

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

6
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:

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

17
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.

21
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
- 25 • ensure full employment, dignity on the job, living wages, and sufficient income for everyone;
- 26 • provide adequate health care including reproductive rights as an entitlement for all.
- 27 • guarantee affordable housing for all;
- 28 • guarantee accessible, affordable public transportation for all;
- 29 • eliminate residential and institutional segregation by income, race, and ethnicity in our neighborhoods,
- 30 among our suburbs, and in our public schools;
- 31 • provide opportunity for every child in well-funded, high quality public schools;
- 32 • provide a system of affordable, high quality child care for all of our children;
- 33 • regulate the release of toxic waste, clean up contaminated sites, and engage communities in planning,
- 34 implementing and evaluating projects that affect the quality of their environment.
- 35 • support policies and practices that promote environmental protection, environmental justice and
- 36 sustainable, renewable development.

37
38 Funding for this action will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds
39 available.

40
41 The Twenty-fifth General Synod calls upon Justice and Witness Ministries to develop the strategy and program to
42 implement this resolution.

43
44 **7. TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF THE MOST DISADVANTAGED IN THE BUDGETARY AND**
45 **APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS.**

46 Ms. Janel Kolar, Chair of Committee Fourteen, then moved the adoption of the resolution “To Advance the Cause of
47 the Most Disadvantaged in the Budgetary and Appropriations Process.”

48
49 05-GS-36 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the resolution “To Advance the Cause of the Most
50 Disadvantaged in the Budgetary and Appropriations Process.”

51
52 **TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF THE MOST DISADVANTAGED IN THE BUDGETARY AND**
53 **APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS**

1 WHEREAS, "Poverty is a religious issue that rings from cover to cover in the Bible" (Jim Wallis, "*God's*
2 *Politics*"); and

3 WHEREAS, the FY 2006 proposed Federal budget aimed to cut the deficit by half, proposing to achieve its budget
4 cutting goals by making deep cuts in programs that critically impact the health, education, and welfare of our most
5 vulnerable populations; and

6 WHEREAS, the FY 2006 Federal budget seeks to make permanent past tax cuts and to enact further tax cuts that are
7 rapidly increasing the gap between the rich and the poor; and

8 WHEREAS, when the Federal budget is cut in areas of health, education, and welfare, greater burdens to preserve
9 programs fall to the states, counties, cities, and towns, government entities whose taxes are regressive, falling most
10 heavily on those at the lower end of the income scale, unlike the more progressive federal income tax; and

11 WHEREAS, funding for health care, adequate food, housing, educational opportunity, child care, and all the other
12 programs that support life and the rise out of poverty are already inadequate to meet the need; and

13 WHEREAS, these deficiencies jeopardize our future as a nation and contradict our self-image as a wise, socially
14 compassionate, and fiscally responsible society.

15 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges its
16 General Minister and President and its Justice and Witness Ministries to:

- 17 • exert their full influence in the public forum to support the restoration of more progressive taxes and to
18 oppose cuts in programs that hurt the disadvantaged
- 19 • educate people within and without the United Church of Christ to understand that great social problems are
20 systemic problems that must be addressed by political decision makers, and solutions can best be
21 implemented through the agency of government
- 22 • lead, aid, coordinate, and be a voice for the work of our individual churches as they educate themselves,
23 and encourage, and work with their elected representatives to solve national, state, and local social
24 concerns.

25 The implementation of the Resolution will be made in accordance with the budgetary constraints and overall
26 mandates of the office of the Minister and President and of the Justice and Witness Ministries.

27
28 **8. CONCERNING USE OF ECONOMIC LEVERAGE IN PROMOTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

29 Ms. Lillian Daniel (ILL), chairperson of Committee Two moved the adoption of the resolution entitled "Concerning
30 Use of Economic Leverage in Promoting Peace in the Middle East."

31
32 Following discussion, Mr. Curtis Rueter, Chairperson of the Wider Church Ministries Board, moved the adoption of
33 a substitute resolution entitled "Proposed Substitute Resolution Concerning Use of Economic Leverage in
34 Promoting Peace In The Middle East." The motion was seconded.

35
36 After additional discussion, a motion to stop debate was made and defeated.

37
38 Ms. Jeanette Seaman (PNE) moved to amend the motion, by adding lines 86-94 from the original resolution to the
39 end of the substitute resolution. Those are as follows:

40
41 BE IT RESOLVED the Twenty-fifty General Synod directs these aforementioned settings of the church to provide
42 materials that may be used by all settings of the church to discern how economic leverage can be used to support the
43 development of Palestine and Israel as two independent, secure, economically viable states; and

44
45 FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED the Twenty-fifth General Synod calls upon these settings to create for and
46 disseminate to the local churches study materials on the range of issues contributing to violence and oppression in
47 the Middle East and ways to be involved in promoting peace.

48
49 This was accepted as a friendly amendment.