

Christian Vegetarian Association UK

Working towards a violence-free world

Anglican Declaration Lambeth 98 Resolutions Section 1 Resolution 1.8 Creation & 1.9 Ecology

Resolution 1.8 Creation

(a) reaffirms the biblical vision of creation according to which:

Creation is a web of inter dependent relationships bound together in the covenant which God the Holy Trinity has established with the whole earth and every living being.

- (i) the divine Spirit is sacramentally present in creation, which is therefore to be treated with reverence, respect and gratitude;
- (ii) human beings are both co-partners with the rest of creation and living bridges between heaven and earth, with responsibility to make personal & corporate sacrifices for the common good of all creation;
- (iii) the redemptive purpose of God in Jesus Christ extends to the whole of creation.

(b) recognises:

(i) that unless human beings take responsibility for caring for the earth, the consequences will be catastrophic because of:

Overpopulation, unsustainable levels of consumption by the rich, poor quality and shortage of water, air pollution, eroded and impoverished soil, forest destruction, plant and animal extinction;

(ii) that the loss of natural habitats is a direct cause of genocide amongst millions of indigenous peoples and is causing the extinction of thousands of plant and animal species. Unbridled capitalism, selfishness and greed cannot continue to be allowed to pollute, exploit and destroy what remains of the earth's indigenous habitats;

(iii) that the future of human beings and all life on earth hangs in balance as a consequence of the present unjust economic structures, the injustice existing between the rich and the poor, the continued exploitation of the natural environment and the threat of nuclear self destruction;

(iv) that the servanthood to God's creation is becoming the most important responsibility facing mankind, and that we should work together with all people of all faiths in the implementation of our responsibilities;

(v) that we as Christians have a God given mandate to care for, look after and protect God's creation.

(c) prays in the spirit of Jesus Christ;

(i) for widespread conversion and spiritual renewal in order that human beings will be restored to a relationship of harmony with the rest of Creation, and that this relationship may be informed by the principles of justice and the integrity of every living being, so that self-centred greed is overcome; and

(ii) for the recovery of the sabbath principle, as part of the redemption of time and the restoration of the divinely intended rhythms of life.

Resolution 1.9 Ecology

This conference:

(a) calls upon all ecumenical partners and other faith communities, governments and transnational companies:

(i) to work for sustainable society in a sustainable world;

(ii) to recognise the dignity and rights of all people and the sanctity of all life, especially the rights of future generations;

(iii) to ensure the responsible use and recycling of natural resources;

(iv) to bring about economic reforms which will establish a just and fair trading system both for people and for the environment.

(b) calls upon the United Nations to incorporate the right of future generations to a sustainable future in the universal declaration of Human Rights.

(c) asks the joint standing committee of the ACC and the Primates to consider the appointment of a co-ordinator of an international ecological network within the Anglican communion who would;

(i) work in co-operation with other ecumenical and interfaith agencies;

(ii) be funded through and responsible to the Anglican Consultative Council;

(iii) support those engaged in grass-roots environmental initiatives;

(iv) gather and disseminate data and information on environmental issues, so that the church can play an informed role in lobbying for ecological justice in both the public and private sectors; and

(v) contribute to the development of environmental education programmes for use in the training of Christian leaders.

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