

1 **ON MAKING UCC CHURCH BUILDINGS MORE CARBON NEUTRAL**

2 **Approved As Submitted**

3
4 **A Resolution of Witness**

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6 **TEXT OF THE MOTION**

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8 Whereas, the twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges all segments of
9 the Church to address global warming in their decisions and investments and in their educational
10 and advocacy efforts; and

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12 Whereas, the twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on the Church to
13 address the severe nature of this global warming crisis as one of the most urgent threats to
14 humankind and, indeed, all of God’s precious planet earth; and

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16 Whereas, General Synod is on record regarding the mediation of climate change and in 2009
17 reaffirmed that position; and

18
19 Whereas, the building sector consumes nearly half (48.7%) of all energy produced in the United
20 States and was responsible for nearly half of U.S. carbon emissions in 2009; andⁱ

21
22 Whereas, the U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted the “2030 Challenge for City Buildings”ⁱⁱ in
23 June 2006, a plan which, if supported at all levels of our nation, is designed to avert dangerous
24 climate change;

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26 Therefore be it resolved, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ
27 acknowledge that our church buildings are significant contributors to climate change and to
28 encourage congregations to take steps towards carbon neutrality by adopting the following
29 church-based adaptations to the targets presented in Architecture 2030’s 2030 Challenge.ⁱⁱⁱ

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- 31 • All churches are encouraged to conduct an energy audit.
 - 32 • Buildings undergoing new construction and/or major renovations strive to be carbon
33 neutral (operate with a net-zero use of fossil fuel, greenhouse gas emitting energy) by
 - 34 ○
 - 35 ▪ reducing electricity and natural gas usage
 - 36 ▪ generating on-site renewable power, and/or
 - 37 ▪ purchasing renewable energy (suggested 20% maximum of total energy
usage, in alignment with the standards of the 2030 Challenge).

38 Existing church buildings not undergoing major renovation at this time be encouraged to take
39 steps to meet a fossil fuel, greenhouse gas emitting, energy consumption performance standard
40 of at least 60% below the regional average for houses of worship or that building type.

41 Be it further resolved, that local congregations be requested to encourage their members to meet
42 the above standards in their own homes;

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44 Be it further resolved, that conferences and congregations be encouraged to continue this work
45 beyond the building sector by initiating or continuing the Earthwise Congregation commitment.
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47 **FUNDING**

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49 The funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance with the overall
50 mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

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52 **IMPLEMENTATION**

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

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ⁱ Architecture 2030, 2030 Challenge, http://architecture2030.org/the_problem/buildings_problem_why.

ⁱⁱ U.S. Conference of Mayors, Resolution No. 50: "Adopting the '2030 Challenge' for City Buildings,"
http://www.usmayors.org/74thAnnualMeeting/resolutions/ProposedResolutions_Energy.pdf.

ⁱⁱⁱ Architecture 2030, 2030 Challenge, http://architecture2030.org/2030_challenge/the_2030_challenge.