



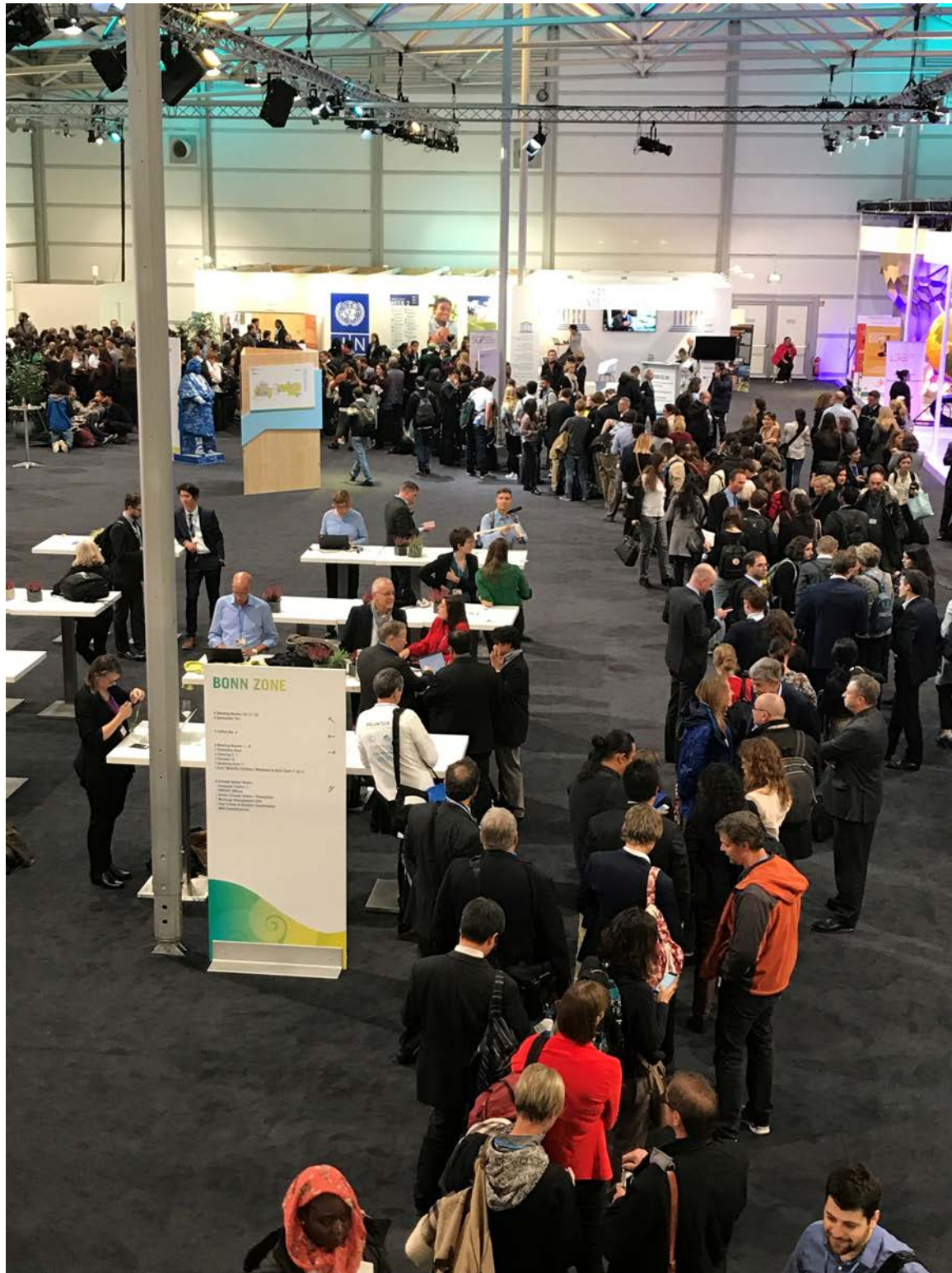
THE *Episcopal* CHURCH 

# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH & CLIMATE CHANGE

Through the Care of Creation, we safeguard  
the integrity of creation and sustain and renew  
the life of the earth.

December 2018





## COP 24 Goals

Participate in UN meetings  
as official observer organization  
to COP24

Advocate for Episcopal Church  
policy to address climate change

Engage in interfaith conversation,  
chant and prayer

Exchange adaptation ideas  
and stories

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Present in more than 15  
member states within the  
United Nations system

-----  
Member province of the worldwide  
Anglican Communion

-----  
Churchwide legislative positions  
on climate change through  
General Convention (Episcopal  
Church's governing body)

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Local climate action through  
parishes, dioceses and Episcopal  
organizations

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Partnerships to support education,  
adaptation and advocacy

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Presiding Bishop's staff to support  
churchwide Episcopal engagement

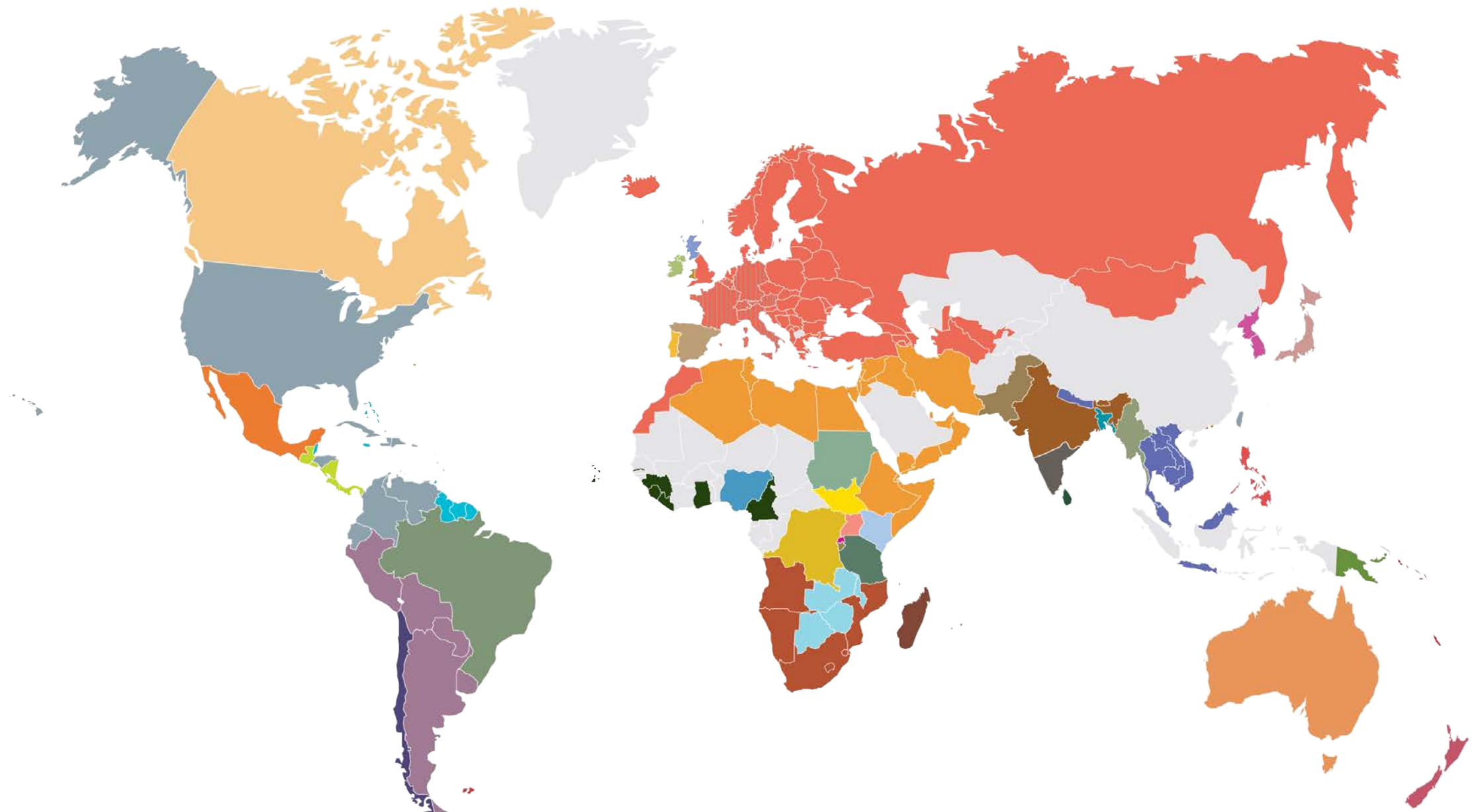
# Present in more than 15 member states within the UN system

- United States of America
- Honduras
- Ecuador
- Colombia
- Venezuela
- Haiti
- Dominican Republic
- Churches in Europe – Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy and Switzerland
- U.S. Virgin Islands\*
- Puerto Rico\*
- Guam\*
- Micronesia
- Taiwan\*

\*Areas linked with member states of the United Nations

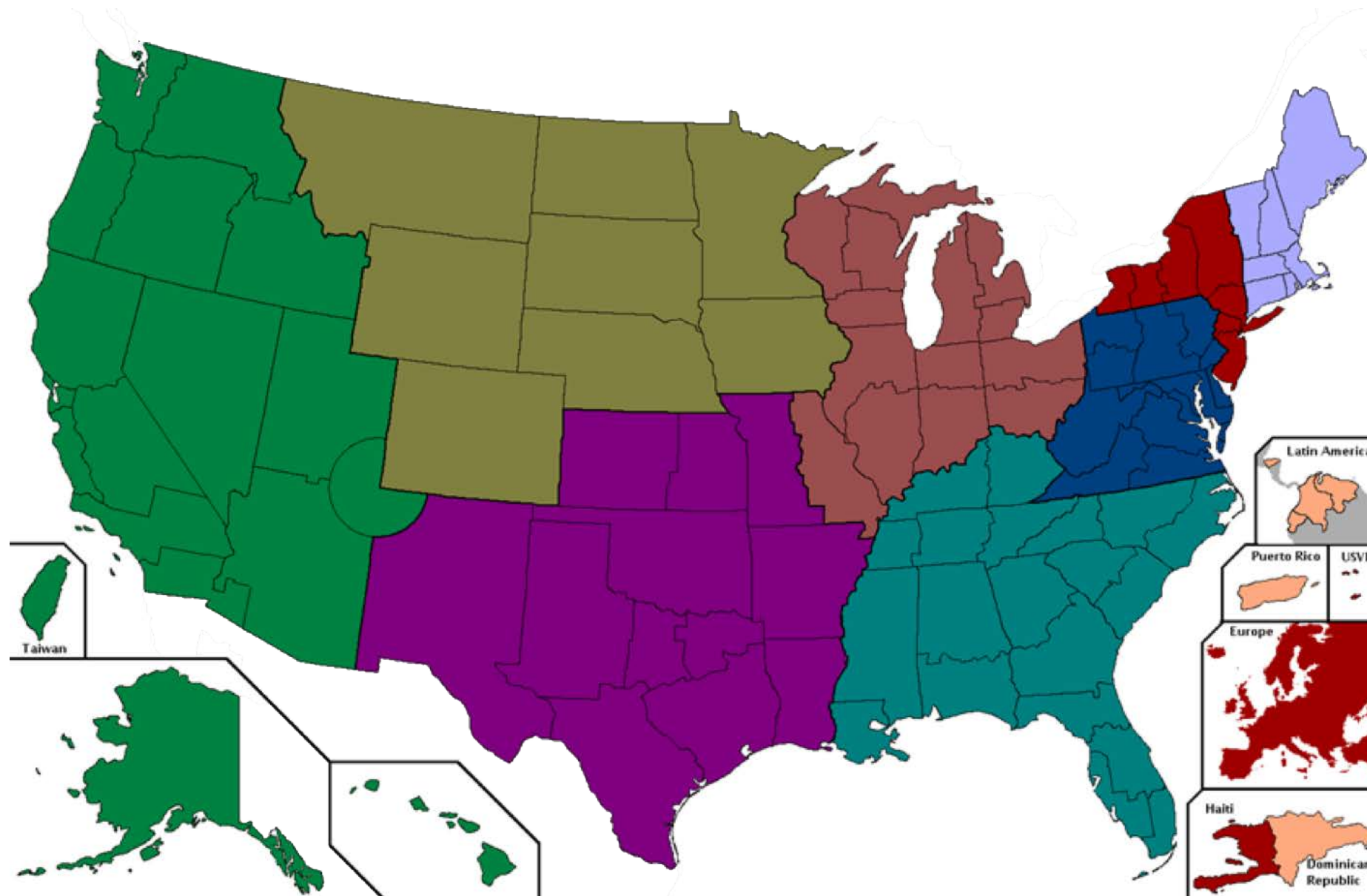


The Episcopal Church is a member province of the worldwide Anglican Communion, which represents tens of millions of Christians in 165 countries. A world faith body can address global problems.

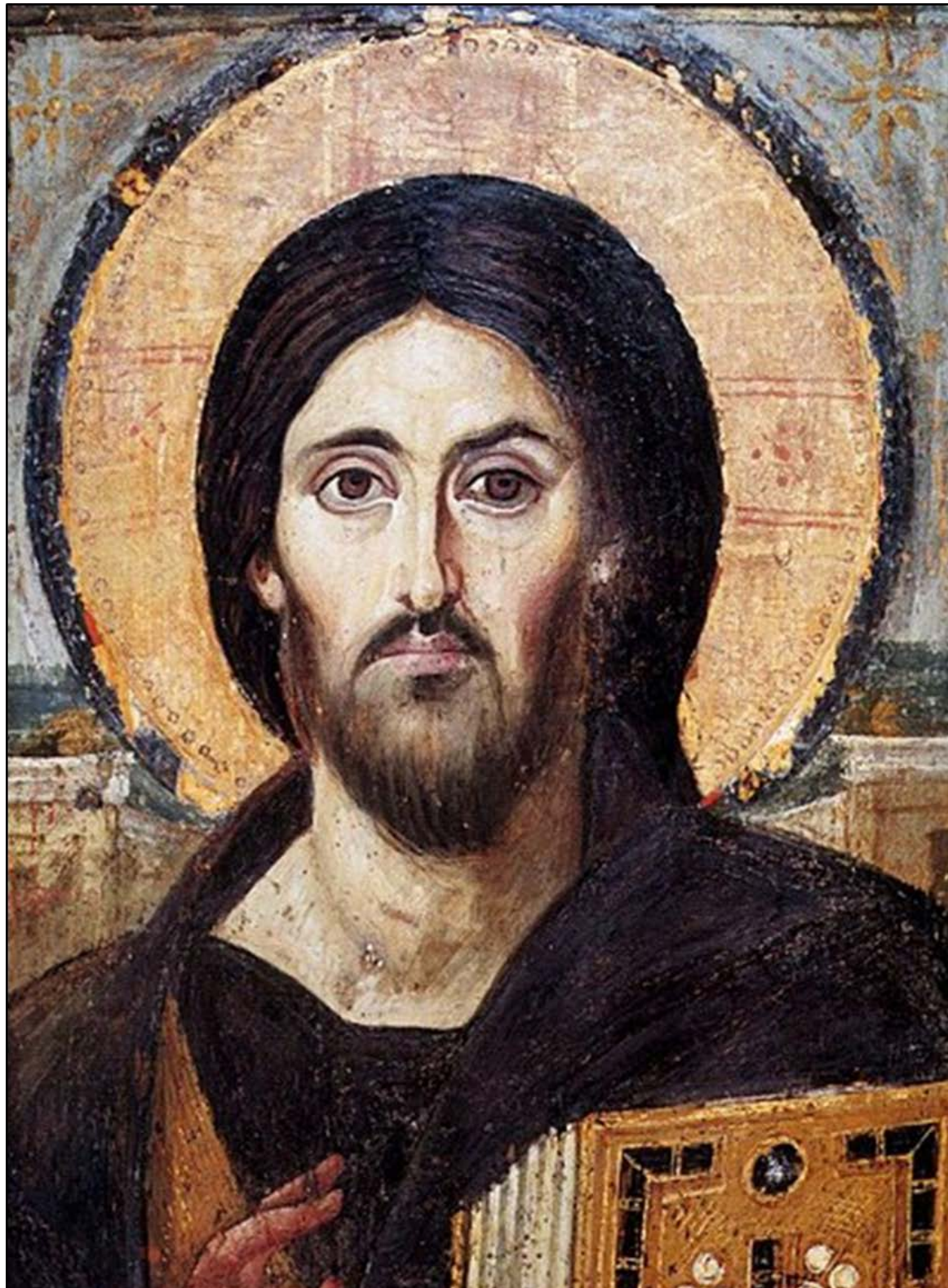


## The Episcopal Church:

Present in more than 15 member states within the UN system and one of 40 provinces in the worldwide Anglican Communion.







## Episcopalians care about climate change because they care about creation

The Gospel message of environmental justice is social justice

“For I was hungry and you gave me food,  
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,  
I was a stranger and you welcomed me,  
I was naked and you clothed me.”  
(Matthew 25:35)

- Of 66 million global refugees, 40 million are climate refugees
- For every 1 degree increase in global average temperature, a 10% reduction in world's grain crops
- Climate-related disasters push 26 million into poverty every year (*World Bank*)





## Presiding Bishop Michael Curry calling people of faith to act

“The work of saving this creation, on one level, it is saving our own lives, and on another level, it is saving the world that God as made and God has created, and we dare not deface what God has made.”

- Presiding Bishop Michael Curry  
at 79<sup>th</sup> General Convention of  
The Episcopal Church





# Episcopal Church environmental policy and advocacy includes

Reducing carbon emissions –  
Paris Accord aspirational goal of 1.5° C

Support for the Sustainable  
Development Goals

Promote renewable energy technologies

Financially support developing nations as  
they transition away from fossil fuels

Standing with communities at risk





## Standing with Communities At Risk

Presiding Bishop Curry and clergy  
at the Dakota Access Pipeline  
Protest at Standing Rock  
Reservation, North and South  
Dakota, U.S.A.





## 79<sup>th</sup> General Convention of The Episcopal Church

A governing convention in July 2018 passed 19 policy and funding resolutions to support advocacy, education and action for climate change and creation care



## Episcopal Church Creation Care Resolutions

### A018: Episcopalians Participating in Paris Agreement

Commits the Church to continued involvement in the annual UN Climate Change Conferences and encourages Episcopalians to follow the Paris Agreement by living lightly on the earth.



# Episcopal Church Creation Care Resolutions

## A010: The Planting of 'Paris Groves'

Planting trees at Episcopal camps and conference centers to honor the Paris Agreement.



## Episcopal Church Creation Care Resolutions

### A020: Fossil Fuel Divestment

Calls on major church bodies to report on their progress divesting from fossil fuels, and urges the Church Pension Fund to consider the financial impact of climate change beyond divestment's impact on profit.



## Episcopal Church Creation Care Resolutions

### D068: Criteria and Procedures for Deciding to Engage with or Establish a No-Buy List of Companies

Calls for criteria promoting human rights and care of creation to assess church investment in companies that are inconsistent with the Church's mission and ethical teaching and a potential No-Buy list for divestment.

## Episcopal Church Creation Care Resolutions

**C021: Climate Change and Additional Support for Episcopal Church's Executive Council Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility**

**Asks the Episcopal Church's Executive Council and Church Pension Fund to identify 10 companies in which the Church owns stock, and encourage the companies to include an expert on sustainability on their boards.**



# Episcopal Church Creation Care Resolutions

## A014: The Use of Carbon Offsets

Recognizes the reality of human-caused climate change, and directs Episcopal Church staff to offset the carbon footprint of staff travel.

## Episcopal Church Creation Care Resolutions

### C020: Carbon Tax

Suggests public policy to stop further climate change like Carbon Fee and Dividend. Also prioritizes the protection of the poor from the costs of implementing such policies.



# Episcopal Church Creation Care Resolutions

## C008: Advocacy for Creation Care

Helps Episcopalians live their faith through reduction of their carbon footprint by making the Episcopal Diocese of California's forthcoming carbon-tracking app available to all Episcopalians.

SUSTAINING EARTH, OUR ISLAND HOME

A Call to Action for All Episcopalians



# Episcopal Church Creation Care Resolutions

## D053: Stewardship of Creation with Church-Owned Land

Encourages dioceses and congregations to use undeveloped church-owned land for “agriculture and biodiversity conservation projects...to mitigate climate change” via natural carbon sequestration.



## Episcopal Church Creation Care Resolutions

### D081: Helping Communities Affected by Change in Energy Use

Recognizes that a transition away from fossil fuels will be difficult for communities dependent on them, so the Church staff need to develop resources and policy initiatives to support these communities.

# Episcopal Church Creation Care Resolutions

## D007: Disaster Resilience Policy

Commends Episcopal Relief & Development, and urges US government to support long-term recovery from natural disasters exacerbated by climate change and to invest in resilience planning.



# Episcopal Church Creation Care Resolutions

## B025: Water as a Human Right

Recognizes that water and sanitation are human rights, urges all church facilities to phase out and ban bottled water, and advocates for publicly operated water infrastructure.

## Episcopal Church Creation Care Resolutions

### C063: Advocate for Ocean Health

Advocates for public policies that support and advance “Ocean Health Work;” calls on Episcopalians to pray for ocean health and support those already impacted by climate change and sea-level rise.



## Episcopal Church Creation Care Resolutions

### C049: Support producers of Locally Grown Food

Urges Episcopal Church Center staff to “include programs and grants that will encourage Episcopal institutions and individual Episcopalians to serve and promote locally grown food.”



# Episcopal Church Creation Care Resolutions

## A011: Oppose Environmental Racism

Affirms that no community, particularly marginalized ethnic groups or the poor, should suffer from disproportionate environmental pollution.





# Episcopal Church Creation Care Resolutions Bishops Stand in Solidarity with the Gwich'in People

“With open and broken hearts, [we acknowledge] the struggle and plight of the Gwich'in people,” and reaffirm our opposition to drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.





## Episcopal Church Creation Care Resolutions

### C064: Support of the Leech Lake band of Ojibwe in Opposing Enbridge Line #3

Supports Leech Lake band of Ojibwe chairman in opposing the construction of a new oil pipeline, and directs church staff to study past engagements of solidarity with indigenous nations.



## Episcopal Church Creation Care Resolutions

### B027: Gender Inclusivity in Climate Change Action

**Calls on The Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations and Episcopal Relief & Development to advocate for gender-inclusive climate policies and urges dioceses and parishes to financially support the UN Sustainable Development Goals.**



# Episcopal Church Creation Care Resolutions

## A013: Facilitating the Development of the Church's Ministry of Care of Creation

Supports the establishment of an additional staff position for the Care of Creation at the Episcopal Church Center, continues local grants programs, and urges environmental education in seminaries.



## COP24 Conversations and Meditation:

Join The Episcopal Church and other faith-based partners for daily interfaith conversation and meditation in the COP24 meditation space.

# A Prayer for Our Time and for the Earth

Dear God, Creator of the earth, this sacred home we share;  
Give us new eyes to see the beauty all around and to protect the wonders of creation.  
Give us new arms to embrace the strangers among us and to know them as family.  
Give us new ears to hear and understand those who live off the land  
and to hear and understand those who extract its resources.  
Give us new hearts to recognize the brokenness in our communities  
and to heal the wounds we have inflicted.  
Give us new hands to serve the earth and its people  
and to shape beloved community.  
For you are the One who seeks the lost,  
binds our wounds and sets us free,  
and it is in the name of Jesus the Christ we pray.

Amen.

From the 2017 Episcopal House of Bishops' *Word to the Church on Ecojustice*