

1                   **MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL COAL MINING IN APPALACHIA**  
2                                   **Approved As Amended**

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4                                   **A Resolution of Witness**

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6                   **TEXT OF THE MOTION**  
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8           WHEREAS mountaintop removal coal mining destroys God’s creation by blowing up mountains  
9           and burying streams throughout Appalachia; and

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11           WHEREAS mountaintop removal coal mining harms Appalachian communities; and

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13           WHEREAS mountaintop removal coal mining causes the displacement of entire Appalachian  
14           communities and their culture; and

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16           WHEREAS as people of faith, we look to the scriptures for guidance for the choices we make in  
17           our lives; and

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19           WHEREAS we understand scriptures compel us to act on our faith grounded in wonder,  
20           reverence, love, and respect for all of God's creation; and

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22           WHEREAS we are called to spiritual and lifestyle transformation based on justice and reverence  
23           for all of God's creatures and creation...

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25           **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church  
26           of Christ express its opposition to mountaintop removal coal mining and its support for clean,  
27           renewable sources of energy;

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29           Be it further resolved, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ  
30           requests Justice and Witness Ministries to share these concerns about mountaintop removal coal  
31           mining by presenting a copy of this resolution to all appropriate federal and state agencies,  
32           congressional committees and elected officials;

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34           Be it further resolved, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges  
35           the legislative and executive branches of the federal government to pass legislation and enforce  
36           environmental safeguards to end the devastating practice of mountaintop removal coal mining;

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38           Be it further resolved, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls  
39           upon Justice and Witness Ministries, to provide associations, conferences, and congregations  
40           with information and timely direction for needed action that can help end mountaintop removal  
41           coal mining;

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43           Be it further resolved, the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ  
44           encourages United Church of Christ congregations and all other settings of the church to  
45           identify their sources of electricity and, if sourced from mountaintop removal coal mining,  
46           encourages them to change to renewable sources of energy;

47 Be it further resolved, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ  
48 encourages United Church of Christ congregations to educate themselves and their communities  
49 about the effects of mountaintop removal coal mining and economic options available to  
50 Appalachian communities, by intentionally engaging in advocacy and action against  
51 mountaintop removal coal mining and for continued care of creation;

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53 Be it further resolved, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ  
54 advocates for renewable energy and sustainable sources of income to replace mountaintop  
55 removal coal mining in Appalachia in order to create jobs and boost local economies and  
56 encourages United Church of Christ congregations to do likewise.

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58 Be it further resolved, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ asks  
59 the leadership of the United Church of Christ to continue efforts to end mountaintop removal  
60 coal mining and engage leaders of other religious traditions and relevant organizations to  
61 implement efforts to stop mountaintop removal coal mining.

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### 63 **FUNDING**

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

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### 68 **IMPLEMENTATION**

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70 The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the  
71 United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body

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### 73 **RESOURCES:**

74 Christians for the Mountains: [www.christiansforthemountains.org](http://www.christiansforthemountains.org)

75 Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign: [www.beyondcoal.org](http://www.beyondcoal.org)

76 Appalachian Voices: [www.appvoices.org](http://www.appvoices.org)

77 I Love Mountains: [www.ilovemountains.org](http://www.ilovemountains.org)

78 Appalachian Mountain Advocates: [www.appalmad.org](http://www.appalmad.org)

79 “The Last Mountain” documentary: [www.thelastmountainmovie.com](http://www.thelastmountainmovie.com)

80 “Deep Down” documentary: [www.deepdownfilm.org](http://www.deepdownfilm.org)

81 “Coal Country” documentary: [www.coalcountrythemovie.com](http://www.coalcountrythemovie.com)