

13 05-GS-35 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the resolution “For the Common Good” as amended.

14

15 **FOR THE COMMON GOOD**

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17 WHEREAS the United States has an abundance of God’s resources, more than enough for all; and

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19 WHEREAS God’s resources are not being equitably shared; and

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21 WHEREAS in 2005, the income disparity between the rich and the poor in the United States has widened to the
22 greatest degree since the 1920s; and

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24 WHEREAS millions are unemployed and millions more jobs pay too little to lift people out of poverty; and

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26 WHEREAS three of every four poor children across the United States now live in working families; and

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28 WHEREAS approximately 80 million people have lacked health insurance at some time during the past two years;
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31 WHEREAS economic and racial residential segregation has significantly increased during the past quarter century
32 in America’s major metropolitan areas; and

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34 WHEREAS public schools have become as segregated in many places as before the Civil Rights Movement, and our
35 society leaves behind the children of the poor while providing a generous education for children of privilege; and

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37 WHEREAS despite that nearly three quarters of mothers now work outside the home, and at the same time welfare
38 reform forces poor women to be in the workforce, our nation has not considered guaranteeing universally available,
39 affordable, quality child care; and

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41 WHEREAS environmental contamination is frequently allowed to compromise the health of poor people and people
42 of color, to contaminate the lands of indigenous peoples, and to destroy the integrity of God’s creation; and

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44 WHEREAS there are significant on-going efforts to privatize education, health care, and natural resources, and to
45 reduce revenues collected through taxes as a strategy for reducing dependency on government services; and

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47 WHEREAS Congress has continued to reduce taxes on the wealthiest Americans who are most able to pay, and the
48 ensuing revenue cuts are reducing the capacity of government to provide services on behalf of the common good;
49 and

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51 WHEREAS federal tax cuts since 2001 will contribute to our generation’s passing an enormous burden of debt to
52 our children.

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54 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon
55 the United Church of Christ in all its settings:

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- to uphold the common good as a foundational ideal in the United States;
- to reclaim the imperative to share God’s resources equitably and sustainably with all God’s children; and
- to affirm the role of public institutions paid for by taxes for ensuring essential services and protecting the good of the wider community;
- to honor and uplift the integrity of God’s creation

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ in all its settings will work to make our culture
8 reflect the following values:

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- that societies and nations are judged by the way they care for their most vulnerable citizens;
- that government policy and services are central to serving the common good;
- that the sum total of individual choices in any private marketplace does not necessarily constitute the public

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- 12 good;
- 13 • that paying taxes for government services is a civic responsibility of individuals and businesses;
 - 14 • that the tax code should be progressive, with the heaviest burden on those with the greatest financial means;
 - 15 • that the integrity of creation and the health and sustainability of ecological systems is the necessary
 - 16 foundation for the well-being of all people and all living things for all time.

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ in all its settings will engage in study, reflection,
19 and prayer to learn about these issues and the consequences of current trends to future generations to discern God's
20 call.

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ in all its settings will do justice and promote the
23 common good by working actively to:

- 24 • ensure full employment, dignity on the job, living wages, and sufficient income for everyone;
- 25 • provide adequate health care including reproductive rights as an entitlement for all.
- 26 • guarantee affordable housing for all;
- 27 • guarantee accessible, affordable public transportation for all;
- 28 • eliminate residential and institutional segregation by income, race, and ethnicity in our neighborhoods,
29 among our suburbs, and in our public schools;
- 30 • provide opportunity for every child in well-funded, high quality public schools;
- 31 • provide a system of affordable, high quality child care for all of our children;
- 32 • regulate the release of toxic waste, clean up contaminated sites, and engage communities in planning,
33 implementing and evaluating projects that affect the quality of their environment.
- 34 • support policies and practices that promote environmental protection, environmental justice and
35 sustainable, renewable development.
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38 Funding for this action will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds
39 available.

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41 The Twenty-fifth General Synod calls upon Justice and Witness Ministries to develop the strategy and program to
42 implement this resolution.