

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod, in recognition of a deeply shared commitment to children and to the growth of our churches, encourage the United Church of Christ to share and, where possible, collaborate with the Alliance of Baptists in the development of educational resources for children and youth and share opportunities for mission, outdoor camp experiences, education, and the fellowship events for children and youth of the Alliance, in partnership with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); and

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that the General Minister and President name United Church of Christ representatives to an ongoing partnership council to facilitate and encourage the growth of this Partnership in Mission and Ministry among the United Church of Christ, the Alliance of Baptists, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

#### **MOMENT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE**

A moment of personal privilege was requested and granted by consensus for the Rev. Stan Hastey, Executive Director of the Alliance of Baptists. Rev. Hastey spoke about the initial overtures for beginning conversations with the Alliance of Baptists made during the Twenty-first General Synod held in Columbus, Ohio six years ago. Those dialogues continued at the Twenty-second General Synod in Providence, Rhode Island, and at Twenty-third General Synod in Kansas City, Missouri. He expressed his appreciation for the continued dialogue and particularly for the gracious participation of Rev. John Thomas and Rev. Lydia Veliko.

Delegates responded warmly with a standing ovation following Rev. Hastey's speech.

#### **9. A FAITHFUL RESPONSE CALLING FOR A MORE JUST, HUMANE DIRECTION FOR ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION AND PLAN OF ACTION**

Assistant Moderator Smith introduced Rev. Keith Mills (NOPL), chairperson of Committee Two. Rev. Mills moved the adoption of the Proposed Pronouncement: "A Faithful Response

Calling for a More Just, Humane Direction for Economic Globalization and Plan of Action" Chairman Mills spoke to the resolution.

Mr. Don Osgood (CONN) offered a friendly amendment that in item number four under CALL TO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST COVENANTED MINISTRIES, CONFERENCES, ASSOCIATIONS, AND SEMINARIES, the words "through whatever means possible" be deleted and "in the spirit of Jesus" be inserted in lieu of the previous wording.

Chairman Mills was not comfortable accepting this as a friendly amendment.

Mr. Osgood moved the amendment and it was seconded.

03-GS-15 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the amendment that in item number four under CALL TO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST COVENANTED MINISTRIES, CONFERENCES, ASSOCIATIONS, AND SEMINARIES, the words "through whatever means possible" be deleted and "in the spirit of Jesus" be inserted in lieu of the previous wording.

03-GS-16 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the Proposed Pronouncement "A Faithful Response Calling For A More Just, Humane Direction For Economic Globalization and Plan of Action" as amended.

#### **A FAITHFUL RESPONSE CALLING FOR A MORE JUST, HUMANE DIRECTION FOR ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION AND PLAN OF ACTION**

##### **CALL TO MEMBERS**

The Twenty-fourth General Synod, convinced that God calls us to faithfulness in our economic decisions and commitments, calls on the members of the United Church of Christ to the following actions:

1. To grow in spiritual maturity through consistent participation in public worship and the practice of spiritual

disciplines such as prayer, Bible study, fasting and meditation.

2. To engage in intentional reflection on our individual and family economic life; to inquire honestly and humbly concerning the shaping of this life by our faith commitments.
3. To commit as a result of worship, spiritual guidance, and personal reflection to specific ways and concrete actions that will make our individual and family lifestyles consistent with our faith commitments and vision, including changes in our consumer practices.
4. To intentionally seek opportunities of public witness and of advocacy for economic justice and against those policies and actions that deny the economic well being of persons, communities, nations, and the global community.
5. To participate in the decision making of multinational corporations in which we may have economic investment through shareholder resolutions, letters, and attendance at shareholders' meetings.
6. To look for opportunities at local levels to participate in movements that encourage and enable persons and communities to control their own economic well being in just and sustainable ways.

#### **CALL TO LOCAL CHURCHES**

The Twenty-fourth General Synod calls local churches and their members to be active, knowledgeable, and critical participants in the global economy. Through education, stewardship, confrontation with the principalities and powers, and social action local churches are called:

1. To confess faithfulness above all to and worship exclusively for God the Creator of all life and live as a trusting, radically

obedient, loving community of disciples strengthened and led by the Spirit, even as this applies to corporate economic life and commitments.

2. To examine their own stewardship commitments especially their investments, so that they will be responsible, just participants in the global economy.
3. To move toward a goal of socially responsible investing and to educate and encourage members to do the same.
4. To engage in a process of action and reflection on specific issues in economic globalization.
5. To consider, in cooperation with Wider Church Ministries, partnership with a church in a developing country to understand its context and the ways in which it has been impacted by economic globalization and to participate in the partnership in concrete, helpful ways.
6. To look for creative ways in which the congregation's lifestyle can pro-actively support workers rights, environmental well being, and other just positions in areas of life impacted by economic globalization (for example, by using fair-traded coffee).
7. To engage in advocacy on legislation and inter national agreements that affect the way the global economy operates, such as the Free Trade Area of the Americas.

#### **CALL TO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST COVENANTED MINISTRIES, CONFERENCES, ASSOCIATIONS, AND SEMINARIES**

The Twenty-fourth General Synod calls the Covenanted Ministries, the Affiliated and Associated Ministries of the United Church of Christ, Conferences, Associations, and closely related seminaries of the United Church of

Christ to fully engage the global economy and to actively ensure the development of just and sustainable communities in the global economy. To that end, the Twenty-fourth General Synod calls on these institutions:

1. To continue to provide educational resources and advocacy opportunities and to be a prophetic voice for local churches and members on issues of economic globalization.
2. To urge all settings of the church in their roles as consumers to give priority in decision-making choices to justice concerns, for example, in not purchasing clothes and other consumer goods produced by sweatshop labor.
3. To provide resources on investments in corporations that reflect values resonant with those of the United Church of Christ. Such values can be found in past General Synod actions such as “Direct Investment in Weapons Producers” and “Investment and Corporate Responsibility with Regard to South Africa” (Fourteenth General Synod) and “A Call for Socially Responsible Investment” (Seventeenth General Synod).
4. To work in the spirit of Jesus to reform the principal international trade and finance institutions and governing bodies so that the needs and concerns of all persons, especially the poor and the marginalized, may be addressed in effective ways through their policies and actions.
5. To work for and provide opportunities for individuals and local churches to work for debt relief for developing countries.
6. To continue to develop both national and international partnerships with grassroots organizations, interfaith groups, and partner churches working

for economic justice in developing countries.

7. To work actively with the World Council of Churches, especially as it participates in the United Nations, on issues of economic globalization.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION**

The Twenty-fourth General Synod requests that Wider Church Ministries and Justice and Witness Ministries convene a coordinating committee to develop a plan including a timetable for implementation and make reports to the Twenty-fifth and subsequent General Synods.

#### **10. A CALL FOR CHURCH-WIDE SUPPORT OF OIKOCREDIT USA**

Rev. Keith Mills, on behalf of Committee Two, moved the adoption of the resolution “A Call For Church Wide Support Of Oikocredit USA.”

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