TEXT OF THE MOTION

WHEREAS mountaintop removal coal mining destroys God’s creation by blowing up mountains and burying streams throughout Appalachia; and

WHEREAS mountaintop removal coal mining harms Appalachian communities; and

WHEREAS mountaintop removal coal mining causes the displacement of entire Appalachian communities and their culture; and

WHEREAS as people of faith, we look to the scriptures for guidance for the choices we make in our lives; and

WHEREAS we understand scriptures compel us to act on our faith grounded in wonder, reverence, love, and respect for all of God’s creation; and

WHEREAS we are called to spiritual and lifestyle transformation based on justice and reverence for all of God's creatures and creation…

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ express its opposition to mountaintop removal coal mining and its support for clean, renewable sources of energy;

Be it further resolved, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests Justice and Witness Ministries to share these concerns about mountaintop removal coal mining by presenting a copy of this resolution to all appropriate federal and state agencies, congressional committees and elected officials;

Be it further resolved, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges the legislative and executive branches of the federal government to pass legislation and enforce environmental safeguards to end the devastating practice of mountaintop removal coal mining;

Be it further resolved, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon Justice and Witness Ministries, to provide associations, conferences, and congregations with information and timely direction for needed action that can help end mountaintop removal coal mining;

Be it further resolved, the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages United Church of Christ congregations and all other settings of the church to identify their sources of electricity and, if sourced from mountaintop removal coal mining, encourages them to change to renewable sources of energy;
Be it further resolved, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages United Church of Christ congregations to educate themselves and their communities about the effects of mountaintop removal coal mining and economic options available to Appalachian communities, by intentionally engaging in advocacy and action against mountaintop removal coal mining and for continued care of creation;

Be it further resolved, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ advocates for renewable energy and sustainable sources of income to replace mountaintop removal coal mining in Appalachia in order to create jobs and boost local economies and encourages United Church of Christ congregations to do likewise.

Be it further resolved, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ asks the leadership of the United Church of Christ to continue efforts to end mountaintop removal coal mining and engage leaders of other religious traditions and relevant organizations to implement efforts to stop mountaintop removal coal mining.

**FUNDING**

Funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

**RESOURCES:**

Christians for the Mountains: [www.christiansforthemountains.org](http://www.christiansforthemountains.org)

Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign: [www.beyondcoal.org](http://www.beyondcoal.org)

Appalachian Voices: [www.appvoices.org](http://www.appvoices.org)

I Love Mountains: [www.ilovemountains.org](http://www.ilovemountains.org)

Appalachian Mountain Advocates: [www.appalmad.org](http://www.appalmad.org)

“The Last Mountain” documentary: [www.thelastmountainmovie.com](http://www.thelastmountainmovie.com)

“Deep Down” documentary: [www.deepdownfilm.org](http://www.deepdownfilm.org)

“Coal Country” documentary: [www.coalcountrythemovie.com](http://www.coalcountrythemovie.com)