

49 05-GS-36 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the resolution “To Advance the Cause of the Most
50 Disadvantaged in the Budgetary and Appropriations Process.”

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52 **TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF THE MOST DISADVANTAGED IN THE BUDGETARY AND**
53 **APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS**
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1 WHEREAS, “Poverty is a religious issue that rings from cover to cover in the Bible” (Jim Wallis, “*God’s*
2 *Politics*”); and

3 WHEREAS, the FY 2006 proposed Federal budget aimed to cut the deficit by half, proposing to achieve its budget
4 cutting goals by making deep cuts in programs that critically impact the health, education, and welfare of our most
5 vulnerable populations; and

6 WHEREAS, the FY 2006 Federal budget seeks to make permanent past tax cuts and to enact further tax cuts that are
7 rapidly increasing the gap between the rich and the poor; and

8 WHEREAS, when the Federal budget is cut in areas of health, education, and welfare, greater burdens to preserve
9 programs fall to the states, counties, cities, and towns, government entities whose taxes are regressive, falling most
10 heavily on those at the lower end of the income scale, unlike the more progressive federal income tax; and

11 WHEREAS, funding for health care, adequate food, housing, educational opportunity, child care, and all the other
12 programs that support life and the rise out of poverty are already inadequate to meet the need; and

13 WHEREAS, these deficiencies jeopardize our future as a nation and contradict our self-image as a wise, socially
14 compassionate, and fiscally responsible society.

15 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges its
16 General Minister and President and its Justice and Witness Ministries to:

- 17 • exert their full influence in the public forum to support the restoration of more progressive taxes and to
18 oppose cuts in programs that hurt the disadvantaged
- 19 • educate people within and without the United Church of Christ to understand that great social problems are
20 systemic problems that must be addressed by political decision makers, and solutions can best be
21 implemented through the agency of government
- 22 • lead, aid, coordinate, and be a voice for the work of our individual churches as they educate themselves,
23 and encourage, and work with their elected representatives to solve national, state, and local social
24 concerns.

25 The implementation of the Resolution will be made in accordance with the budgetary constraints and overall
26 mandates of the office of the Minister and President and of the Justice and Witness Ministries.