

1 WHEREAS, the property values of real estate of residents who live inside the designated superfund site have been  
2 greatly diminished; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, the damage to the health of the estimated 19,000 persons living in and adjacent to the Site, especially  
5 the small children who have dangerously high levels of lead in their blood, continues while the efforts of various  
6 Federal and State agencies to solve the problem prove to be unsuccessful.  
7

8 WHEREAS, the Site is not limited to the 40 square mile epicenter on the Quapaw Reserve, but extends downstream  
9 to the Neosho and Spring Rivers to the middle of the Grand Lake o' the Cherokees where stream and sediment  
10 contamination impact the aquatic life, plants and game in the area. These impacts damage resources utilized by the  
11 Eastern Shawnee, Seneca-Cayuga, Peoria, Wyandotte and Ottawa Tribes as well as low income subsistence users.  
12

13 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ:  
14 Petitions the appropriate officers and offices of local, state, federal and Native American tribal governments to move  
15 forward immediately to establish and implement a plan to solve this problem which affects persons living in and  
16 adjacent to the Site; and  
17

18 Sends this resolution, duly signed by the President of the United Church of Christ to the President of the United  
19 States of America, the United States Senators and the members of the United States House of Representatives from  
20 the states of Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma, the Majority and Minority leaders of the United States Senate; the  
21 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Governors and other appropriate officers of these states  
22 and the Chair of the Business Committee of the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma.  
23

24 Commends the ongoing efforts of Local Environmental Action Demanded Agency, Inc. of Vinita, OK (L.E.A.D.) to  
25 document and remedy the hazardous situation in the Site; and

26 Recommends immediate broad based ecumenical and community efforts to facilitate opportunities for those  
27 residents of the hazardous Tar Creek Superfund Site to voluntarily relocate, on a temporary or permanent basis, to  
28 less toxic areas until such time as the Site has been restored to a habitable condition; and  
29

30 Recommends that the agencies involved determine the extent of the area where contaminates have come to reside  
31 and provide a remedial plan that addresses the contaminant impacts from the Tri-State Mining District to the Spring  
32 and Neosho Rivers and the Grand Lake o' the Cherokees.  
33

34 Supports the efforts of the Oklahoma Conference of Churches initiate remedial action in collaboration with local  
35 churches and community groups at the Site; and  
36

### 37 **FUNDING**

38 Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the  
39 affected agencies and the funds available.  
40

### 41 **7. RESOLUTION: A RESOLUTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

42 Mr. Filkins moved the adoption of the resolution "A Resolution on Climate Change."  
43

44 Ms. Melinda McLain (LCM) moved to amend the resolution on line 125 by adding "and that Local Church  
45 Ministries develop materials to help churches "green" their buildings."  
46

47 07-GS-15 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the amendment adding "and that Local Church  
48 Ministries develop materials to help churches "green" their buildings" on line 125.  
49

50 07-GS-16 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the resolution "A Resolution on Climate Change" as  
51 amended.  
52

### 53 **A RESOLUTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

54  
55 WHEREAS, the impact of global warming, as currently predicted and understood by leading scientists and scientific  
56 bodies around the world in reports of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, as well as in reports of

1 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the National Academy of Sciences, will dramatically and  
2 negatively alter God's gracious gift of creation;  
3

4 WHEREAS, the effects of global warming are already clearly evidenced in the melting of glaciers and shrinking of  
5 the polar caps, threatening the polar bear with extinction and the Native Peoples of the Arctic with loss of food  
6 resources, land, ancient traditions and ways of being in the world;  
7

8 WHEREAS, experts speak with a profound sense of urgency and clearly state that the window of opportunity to  
9 avoid catastrophic climate change is rapidly diminishing;

10 WHEREAS, the predicted impact of global warming will have a disproportionate impact on those living in poverty,  
11 least developed countries, the elderly and children and those least responsible for the emissions of greenhouse gases;  
12

13 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ admits  
14 Christian complicity in the damage human beings have caused to the earth's climate system and other planetary life  
15 systems, and urges recommitment to the Christian vocation of responsible stewardship of God's creation, and  
16 expresses profound concern for the pending environmental, economic, and social tragedies threatened by global  
17 warming, to creation, human communities and traditional sacred spaces;  
18

19 WE FURTHER RESOLVE that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges the United  
20 States Government to respond to global warming with great urgency and firm leadership by supporting mandatory  
21 measures that reduce the absolute amount of green house gas emissions, and in particular emissions of carbon  
22 dioxide, to levels recommended by nationally and internationally recognized and respected scientific bodies;  
23

24 WE FURTHER RESOLVE that the Twenty-sixth Synod of the United Church of Christ urges state and local  
25 governments to support and invest in energy conservation and, specifically, in sustainable, renewable and affordable  
26 systems of transportation, and calls on business and industry to lead in responses to global warming through  
27 increased investments in efficient and sustainable energy technologies that are economically accessible and just;  
28

29 WE FURTHER RESOLVE that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges all segments  
30 of the Church to address global warming in their decisions and investments and in their educational and advocacy  
31 efforts;  
32

33 TO THAT END, the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on the Covenanted Ministries  
34 of the United Church of Christ, specifically Wider Church Ministries and Justice and Witness Ministries, to address  
35 the severe nature of this global warming crisis as one of the most urgent threats to humankind and, indeed, all of  
36 God's precious planet earth and that Local Church Ministries develop materials to help churches "green" their  
37 buildings.  
38

#### 39 FUNDING

40 Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the  
41 affected agencies and the funds available.  
42

#### 43 **8. INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATE FOR ASSOCIATE GENERAL MINISTER**

44 Assistant Moderator Kevin Manz called on Rev. Sharon MacArthur, Chairperson of the Executive Council, for the  
45 introduction of Ms. Edith Guffey, candidate for re-election as Associate General Minister. If elected, this will be  
46 Ms. Guffey's third and final four year term.  
47

48 Ms. Guffey indicated she felt best able to support the United Church of Christ in this administrative role, even  
49 though she has an enormous passion for Justice and Witness Ministries. She urged each person to find ways to live  
50 out his or her commitments. She hopes her commitment and love for the United Church of Christ is clear and that  
51 her work exemplifies that. She looks forward to working with enthusiasm, commitment, passion and integrity and  
52 to having an honest conversation with colleagues about racial justice.  
53

54 Mr. Manz thanked Ms. Guffey and instructed that a ballot be completed by the Business Committee to include all  
55 persons presented.  
56