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## 2017 RESOLUTION #1 EXPANDING OUR MINISTRIES IN CREATION CARE

### History

At the 2017 Annual Conference, the following motion was made and passed by the Annual Conference on Resolution 1 – ***Expanding our Ministries in Creation Care:***

**MOTION TO REFER** – Dave Byrum moved, on behalf of the appointive Cabinet, that the resolution be referred to the Annual Conference Mission and Justice Team, to collaborate with the Task Force and the Alliance for perfection of the resolution for mid-year consideration by the Conference Coordinating Council, and implementation of the final product of their work together. **SECONDED**

**AMENDMENT TO MOTION** – Russ Abel moved an amendment to the Byrum motion that the final resolution be brought back to the 2018 Annual Conference Session for approval.

**MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED TO REFER RESOLUTION #1** to the Missions and Justice Ministry team to work with the Conference Creation Task Force and Creation Care Alliance. They are to bring a final resolution to the Conference Coordinating Council and then submit it to the 2018 Annual Conference Session for action.

The Mission and Justice Ministry staff has worked very closely with the Creation Care Alliance over the past several months. The Conference Coordinating Council, at their April 7, 2018 meeting, accepted the revised resolution. The Creation Care Alliance submits the revised resolution for your consideration (per the motion) and for the 2018 Annual Conference Session for approval.

Tom Heaton, Associate Director of Mission and Justice  
Elaine Amerson, Convener Creation Care Alliance

## Revised Resolution: Expanding Our Ministries in Creation Care

Sponsoring Group: Conference Creation Task Force and Creation Care Alliance  
Contact Persons: Jimmy Moore ([jimmymoore@smumc.church](mailto:jimmymoore@smumc.church)), Brian White  
([brian.white@inumc.org](mailto:brian.white@inumc.org))

*[This legislation follows upon the action of the 2017 Indiana Annual Conference to increase awareness and constructive actions toward environmental holiness and ecological sustainability.]*

### A CALL TO ENVIRONMENTAL HOLINESS

Whereas: The *United Methodist Book of Discipline* makes clear our commitment to care for our environment in *Our Social Principles* (see opening paragraph below); and,

Whereas: The United Methodist Council of Bishops in their pastoral letter “*God’s Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action*” in 2009 beseeched every United Methodist, every congregation and every public leader to participate in God’s *renewing work* and pledged to lead in toward environmental holiness with specific actions in each annual conference (see the nine pledges below); and,

Whereas: There is clear and growing evidence that by reducing the carbon footprint and utility costs for an annual conference and congregation, these monetary and human resources are released to be directed for mission efforts in our four focus areas; and,

Whereas: The continuing degradation of our natural world, which disproportionately affects the poor, both in our own state and worldwide, and diminishes prospects for improving health globally, calls upon us as people of faith to make our witness clear through our words and actions;

#### **Be It Therefore Resolved:**

- The people of the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church will make a renewed effort to bear witness in their congregations, homes, their communities, their workplaces and schools, advocating in these places for policy and practical actions in accordance with the Council of Bishops 2009 Pastoral Letter.
- We encourage congregations to establish “creation care teams” to evaluate and encourage greater ecological sustainability in each of our settings; and,
- We ask the Indiana Annual Conference to annually celebrate the actions of a congregations and individuals who demonstrate significant initiatives and commitment to caring for God’s creation.

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4 **Social Principles: The Natural World**

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6 *All creation is the Lord's, and we are responsible for the ways in which we*  
7 *use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal*  
8 *life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God's*  
9 *creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings. God has*  
10 *granted us stewardship of creation. We should meet these stewardship*  
11 *duties through acts of loving care and respect. Economic, political, social,*  
12 *and technological developments have increased our human numbers, and*  
13 *lengthened and enriched our lives. However, these developments have led*  
14 *to regional defoliation, dramatic extinction of species, massive human*  
15 *suffering, overpopulation, and misuse and overconsumption of natural and*  
16 *nonrenewable resources, particularly by industrialized societies. This*  
17 *continued course of action jeopardizes the natural heritage that God has*  
18 *entrusted to all generations. Therefore, let us recognize the responsibility of*  
19 *the church and its members to place a high priority on changes in*  
20 *economic, political, social, and technological lifestyles to support a more*  
21 *ecologically equitable and sustainable world leading to a higher quality of*  
22 *life for all of God's creation.*

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24 From the pastoral letter entitled **God's Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action**,  
25 the Council of Bishops made the following pledges: "With God's help and with you  
26 as our witnesses—

- 27 1. *We as your bishops pledge to answer God's call to deepen our spiritual*  
28 *consciousness as just stewards of creation.*  
29 2. *We pledge to make God's vision of renewal our goal.*  
30 3. *We pledge to practice dialogue with those whose life experience differs*  
31 *dramatically from our own, and we pledge to practice prayerful self-*  
32 *examination.*  
33 4. *We pledge ourselves to make common cause with religious leaders and*  
34 *people of goodwill worldwide who share these concerns.*  
35 5. *We pledge to advocate for justice and peace in the halls of power in our*  
36 *respective nations and international organizations.*  
37 6. *We pledge to measure the "carbon footprint" of our episcopal and*  
38 *denominational offices, determine how to reduce it, and implement those*  
39 *changes. We will urge our congregations, schools, and settings of ministry*  
40 *to do the same.*  
41 7. *We pledge to provide, to the best of our ability, the resources needed by*  
42 *our conferences to reduce dramatically our collective exploitation of the*  
43 *planet, peoples, and communities, including technical assistance with*

1 *buildings and programs, education and training, and young people's and*  
2 *online networking resources.*

3 8. *We pledge to practice hope as we engage and continue supporting the*  
4 *many transforming ministries of our denomination.*

5 9. *We pledge more effective use of the church and community Web pages to*  
6 *inspire and to share what we learn.*

7 *From God's Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action, 2009.*