

03-GS-16 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General

Synod adopts the Proposed Pronouncement “A Faithful Response Calling For A More Just, Humane Direction For Economic Globalization and Plan of Action” as amended.

## **A FAITHFUL RESPONSE CALLING FOR A MORE JUST, HUMANE DIRECTION FOR ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION AND PLAN OF ACTION**

### **CALL TO MEMBERS**

The Twenty-fourth General Synod, convinced that God calls us to faithfulness in our economic decisions and commitments, calls on the members of the United Church of Christ to the following actions:

1. To grow in spiritual maturity through consistent participation in public worship and the practice of spiritual disciplines such as prayer, Bible study, fasting and meditation.
2. To engage in intentional reflection on our individual and family economic life; to inquire honestly and humbly concerning the shaping of this life by our faith commitments.
3. To commit as a result of worship, spiritual guidance, and personal reflection to specific ways and concrete actions that will make our individual and family lifestyles consistent with our faith commitments and vision, including changes in our consumer practices.
4. To intentionally seek opportunities of public witness and of advocacy for economic justice and against those policies and actions that deny the economic well being of persons, communities, nations, and the global community.
5. To participate in the decision making of multinational corporations in which we may have economic investment through shareholder resolutions, letters, and attendance at shareholders' meetings.
6. To look for opportunities at local levels to participate in movements that encourage and enable persons and communities to control their own economic well being in just and sustainable ways.

### **CALL TO LOCAL CHURCHES**

The Twenty-fourth General Synod calls local churches and their members to be active, knowledgeable, and critical participants in the global economy. Through education, stewardship, confrontation with the principalities and powers, and social action local churches are called:

1. To confess faithfulness above all to and worship exclusively for God the Creator of all life and live as a trusting, radically obedient, loving community of disciples strengthened and led by the Spirit, even as this applies to corporate economic life and commitments.
2. To examine their own stewardship commitments especially their investments,

so that they will be responsible, just participants in the global economy.

3. To move toward a goal of socially responsible investing and to educate and encourage members to do the same.
4. To engage in a process of action and reflection on specific issues in economic globalization.
5. To consider, in cooperation with Wider Church Ministries, partnership with a church in a developing country to understand its context and the ways in which it has been impacted by economic globalization and to participate in the partnership in concrete, helpful ways.
6. To look for creative ways in which the congregation's lifestyle can pro-actively support workers rights, environmental well being, and other just positions in areas of life impacted by economic globalization (for example, by using fair-traded coffee).
7. To engage in advocacy on legislation and inter national agreements that affect the way the global economy operates, such as the Free Trade Area of the Americas.

#### **CALL TO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST COVENANTED MINISTRIES, CONFERENCES, ASSOCIATIONS, AND SEMINARIES**

The Twenty-fourth General Synod calls the Covenanted Ministries, the Affiliated and Associated Ministries of the United Church of Christ, Conferences, Associations, and closely related seminaries of the United Church of Christ to fully engage the global economy and to actively ensure the development of just and sustainable communities in the global economy. To that end, the Twenty-fourth General Synod calls on these institutions:

1. To continue to provide educational resources and advocacy opportunities and to be a prophetic voice for local churches and members on issues of economic globalization.
2. To urge all settings of the church in their roles as consumers to give priority in decision-making choices to justice concerns, for example, in not purchasing clothes and other consumer goods produced by sweatshop labor.
3. To provide resources on investments in corporations that reflect values resonant with those of the United Church of Christ. Such values can be found in past General Synod actions such as "Direct Investment in Weapons Producers" and "Investment and Corporate Responsibility with Regard to South Africa" (Fourteenth General Synod) and "A Call for Socially Responsible Investment" (Seventeenth General Synod).
4. To work in the spirit of Jesus to reform the principal international trade and finance institutions and governing bodies so that the needs and concerns of all persons, especially the poor and the marginalized, may be addressed in effective ways through their policies and actions.
5. To work for and provide opportunities for individuals and local churches to work for debt relief for developing countries.

6. To continue to develop both national and international partnerships with grassroots organizations, interfaith groups, and partner churches working for economic justice in developing countries.
7. To work actively with the World Council of Churches, especially as it participates in the United Nations, on issues of economic globalization.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION**

The Twenty-fourth General Synod requests that Wider Church Ministries and Justice and Witness Ministries convene a coordinating committee to develop a plan including a timetable for implementation and make reports to the Twenty-fifth and subsequent General Synods.