

## **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**

Wider Church Ministries is requested to be the primary implementer of this resolution.

Assistant Moderator Aurand recognized Ms. Cally Rogers-Witte who introduced Mohammed Sammak to respond to the vote. Mr. Sammak thanked the delegates for sending a clear message of love to the people of the Middle East.

## **8. MINDFUL AND FAITHFUL EATING**

Assistant Moderator Belsom called upon Keith Scott, Chairperson of Committee Two to present the resolution "Mindful and Faithful Eating."

Mr. Scott moved adoption of the resolution as amended and spoke to it.

Mr. Matt Davis (WISC) called attention to a typographical error on line 80. "egological" should be "ecological." The change was noted by Mr. Scott.

Following discussion, Mr. Carlos Sterling (FL) called the question. The motion was seconded.

**11-GS-52 VOTED:** The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to end debate on the resolution.

**11-GS-53 VOTED:** The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to adopt the resolution "Mindful and Faithful Eating," as amended.

## **MINDFUL AND FAITHFUL EATING**

**WHEREAS**, our dietary choices reflect many of these social, environmental, and economic justice issues, and

**WHEREAS**, modern intensive farming is a leading cause of land, water, and energy consumption; worldwide animal agriculture contributes more to global warming (18% of greenhouse gases) than all forms of transportation combined (14%) ("Livestock's Long Shadow," UN Food and Agriculture, 2006); and long-distance transport of food further increases the impact of our diets on the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the high injury rates and mistreatment of slaughterhouse workers has been well-documented (*Slaughterhouse* by Gail Eisnitz), and

**WHEREAS**, the intensive crowding and unhealthy living conditions that typify concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) do not show respect for animals, and

**WHEREAS**, animal and human welfare issues are intricately linked in numerous other ways, such as 1) pollution problems caused by CAFOs, particularly in Iowa and North Carolina; 2)

bacterial resistance to antibiotics caused by the routine feeding of antibiotics to animals; 3) “Mad Cow Disease,” bird flu, and other human health risks associated with intensive animal agricultural practices; 4) a wide range of medical disorders linked to the typical American diet, including heart disease, obesity, diabetes, arthritis, and certain cancers (*Journal of the American Dietetic Association* 2003;103:748-765); and 5) the negative impact of CAFOs on small family farms and thus on rural life, culture, and community, and

**WHEREAS**, people have different nutritional needs, financial situations, and degrees of access to food, such that a mindful and faithful diet for one person at one location might be very different from a mindful and faithful diet for another person at another location. For some people, animal agriculture may be an essential component of mindful and faithful eating, and

**WHEREAS**, Christians are called to make God-centered choices in every aspect of life; and our church communities are most vibrant when we respect the diversity of views, values, beliefs, and ways to address a given social justice concern; and our church communities can help us discern such God-centered living amidst this diversity; and consequently, faithful Christians will make different consumption choices in response to the call for mindful and faithful eating.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Twenty-eighth General Synod encourages Conferences, Associations, congregations and individuals to explore ways in which our food choices can be mindful and faithful, so that, to the best of our abilities, what we eat reflects our values and beliefs; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the UCC Covenanted Ministries identify and/or develop curricula for all ages that compassionately and respectfully explore the ways in which our diets impact our ecological “footprint” on the earth, human and animal welfare concerns, healthy nourishment for our bodies, and the needs and concerns of workers. These curricula would further explore ways that our food choices affect food security and the equitable availability of food for all God’s children.

#### **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 is requested to implement this resolution.

#### **9. TO FORM A THEOLOGICAL FORUM**

Assistant Moderator Belsom called upon Elizabeth Duffy, Chairperson of Committee Ten to present the resolution “To Form a Theological Forum.”

Ms. Duffy moved adoption of the resolution as amended and spoke to it.

Following discussion, Mr. Zachary Grant (ME) called the question.

**11-GS-54 VOTED:** The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to end debate on the resolution.