ON MAKING UCC CHURCH BUILDINGS MORE CARBON NEUTRAL
Approved As Submitted

A Resolution of Witness

TEXT OF THE MOTION

Whereas, the twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges all segments of
the Church to address global warming in their decisions and investments and in their educational
and advocacy efforts; and

Whereas, the twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on the Church to
address the severe nature of this global warming crisis as one of the most urgent threats to
humankind and, indeed, all of God’s precious planet earth; and

Whereas, General Synod is on record regarding the mediation of climate change and in 2009
reaffirmed that position; and

Whereas, the building sector consumes nearly half (48.7%) of all energy produced in the United
States and was responsible for nearly half of U.S. carbon emissions in 2009; and

Whereas, the U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted the “2030 Challenge for City Buildings” in
June 2006, a plan which, if supported at all levels of our nation, is designed to avert dangerous
climate change;

Therefore be it resolved, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ
acknowledge that our church buildings are significant contributors to climate change and to
encourage congregations to take steps towards carbon neutrality by adopting the following
church-based adaptations to the targets presented in Architecture 2030’s 2030 Challenge:

- All churches are encouraged to conduct an energy audit.
- Buildings undergoing new construction and/or major renovations strive to be carbon
  neutral (operate with a net-zero use of fossil fuel, greenhouse gas emitting energy) by
    - reducing electricity and natural gas usage
    - generating on-site renewable power, and/or
    - purchasing renewable energy (suggested 20% maximum of total energy
      usage, in alignment with the standards of the 2030 Challenge).

Existing church buildings not undergoing major renovation at this time be encouraged to take
steps to meet a fossil fuel, greenhouse gas emitting, energy consumption performance standard
of at least 60% below the regional average for houses of worship or that building type.

Be it further resolved, that local congregations be requested to encourage their members to meet
the above standards in their own homes;

Be it further resolved, that conferences and congregations be encouraged to continue this work
beyond the building sector by initiating or continuing the Earthwise Congregation commitment.
FUNDING

The 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.

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