

CAMPAIGN TO END CHILDHOOD HUNGER
A Resolution Approved by General Synod XVIII (1991)

WHEREAS, millions of children are going hungry in the United States of America and these children are invisible to the eyes of many people who are unaware of the tragic dimensions of the solvable problem of hunger in the United States;

WHEREAS, it is time to make ending childhood hunger a national priority;

WHEREAS, conservative estimates based on the final Community Childhood Hunger Identification Project (CCHIP) results indicate that 5.5 million children are now hungry and 11.5 million are either hungry or at risk of hunger in the United States;

WHEREAS, the impact of hunger on children in the U.S.A. often manifests itself in lower birth weights of newborns and in many specific health problems such as unwanted weight loss , fatigue, headaches, irritability, inability to concentrate and frequent colds;

WHEREAS, CCHIP found that hungry children experience two to three times as many of these problems as do children whose families do not experience hunger;

WHEREAS, the capacity to learn of children who are hungry is compromised and their physical development, stamina and resistance to disease are impaired;

WHEREAS, hunger hurts everybody, and only when our children are well nourished can they reach their full potential and become contributing members of society;

WHEREAS, children hunger in the United States is caused by lack of income, and with nearly 32 million people living below the poverty line, including 12.6 million children, the need for affordable housing, health care, quality education and jobs with living wages become critical components of long term solutions to the many problems caused by poverty.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod endorses the Campaign to End Childhood Hunger and:

Supports the adoption of national policies guaranteeing food security to all people;

Seeks to ensure all eligible low income women, infants and children can receive assistance through the Special Supplement Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children;

Seeks to make the School Breakfast program available to low income children across the country and encourages federal, state and local policies to ensure the national School Lunch program remains broadly accessible to all such children;

Seeks to make the Food Stamp program accessible to all who are eligible and supports changes in the benefit level so that children and their families will have enough to eat each month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod asks the Office for Church in Society (OCIS) to monitor and advocate legislative issues related to the above policy matters in Washington, D.C.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod asks the Office for Church in Society to continue to coordinate relationships with low income community groups involved in partnership efforts to address the above concerns through the related National Up and Out of Poverty Now Campaign, and the Children in Poverty working group.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod asks that the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, the Commission for Racial Justice, and the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society continue to relate to groups in poverty for whom such a campaign is concerned, and seek to engage others in the campaign's efforts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Eighteenth General Synod requests that the Hunger Action Program be a coordinating table for the above efforts, as well as the primary body responsible for education, training, and curriculum development regarding the campaign within the United Church of Christ.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the conferences and local churches of the United Church of Christ be called upon to endorse the campaign to End Childhood Hunger, to continue and expand their partnerships with low-income groups, to develop and/or present educational opportunities for their members and the issues, to engage in advocacy regarding public policies consistent with the campaign, and to communicate their efforts with the Hunger Action Office campaign so helpful models and activities can be shared across the church.

Subject to the availability of funds.