

167-B Support of resolutions from the Diocese of Swaziland

1 The Synod of Diocese of Swaziland 2019, sponsored by Bishop Ellinah Wamukoya, passed the
2 following resolution which challenged the Diocese of Iowa and the Diocese of Brechin to adopt
3 the same resolution.

4 Be it resolved that the Diocese of Iowa accept this challenge by adopting the same resolution:

5 **1. SEASON OF CREATION**

6 **This Convention noting that:**

7 Care for creation is our mandate as the Church and noting that the Anglican Fifth Mark of
8 Mission calls for the care for creation:

9 **Resolves that:**

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- All congregations of the Diocese of Iowa observe the Season of Creation, to raise awareness, pray and take action towards Creation care
- The Season of Creation readings as may be provided are considered in this season.
- All congregations appoint an Environmental coordinator to facilitate environmental education and ensure that materials through the Creation Care movement are disseminated at their congregations and ensure environment ministry is rolled out in their congregations
- Promote the occasional holding of services outdoor, in natural settings in order to connect people to nature

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23 **This Convention noting that:**

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25 It is becoming increasingly clear that plastic is proving to be extremely damaging to the
26 health and well-being of people and the planet;

27 And that the quantity of plastic is polluting water, air and land and threatening the

28 survival of millions of species;

29 And that this applies in particular to micro plastics which can enter the respiratory
30 system and the blood stream;

31 Noting that: Kenya, Rwanda and other African countries have banned plastic bags

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33 **This Diocesan Convention respectfully requests;**

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- 35 • The Bishop to communicate to the Chairperson of Councils of
36 Churches or Interfaith groups that member congregations start
37 having Dialogue on use of plastics in the country and find solutions
38 and recommendations to make to policy makers.

39 We further request that the Bishop and all Clergy and lay leaders to encourage

40 all parishioners to:

- 41 1. Put pressure on local shops to stop using non-biodegradable plastic bags.
- 42 2. Combat plastic pollution by joining with local communities/churches in
43 clean-up campaigns in rivers, townships and market places or other
44 polluted communities.
- 45 3. Support the Bring Your Own Bag (BYOB) Campaign and pledge to stop using
46 single- use plastic bags and encourage parish sewing groups to make materials
47 bags and both income generating project and environmental project.

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3. CLIMATE CHANGE

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51 **This Convention, recognizing:**

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53 How climate change has affected the Agriculture sector and food security, Water sector,
54 Health Sector, Biodiversity and ecosystems in the country:

55 And also recognizing that of all the most affected sectors by climate change; most of the
56 rural poor depend for their livelihood and women and girls are the most affected;

57 **Respectfully requests;**

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- 59 • The Bishop to communicate to the Chairperson of Council of Churches or
60 Interfaith groups that member congregations start having a Dialogue on climate
61 change issues to find the role that the church can play in the country on climate
62 justice advocacy and finding adaptation and mitigation measures that can be
63 applicable within the church as means of taking action
- 64 • That these groups start looking for funding to run Climate Actions

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66 **We further resolve that:**

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- 68 1. Congregations Embark on Rainwater harvesting in Churches and Rectories and their
69 individual households
- 70 2. Planting vegetable gardens for income generation and food security
- 71 3. Teach Parishioners about Climate Smart Agriculture
- 72 4. Use of Energy serving light bulbs and appliances and invest in solar geezers in
73 rectories.
- 74 5. Invest in renewable energy projects where possible and applicable
- 75 6. Encourage planting of trees as Carbon sinks in special occasion such as Baptism,
76 Confirmation, wedding anniversaries and birthdays and/or funerals.

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78 AND be it further resolved that, the resolutions be adapted for their contexts.