

1 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of  
2 Christ raises its prophetic voice regarding the urgency of healing the climate of the earth, our home and  
3 God's gift for the future of all life, both human and all other life,  
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ  
6 calls upon all Members, Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, Agencies, Associated, Affiliated and  
7 Covenanted Ministries (and their successor bodies) to —  
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- 9 a) Commit to using a spectrum of strategies to reduce the use of fossil fuels, our carbon footprint, and  
10 our complicity with the fossil fuel industry
- 11 • make lifestyle changes to reduce the use of fossil fuels in our lives, our homes, our businesses  
12 and our churches
  - 13 • demand action from legislators and advocate for the creation and enforcement of carbon-  
14 reducing laws
  - 15 • publicly witness to and create educational programs that highlight the dangers of climate  
16 change
  - 17 • engage in activities, boycotts, and shareholder actions with companies, up to and including  
18 divestment  
19
- 20 b) Make shareholder engagement on climate change an immediate, top priority for the next five years  
21 by:
- 22 • demanding transparency regarding climate change legislation lobbying,
  - 23 • insisting that companies' operations and products conform to achieve the goal of scientifically  
24 understood safe levels of CO<sub>2</sub> and methane, and
  - 25 • requiring companies to examine and disclose their carbon assets that are at risk of being  
26 stranded in the event of a carbon tax or some other executive or legislative action.  
27
- 28 c) Seek out fossil-fuel free investment vehicles and call on both United Church Funds and the Pension  
29 Boards to create and promote an investment vehicle free of fossil fuel companies for qualified  
30 investors within 18 months.  
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- 32 d) As a way to maintain the trajectory of accomplishments of the 4/1 Earth campaign, report updates  
33 on progress made and actions taken in the implementation of this resolution that will be sent to a  
34 national UCC database to be established immediately by the United Church of Christ Board.  
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ  
37 calls upon both United Church Funds and the Pension Boards to accomplish the following to the fullest  
38 extent allowable by applicable law –  
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- 40 a) By Synod 2015, complete whatever research is necessary to identify “best in class” fossil fuel  
41 companies (if any); to report these findings to Synod in 2015, along with a plan whereby, by June  
42 2018, none of either the Pension Boards nor UCF directly held assets will include holdings of either  
43 public equities or corporate bonds in fossil fuel companies except those either the Pension Boards or  
44 UCF identifies as “best in class.” This research process should be conducted on a periodic basis and  
45 the research metrics used should continually reference the newest climate science as a permanent  
46 way to analyze fossil fuel companies. The Pension Boards and UCF should hold in their portfolios  
47 only those companies that they deem “best in class.”  
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- 49 b) Report actions taken as a result of this research to the United Church of Christ Board on an annual  
50 basis to be shared with future General Synod delegates. These actions should always be compatible  
51 with a “just and sustainable world”, as identified by the Core Purpose of the United Church of  
52 Christ.  
53
- 54 c) Provide quarterly updates, available to the public, detailing research undertaken, progress made and  
55 actions taken in the implementation of this resolution to the national database created by the United

56 Church of Christ Board. Whenever possible, communicate these actions to the media to hasten the  
57 revocation of the social license which the fossil fuel companies depend on to stay in business.  
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59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ  
60 commits each of the next five General Synods to hold a hearing focusing on climate change; progress  
61 made by UCF, the Pension Boards, and other UCC entities to fulfill this resolution; and how the  
62 vocation of the church is and must change in the context of climate change.  
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64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ  
65 calls upon the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ to inform those fossil fuel  
66 companies of the passage and implementation of this resolution.  
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68 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ  
69 asks the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ to engage leaders of other  
70 religious traditions and relevant organizations to explore ways that they and their constituents might  
71 join the UCC in this action.  
72

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

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81 Funding for the implementation of this Resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates  
82 of the affected agencies and the funds available.  
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#### 84 **IMPLEMENTATION**

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