

WHEREAS, it is vital to acknowledge what our youth workers are doing and the commitment they have made to work with young people in our Church;

WHEREAS, it is important to have clear structures and procedures for recruiting and employing youth workers, and to provide supportive management structures which are fair and just;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to the Twenty-eighth General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopt this Covenant for Church Youth Ministries.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-eighth General Synod encourage local churches to adopt this covenant and implement it as policy and practice for employing, nurturing and supporting youth workers - both paid and volunteer - as they minister to and with youth.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that by adopting this Covenant for Church Youth Ministries the Twenty-eighth General Synod encourages local churches to make the following promises:

1. to pray for our youth workers and keep their needs a high priority in church prayer life;
2. to provide our youth workers opportunities for prayerful discernment of gifts and call;
3. to provide opportunities for our youth workers to use part of their schedules for retreat, reflection, worship and personal development;
4. to set aside time and money to provide initial and ongoing training and professional development for our youth workers;
5. to actively encourage our youth workers to take two full days away from their role each week;
6. to encourage the people of the local church to volunteer with, to pray for, and to support youth;
7. to show appreciation for and celebrate the achievements of our youth workers;
8. to follow fair and just practices in the employment of our youth workers.

FUNDING

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

IMPLEMENTATION

Local Church Ministries is requested to implement this resolution.

9. PUT OUR MONEY WHERE OUR VALUES ARE: EVALUATING CHURCH FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIPS

Moderator Robertson called upon Ms. Pamela Cook, Chairperson of Committee Three, for the presentation of the Committee.

Ms. Cook spoke to the change of name from the originally proposed resolution. She then moved the adoption of the resolution "Put Our Money Where Our Values Are: Evaluating Church Financial Relationships."

Discussion followed.

On a Point of Personal Privilege, Ms. Julie Labell (MICH) requested we maintain a standard of using the electronic voting devices.

11-GS-34 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod adopts the resolution "Putting Our Money Where Our Values Are: Evaluating Church Financial Relationships."

**PUTTING OUR MONEY WHERE OUR VALUES ARE: EVALUATION CHURCH
FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIPS**

WHEREAS, God calls us to seek justice, care for the poor and love our neighbor, and

WHEREAS, the business practices of some financial institutions have contributed to the deep economic damage done to our families and communities, and

WHEREAS, usury is against our tradition and the traditions of other faiths, and

WHEREAS, our congregations and other church bodies invest in these financial institutions and can thereby exert pressure relative to banking practices by way of collective action, and

WHEREAS, there are alternatives that may be more accountable to small and medium investors and more deeply invested in the communities where they do business,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Twenty-eighth General Synod that all settings of the United Church of Christ (local congregations, Associations, Conferences, the national setting, etc.) are requested to faithfully examine their relationships with financial institutions, and, where practical and prudent, deliberately move toward relating to financial institutions that have records of fair lending, business and investing practices as each body discerns for its setting.

FUNDING

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

IMPLEMENTATION

Justice and Witness Ministries are requested to implement this resolution.

Mr. Paul Bryant Smith (CONN) raised a concern with the way we have left the resolution "Proposed Change to the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ on the Frequency of the Meetings of General Synod." Mr. Smith suggested we did not formally direct the Executive Council to undertake the resolution. He would like to move an action to that effect.