

Whereas, the UCC Florida Conference at their Spring Gathering (April 29-30, 2016) endorsed the boycott of Wendy's as did the Central Atlantic Conference at their Annual Meeting in June 2016; and

Whereas, the United Church of Christ Board of Directors endorsed the boycott in May 2016.

Therefore. Be it Resolved That the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ endorses the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' boycott of Wendy's and calls on all settings of the United Church of Christ to become informed about farm workers' lives and working conditions and to honor the CIW boycott.

Funding:

The 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.

10. THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S - NOT OURS TO WRECK – IMPERATIVES FOR A NEW MORAL ERA.

Moderator Artt introduced Marilyn Kendrix (CONN) to speak on the resolution entitled Motion on The Earth is the Lord's Not Ours to Wreck – Imperatives for a New Moral Era.

Marilyn Kendrix brought a Motion on the Earth is the Lord's Not Ours to Wreck – Imperatives for a New Moral Era. Marilyn Kendrix indicated that the changes were made to make the witness stronger.

Discussion:

Jim Antal (MASS) Spoke in Favor
Felix Villanueva (CA NV, S) Spoke in Favor
John Lof (IOWA) Spoke in Favor
Pam Arifian (CONN) Spoke in Favor
Phil Poter, (CA NV N) Spoke in Favor
Cassandra Grandos (NY) Call the Question.
Silas Stockey (ILL) Second

17-GS-30 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to 97%; 3%; 1% end discussion on the motion.

17-GS-31 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to 97%; 3%; 1% adopt the resolution entitled The Earth is the Lord's – Not Ours to Wreck Imperatives for a New Moral Era

THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S – NOT OURS TO WRECK
IMPERATIVES FOR A NEW MORAL ERA
A Resolution of Witness

Text of the Motion:

Whereas the leaders of over 190 countries have signed the Paris Climate Accord, acknowledging the critical role every country must play if the life-sustaining climate of the earth is to continue to sustain life as we have always known it;

Whereas the mayors of 30 American cities, the governors of numerous states and leaders of hundreds of American companies have publicly committed the institutions they lead to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in compliance with the Paris Climate Accord;

Whereas over the past 50 years the UCC, along with religious leaders from other faiths and denominations, have issued countless statements on the goodness of Creation and our call to act as responsible stewards, all of which has been an insufficient witness;

Whereas the Core Purpose of the United Church of Christ states (in part): "... we serve God in the co-creation of a just and sustainable world as made manifest in the Gospel of Jesus Christ,"

Whereas this historic moment provides Christian communities with a powerful opportunity to bear witness to the sacredness of God's Creation and the urgent call to preserve it, and responding to this call expresses the new mission initiative of the UCC known as The Three Great Loves, one of which is love of creation;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Thirty-first 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 Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the whole of the church to prayerfully engage the following imperatives as we seek to initiate a new moral era:

Let our clergy accept the mantle of moral leadership

Now is the time for clergy to speak from their pulpits about the moral obligation of our generation to protect God's creation. Let the world know that whatever the current American administration may say or do, we who follow Jesus will not back away from God's call to protect our common home.

Let all of us incarnate the changes we long for

Now is the time for congregations and for every person of faith to set a moral example through our own words and actions. As individuals and as communities, let us commit to making decisions of integrity in our energy choices, even as we commit to hold our political leaders accountable to do the same.

Let us proclaim truth in the public square

We are now living in a John 18:37 moment, in which we must hold to the truth we understand from our two Testaments and from the sacred book of nature, recognizing that when truth is compromised, only power prevails.

- Let our communities of faith be bold and courageous as we address the greatest moral challenge that the world has ever faced.
- Let us commit to resist all expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure and demand new sources of renewable energy that are accessible to all communities.
- Let us do all we can to change America's understanding of the story that our generation is writing. Let us begin a new story – a story that is not dependent on fossil fuel or on wealth for the few and misery for the many.

Accepting that it is up to us – we the people – whether in the streets, at the State House, in the halls of power, with our phones and emails, by committing our time, financial resources and prayers – let us pour ourselves out to bend the moral arc of justice, with joy in our hearts, beauty in our sights, and hope for the 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:

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

11. AFFIRMING AND SUPPORTING THE AUTHORIZED MINISTRIES OF UNDER-REPRESENTED CLERGY IN LOCAL CONGREGATIONS: A CALL FOR GREATER REPRESENTATION AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Moderator Artt called on Aaron Roberts (KO) to bring the Motion.

Aaron Roberts moved that the General Synod adopt the Resolution and Supporting the Authorized Ministries Under-Represented Clergy in Local Congregations: A Call for Greater Representation and Economic Justice.

Marcia Williams also spoke to the Motion.

Discussion:

Beth Donaldson (MINN) Spoke in Favor

Charmaine Penn-Johnson (SE) Patrice Smallwood (SO) Spoke in Favor

Donald Morgan (IOWA) Spoke in Favor

Kelli Parrish Lucas (UCCDM) Amend Motion. Change “degree of enableness” to “disability” in lines (29, 31, 71 080)