

Putting our money where our values are: Evaluating church financial relationships.

The initial work to implement this resolution <http://www.ucc.org/synod/resolutions/gs28/Resolution-on-Banking-Practices.pdf> has been completed with the creation of a webpage with information and resources, a Webinar to publicize the resolution and webpage, and ongoing publicity efforts.



With great help from Robert Ziegler, member of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ in Frederick, Maryland – the congregation that brought this resolution to their conference and General Synod – JWM created materials for the web.

Posted on the new web page <http://www.ucc.org/justice/banks/> are numerous resources for evaluating a congregation's financial institutions and, if needed, finding new ones. These include:

- Background information about the resolution
- The reasons a congregation might engage in this process of evaluating their financial relationships including biblical teachings, concerns with justice and good stewardship
- A step-by-step guide to evaluating a congregation's bank and, maybe, finding a new one
- Resources for evaluating financial institutions and finding new ones including online resources from the Center for Responsible Lending and other sources.
- A story of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ, Frederick, MD.
- An invitation to share the congregation's experience, and
- Additional information and resources on banking abuses and how these can be addressed

To introduce the new webpage and encourage congregations and other settings of the UCC to evaluate their banking and investing relationships, United Church Funds and JWM co-hosted a webinar on October 27, 2011. The webinar featured four presenters and the PowerPoint slides from each are available on UCF's website. JWM has also promoted the resolution and webpage in the Justice and Peace Action Newsletter, the JWM Insider, and on the JWM webpage. UCF is using the values-based concept as an ongoing part of its marketing strategy in the coming years.

JWM is thankful for Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ in Frederick, Maryland, for bringing this resolution to General Synod and especially Robert Ziegler for his help with the web-based materials, Jason Judd for questioning his church's financial relationships and writing the original resolution, and senior pastor Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel who, with Judd, shepherded the resolution through the General Synod process.