

4. Kent Steward (HI) stated the Waiola Church is celebrating its 190<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Waiola founded the first high school west of the Rocky Mountains and its profile for senior minister is on its website.
5. Kathryn Murd (PNW) advocated for Young Adult Service Communities. If you are twenty-one to thirty-five and want to go to the edge, there are three sights accepting year-long applicants in Seattle, Philadelphia and Carlsbad. Go to [ucc.org/volunteers](http://ucc.org/volunteers).
6. Rona Kinsley (VT) stated the unstable Tar Sands oil pipeline is more than 50 years old and is threatening the New England environment. Go to [350.org](http://350.org) for more information.
7. Diana Maddshi (CA NV, N) called on everyone to contact their representatives and the President to urge them not to cut Social Security.
8. Mike Gose and Marlene Helgemo (CAIM) are seeking churches and individuals to join in service and leadership.
9. Dinah Gomez (NEB) invited everyone to service without walls at Darkwood Brew, the on-line interactive worship service Sundays at 5 PM Central Time.
10. Natalie Renner (IK) reminded everyone of the importance of Outdoor Ministries. Camp changed her life and she encouraged youth to go to camp and invite their friends.

Mr. Holeman reminded everyone that the next SpeakOut! will be at the beginning of the next Plenary and sign-ups will be immediately following this Plenary session.

### **3. RESOLUTION URGING DIVESTMENT FROM FOSSIL FUEL COMPANIES**

Mr. Holeman called on Mr. Ralph Brown, Chairperson of Committee 6, to present the business of that committee.

Mr. Brown moved the adoption of the resolution Urging Divestment from Fossil Fuel Companies and spoke to the resolution.

Discussion:

Jim Antal (MASS) stated this resolution is about faithful leadership and urged its passage.

Don Hart (UC Funds & EC) welcomed the urgency of this resolution and pledged to honor it.

Lacy Spencer and Alexandra Elison (MONT-NO. WY) expressed concerns. Fossil fuel and nuclear energy supply 90% of the earth's fuels. A lot of the population in the Montana-Northern Wyoming area work in the mining industry. Without a plan of job replacement, you're shutting down their entire livelihood.

Mark Doty (LCM) was involved in the petroleum industry, but has much sympathy with the resolution. Members of the industry work hard to feed their families. It's a complicated issue and will abstain from voting.

Ken Bickel (IOWA) moved to amend the resolution by changing the Title to "Urging Divestment -- Along with other Strategies -- From Fossil Fuel Companies to Address Climate Change." The motion was seconded.

The motion was received as a friendly amendment by the Committee Chairperson.

Additional Discussion:

Meredith Jackson (LCM) questioned the financial impact for those with money in United Church Funds. Mr. Hart replied the financial impact is unknown at this time, but will be studied and forwarded to investors.

Davida Foy Crabtree (MOMS) reported the Missouri Mid-South Conference has had a partnership with people in Columbia, South Africa where oil companies have built pipelines through their ancestral lands. She supports the resolution.

Cheyenne Elliott (IK) agreed with the idea of reducing fossil fuel, but not eliminating it. We still need electricity.

John Deckenback (CAC) stated it's a question of consistency and integrity. Let's put our money where our environmental commitments are. It's a step in the right direction. Let's support the intention of this resolution.

Mark Wampler (IOWA) stated income of the UCC is going down, meaning our product is bad or our product is not selling. We also need to divest from airlines.

David Gaewski (NY) reported after Superstorm Sandy, we in New York strategized on the response to this. Fossil fuel causes most of our natural catastrophes. The acidity of the Atlantic Ocean has increased 30% due to our use of fossil fuels.

Greg Larson (RM) advised many of our church members work in these fields. Urged a negative vote on the resolution. Without addressing the need for renewable energy, it's impractical.

Morgan Bates (PSE) who just turned seventeen, advised this resolution is crucial to her generation and future generations.

Miguel Frias (ILL) stated he's from a church without a lot of money. It's easy to say we have to step away from our conveniences, but we need to think of those small churches that do not have a lot of money because our policies do not include them. Think about the little people.

Charles Desmond (MASS) felt our earth is dying, primarily by fossil fuel companies. We need to do now what God is asking us to do which is to protect what God has given us.

A member of the Executive Council called the question and the motion was seconded.

Kelly Parrish Lucas (EC) requested clarification on Lines 1199 to 1206 regarding "best in class" companies. Jim Antal (MASS) responded that UC Funds and the Pension Boards will accept the responsibility to do research and set criteria as to which companies qualify for "best in class" and that, two years from now, will be eligible for investment. However, it is his personal notion that this is an oxymoron.

Michael Montgomery (ILL) questioned whether this is a Prudential Resolution or a Resolution of Witness. Assistant Moderator Holeman replied that it is a Resolution of Witness.

**13-GS-24 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to end discussion on the resolution.

**13-GS-25 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to adopt the resolution Urging Divestment-Along with other Strategies-from Fossil Fuel Companies to Address Climate Change.

**URGING DIVESTMENT – ALONG WITH OTHER STRATEGIES – FROM FOSSIL FUEL COMPANIES TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ raises its prophetic voice regarding the urgency of healing the climate of the earth, our home and God’s gift for the future of all life, both human and all other life,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon all Members, Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, Agencies, Associated, Affiliated and Covenanted Ministries (and their successor bodies) to —

- a) Commit to using a spectrum of strategies to reduce the use of fossil fuels, our carbon footprint, and our complicity with the fossil fuel industry
  - make lifestyle changes to reduce the use of fossil fuels in our lives, our homes, our businesses and our churches
  - demand action from legislators and advocate for the creation and enforcement of carbon-reducing laws
  - publicly witness to and create educational programs that highlight the dangers of climate change
  - engage in activities, boycotts, and shareholder actions with companies, up to and including divestment
- b) Make shareholder engagement on climate change an immediate, top priority for the next five years by:
  - demanding transparency regarding climate change legislation lobbying,
  - insisting that companies’ operations and products conform to achieve the goal of scientifically understood safe levels of CO<sub>2</sub> and methane, and
  - requiring companies to examine and disclose their carbon assets that are at risk of being stranded in the event of a carbon tax or some other executive or legislative action.
- c) Seek out fossil-fuel free investment vehicles and call on both United Church Funds and the Pension Boards to create and promote an investment vehicle free of fossil fuel companies for qualified investors within 18 months.
- d) As a way to maintain the trajectory of accomplishments of the 4/1 Earth campaign, report updates on progress made and actions taken in the implementation of this resolution that will be sent to a national UCC database to be established immediately by the United Church of Christ Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon both United Church Funds and the Pension Boards to accomplish the following to the fullest extent allowable by applicable law –

- a) By Synod 2015, complete whatever research is necessary to identify “best in class” fossil fuel companies (if any); to report these findings to Synod in 2015, along with a plan whereby, by June 2018, none of either the Pension Boards nor UCF directly held assets will include holdings of either public equities or corporate bonds in fossil fuel companies except

those either the Pension Boards or UCF identifies as “best in class.” This research process should be conducted on a periodic basis and the research metrics used should continually reference the newest climate science as a permanent way to analyze fossil fuel companies. The Pension Boards and UCF should hold in their portfolios only those companies that they deem “best in class.”

- b) Report actions taken as a result of this research to the United Church of Christ Board on an annual basis to be shared with future General Synod delegates. These actions should always be compatible with a “just and sustainable world”, as identified by the Core Purpose of the United Church of Christ.
- c) Provide quarterly updates, available to the public, detailing research undertaken, progress made and actions taken in the implementation of this resolution to the national database created by the United Church of Christ Board. Whenever possible, communicate these actions to the media to hasten the revocation of the social license which the fossil fuel companies depend on to stay in business.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ commits each of the next five General Synods to hold a hearing focusing on climate change; progress made by UCF, the Pension Boards, and other UCC entities to fulfill this resolution; and how the vocation of the church is and must change in the context of climate change.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ to inform those fossil fuel companies of the passage and implementation of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ asks the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ to engage leaders of other religious traditions and relevant organizations to explore ways that they and their constituents might join the UCC in this action.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ remains profoundly concerned about the disproportionate impact climate change is already having on those living in poverty and in the least developed countries, the elderly and children and those least responsible for the emissions of greenhouse gases, and recognizes the moral mandate for humanity to shift to a sustainable energy plan in a way that is both just and compassionate.

### **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**

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.