already begun this work, local utility companies, and others.