

Episcopal Advocacy Guide to the Dakota Access Pipeline

Prayer for the Conservation of Natural Resources

Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us fellow workers in your creation: Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature, that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Issue Summary: The Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) is a planned 1,172-mile oil pipeline, with an expected capacity of 500,000 barrels of oil per day. The pipeline would originate in the Bakken oil fields in North Dakota and terminate in Pukota, Illinois. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approved the construction of the pipeline under the Missouri River just one mile north of the Standing Rock Indian Reservation, home to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. The proximity of this pipeline to the Missouri River could threaten the Sioux people's access to clean water, and in April 2016, the Standing Rock Sioux initiated a protest effort to protect this international human right. Tribal leaders also argue that the pipeline infringes upon their sacred burial grounds, and in July, the Reservation sued the Army Corps of Engineers over their failure to conduct meaningful consultation and to adhere to environmental and historical protection regulations. The Sioux also requested an injunction to cease all construction efforts until the case was decided. While a judge denied the injunction request on September 9th, 2016, on this same day, the Army Corps of Engineers halted the pipeline's construction near key tribal lands until fully reconsidering whether to revisit the pipeline's environmental impact.

Why should Episcopalians care? [Presiding Bishop Michael Curry urges Episcopalians to stand with the protestors](#) by calling us to "join the people of Standing Rock, [recognizing] that their stand is one that joins the fight for racial justice and reconciliation with climate justice and caring for God's creation as a matter of stewardship." Episcopalians also commit to strive for peace, and the violent response from private security forces using pepper spray and dogs to quell peaceful protests merits our full attention.

What can you do? There are many ways that you can support the Standing Rock Tribe, including:

- **Contacting your congressional representatives** in [the U.S. House of Representatives](#) and [the U.S. Senate](#) and ask them to request that the Army Corps of Engineers conduct a more complete environmental assessment of the pipeline project that **1)** includes the impact on the tribal reservation, and **2)** honors obligations expressed in the treaty with the Standing Rock Tribe. OR, [Contact the Army Corps of Engineers directly.](#)
- [Contacting the U.S. Department of Justice](#) to ask them to continue monitoring the methods used by police and security during the standoff in order to protect the peaceful protestors from potential violence and harassment
- [Donating funds to the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota](#) whose clergy and congregations are providing pastoral care and support directly to the protestors. Donations can be made via the "donate" button on their web page or mailed to the diocese at 3600 25th St. South, Fargo, ND 58104, and make sure to reference "Standing Rock" or "NODAPL" in the donation.
- [Contacting the corporation](#) that is developing the pipeline and ask them to consider an alternative route and to respectfully engage the peaceful protestors.