

Title Paris Grove-A Creation Care Ministry

Proposer The Vestry of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Kansas City

1. *Resolved*, That the Diocesan Convention of 2023 encourages all
2. congregations to plant numerous trees, shrubs, and grasses in their
3. community's cooperation with parks, departments, community gardens,
4. schools, or other civic authorities to counter climate change. The plant type should be
5. in accordance with the parks, departments, community gardens, schools, or other
6. civic authorities' recommended species as recommended to be native to Missouri by
7. Missouri's department of natural resources with focus on Missouri's non-invasive
8. trees, and be it further
- 9.
10. *Resolved*, That the goal of at least five hundred trees, shrubs, or grasses be
11. planted within the boundaries of The Diocese of West Missouri before
12. the 2024 Diocesan Convention and be titled "Paris Groves-A Creation
13. Care Ministry." The Diocese of West Missouri strongly recommends the
14. planting of trees rather than shrubs and grasses as a legacy, and be it further
- 15.
16. *Resolved*, that the giving congregation record, report and verify the annual plantings
17. by their community's parks, departments, community gardens, schools, or other civic
18. authorities. The report shall be forwarded to the Vestry of the Church of the Good
19. Shepherd.

Explanation

This resolution is an expansion of 2018 General Convention Resolution 2018-A010: The Planting of "Paris Groves."

Trees provide beauty and biodiversity to the earth, shade for humans, homes for animals and birds, increase property value up to 20%, reduce crime rates, reduce storm-water runoff, filter air pollutants, and reduce pulmonary health cases such as asthma.

Swiss scientists say the most effective way to counter global warming is to plant lots of trees. A trillion of them around the world. Those same scientists say even with existing cities and farmland, there is enough space for new trees to cover 3.5 million square miles. That is roughly the size of the United States. Their study calculated that over the decades, those new trees and shrubs could suck up nearly 830 billion tons of heat-trapping carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. That is approximately as much carbon pollution as humans have spewed in the past 25 years. Thomas Crowther, a climate change ecologist with the Swiss Federal Institute of

Technology in Zurich, says, “This is by far-by thousands- the cheapest climate change solution.”
¹Thomas Lovejoy, a George Mason University conservation biologist who was not part of the Swiss study, called it “a good news story” because planting trees would also help stem the loss of biodiversity ²

Jack Cobb, Director of the Office of Global Relations, works together with The Episcopal Church’s Representatives at the United Nations, where they advocate on the international level at the UN to address climate change. They participate in the United National Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the Conference of Parties (CoP), an annual intergovernmental meeting focused on global dialogue and action on climate issues. The Office of Governmental Relations supports Resolution A010.

The proposers believe that communities and civic groups would appreciate the donation and planting of trees, shrubs, and grasses in parks and other public spaces. The proposers are confident that each congregation has the expertise and community connections to carry out planting of “Paris Groves-A Creation Care Ministry.”

The proposers can provide an information listing several organizations with contact information, along with estimated cost for the Kansas City region.

Additional Links and Readings:

<https://www.gardenersworld.com/how-to/grow-plants/key-plants-for-a-climate-change-garden/>

<https://www.gladstone.mo.us/Recreation/treebench.php>

¹ *Kansas City Star*, July 5, 2019

² *Kansas City Star*, July 5, 2019