

03-GS-17 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution “A Call for Church Wide Support of Oikocredit USA.”

A CALL FOR CHURCH WIDE SUPPORT OF OIKOCREDIT USA

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ pronouncement, “Christian Faith: Economic Life and Justice,” establishes as a goal “the just transformation of the global economic order that fundamentally ensures economic, racial, and social justice for all God’s people throughout the world;” and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ and our global partners support development that promotes sustainability and the integrity of creation, justice, equality, and democratic, grassroots participation; and

WHEREAS, Oikocredit USA. has the support of a broad range of denominations and denominational bodies, including the United Church of Christ Wider Church Ministries, seminaries, religious orders, and investor groups; and

WHEREAS, Oikocredit has the support of more than four hundred sixty-five churches and church organizations from all over the world, including many in the sixty-five countries where loans are granted as well as eighteen thousand local church communities and individuals who invest via supporters’ Association; and

WHEREAS, Oikocredit has made loans to over four hundred cooperatives and hundreds of thousands of people with micro-credit, employing about \$180 million in capital, about ten percent of which came from the United States; and

WHEREAS, Oikocredit USA has expanded its programs and outreach, intending to develop grassroots networks and working groups in fifteen cities so as to dramatically increase the funds available to meet the vast opportunities for improving the lives of the poorest on earth; and

WHEREAS, Oikocredit ethical investments aim at making a positive contribution:

- to enable poor people to become economically self-supporting
- to promote the economic position of women
- to benefit the local community, and

WHEREAS, investing in Oikocredit is similar to putting funds in deposits in a bank in the form of a note paying two percent for one, three, or five years; and

WHEREAS, there has been no loss of principal and maximum social and economic benefit with investments managed by the Calvert Foundation.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fourth General Synod calls on the United Church of Christ in all its settings to seriously consider investing some institutional funds in Oikocredit USA and provide the opportunity for members and friends to do likewise; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the covenanted ministries, affiliated and associated ministries, and related ministries be requested to develop plans for ministry-wide participation,

educational resources, and partnership or covenanted sponsorship of Oikocredit USA.

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