

1 The Business Committee of the Thirty-first General Synod has recommended this proposed
2 resolution be sent to a Committee of the General Synod.
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4 **Resolution Declaring the Work of the Pattern of Giving in the United Church of Christ**
5 **Complete**

6 **A Prudential Resolution**

7 **Submitted by the Nebraska Conference and the Iowa Conference**
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9 **SUMMARY**

10 The money we give to support the work of the United Church of Christ in all settings is an
11 essential expression of our covenanted lives. With our money, we bear witness to the gospel.

12 This resolution celebrates what has been. We raise thanks for the faithful work of those who
13 gave shape to our best aspirations for giving money to fuel vibrant ministries in the United
14 Church of Christ. We give thanks for the Pattern of Giving documents published by the United
15 Church of Christ in 1971, later revised and published in 1984, reflecting the work of the General
16 Synod.

17 This resolution embraces what is now. Our holy call to give is eternal. Our ways of giving
18 change. Our best aspirations for using money to fuel vibrant ministries in the United Church of
19 Christ must be nimble and evolving. We must use all that we can know to craft forms for giving
20 that fit the possibilities and challenges of each new season.

21 Therefore, we ask the General Synod to celebrate the existing resolutions, publications, and
22 structures that have guided giving in the United Church of Christ. And, we ask the General
23 Synod to declare, with thanksgiving, that all those resolutions, publications, and structures have
24 fulfilled their purpose. And, we ask the General Synod to charge the United Church of Christ
25 Board of Directors to nimbly and faithfully oversee the holy work of giving in all settings of the
26 United Church of Christ.
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28 **BIBLICAL, THEOLOGICAL AND ETHICAL RATIONALE**

29 We draw understandings of sacred gifts from our sacred texts. Genesis 14:20 introduces the
30 tenth or tithe as an act of thanksgiving to one representing God. Our scriptures spread a rich
31 mosaic of images and expressions of giving. Who cannot feel God's scorching derision in Psalm
32 50, where God demands gifts that reach beyond the day's medium of exchange? "I will not
33 accept a bull from your house or goats from your folds." (Psalm 50:9)

34 The bible offers us more than percentages. We cherish God's word, given through the prophet
35 Micah, requiring these gifts: do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God. (Micah
36 6:8)

37 Jesus challenged his hearers, then and now, with the possibility of percentages larger than ten.
38 “Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, ‘You lack one thing: go, sell what you own, and give
39 the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.’” (Mark
40 10:21) “For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has
41 put in everything she had, all she had to live on.” (Mark 12:44)

42 Scripture is always read through the lens of culture. In each generation and moment, we listen,
43 learn, discern, and choose. Each generation and moment offers opportunities for fresh
44 understanding and expression of our holy call to be givers.

45

46 **TEXT OF THE MOTION**

47 Whereas the Eighth General Synod affirmed giving practices that were shared with the church in
48 1971 in the publication of the Pattern of Giving in the United Church of Christ, and

49 Whereas the Fourteenth General Synod adopted changes in the earlier work of General Synods,
50 published in the new Pattern of Giving, United Church of Christ 1984 Edition, and

51 Whereas understandings and patterns of giving have continued to evolve;

52 Therefore, be it resolved that the Thirty First General Synod of the United Church of Christ gives
53 thanks to past General Synods for their work that resulted in the publication of the editions of the
54 Pattern of Giving, United Church of Christ, celebrates the effective witness and guidance
55 contained in these documents, and declares that work complete, and

56 Be it further resolved that Thirty First General Synod of the United Church of Christ directs the
57 United Church of Christ Board to assume ongoing responsibility for oversight and development
58 of resources to inspire and nourish generosity which fuels the life and ministry of the many
59 settings of the United Church of Christ, sensitive to the needs of all settings of the church, and
60 responsive to changing patterns and practices of generosity across the church and within the
61 culture in which the church lives.

62

63 **FUNDING**

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

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67 **IMPLEMENTATION**

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