

1 WHEREAS the “crisis” in Social Security is largely a fiction designed to alarm young workers who increasingly,  
2 and wrongly, believe that there will be no Social Security funds left when they retire; and

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4 WHEREAS Social Security can pay full benefits until 2042 and over two-thirds of benefits after that *with absolutely*  
5 *no changes* in the program; and

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7 WHEREAS diverting tax money currently used to pay Social Security benefits into private accounts would severely  
8 *worsen* Social Security’s financial health; and

9  
10 WHEREAS privatization replaces Social Security’s current guarantee of retirement income with a risky system  
11 dependant on luck, investment wisdom, and the timing of the stock market; and

12 WHEREAS Social Security’s administrative expenses, currently less than 1% of benefit payments, would be greatly  
13 increased in a privatized system; and

14  
15 WHEREAS many people – especially women and people of color – with relatively low earnings, more  
16 unemployment and disability, and more years out of the labor force are especially well served by Social Security’s  
17 progressive benefit structure, but would be hurt by a switch to private accounts.

18  
19 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ rejects any  
20 attempts to privatize Social Security or to add private accounts to the current Social Security program, and supports  
21 efforts to strengthen Social Security in ways consistent with its mission as a social insurance program; and

22  
23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General synod encourages local churches, conferences and  
24 associations of the United Church of Christ to engage in educational forums and circulate materials so that members  
25 (especially youth and young adults) and pastors can become informed about Social Security privatization; and

26  
27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests that  
28 Justice and Witness Ministries study the proposals to change Social Security and conduct legislative advocacy to  
29 educate members of Congress about the position of the Twenty-fifth General Synod on Social Security privatization,  
30 and prepare and provide resources to be used by the wider church and community.

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

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35 **5. SUPREME COURT JUSTICE NOMINATION**

36 Mr. Slagle then referred delegates to the second resolution from Committee Fifteen entitled “Supreme Court Justice  
37 Nomination” and moved its adoption.

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39 05-GS-34 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the resolution “Supreme Court Justice Nomination”

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41 **SUPREME COURT JUSTICE NOMINATION**

42  
43 WHEREAS, we are a country divided against itself through its politics; and

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45 WHEREAS, this nation faces profound issues to secure its future without need for further divisions and  
46 contentiousness; and

47  
48 WHEREAS, Justice O’Connor has been a moderating influence on the court, who was described by the President as  
49 “a discerning and conscientious judge;” and

50  
51 WHEREAS, the rule of God hinges on reconciliation and as Christians we are called to a ministry of reconciliation;

52  
53 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ meeting in  
54 Atlanta, Georgia, in accordance with its understanding of the reconciling mission of Jesus Christ, encourages  
55 President George W. Bush to use a process of openness and bi-partisan consultation in nominating Supreme Court  
56 justices; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage the United States Senate to engage in an open, non-partisan and  
2 thorough debate on the merits of any Supreme Court nominees and support a consultation and confirmation process  
3 that evaluates nominees based upon their public records and actions, and  
4

5 FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that to maintain the integrity of the court, uphold the rule of law, ensure equal justice  
6 for all, and offer hope and reconciliation to our divided nation, we encourage the President and the Senate to engage  
7 in a nomination, consultation, and confirmation process that is fair, truthful and beyond reproach.  
8

9 **6. FOR THE COMMON GOOD**

10 Assistant Moderator Neal called Ms. Janel Kolar (NOPL) for the report of Committee Fourteen. Ms. Kolar moved  
11 the adoption of the resolution "For the Common Good" as amended.  
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13 05-GS-35 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the resolution "For the Common Good" as amended.  
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15 **FOR THE COMMON GOOD**

16  
17 WHEREAS the United States has an abundance of God's resources, more than enough for all; and  
18

19 WHEREAS God's resources are not being equitably shared; and  
20

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  
23

24 WHEREAS millions are unemployed and millions more jobs pay too little to lift people out of poverty; and  
25

26 WHEREAS three of every four poor children across the United States now live in working families; and  
27

28 WHEREAS approximately 80 million people have lacked health insurance at some time during the past two years;  
29 and  
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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  
33

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  
36

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  
40

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  
43

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  
46

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.  
53

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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