

RESOLUTION DECLARING THE WORK OF THE PATTERN OF GIVING IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST COMPLETE AND ON PROPOSING A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR COVENANTAL GIVING AND IMPLEMENTING FUNDRAISING BEST PRACTICES

A Prudential Resolution Text of the Motion:

Whereas the Pattern of Giving no longer serves the needs of the United Church of Christ, makes no provision for use of technologies that are commonly available today, and in some instances, prevents the implementation of philanthropic best practices that have developed over the last 30 years, and

Whereas a donor-centered approach to fundraising is more in keeping with the best practices of philanthropy today, and the institutionally-centered approach on which our current system relies is a barrier to increasing generosity and to developing new and thriving ministries across the United Church of Christ, and

Whereas the shared ministry among all settings of the United Church of Christ is built on covenantal relationships and must provide for and encourage cooperation, collaboration, and flexibility among all covenant partners in the responsible practice of fundraising and philanthropy, and

Whereas the Eighth General Synod affirmed giving practices that were shared with the church in 1971 in the publication of the Pattern of Giving in the United Church of Christ, and

Whereas the Fourteenth General Synod adopted changes in the earlier work of General Synods, published in the new Pattern of Giving, United Church of Christ 1984 Edition, and

Whereas understandings and patterns of giving have continued to evolve;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ gives thanks to past General Synods for their work that resulted in the publication of the editions of the Pattern of Giving, United

Church of Christ, celebrates the effective witness and guidance contained in these documents, and declares the Pattern of Giving no longer in effect.

Be it further resolved that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages all ministry settings of the United Church of Christ to establish coordinated and comprehensive development programs using best practices that: are sensitive to the needs of all settings of the church; are responsive to changing patterns and practices of generosity across the church and within the culture in which the church lives; are consistent with norms, expectations, and policies of a donor-centered approach to fundraising and philanthropy; and empower congregations and individual donors to donate directly to the mission priorities that are most compelling to them.

Be it further resolved that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ directs the national setting to provide resources to coordinate this effort and build capacity for raising funds in all settings of the church, in covenant, collaboration, and partnership with Conferences and congregations.

Be it further resolved that Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages that Our Church's Wider Mission—Basic Support continue to be directed from congregations to Conferences.

Be it further resolved that Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ invites Conferences to commit to an OCWM sharing formula no less than the average rate of giving for the previous three years, on a rolling basis.

Be it further resolved that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ invites the Conferences to reevaluate the sharing formula within five years, in conversation with the national setting.

Be it further resolved that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages that the four Special Mission Offerings continue to support the mission of the church, and requests that a cost-benefit analysis be completed for each offering to enable a decision regarding their future implementation.

Be it finally resolved that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests that the national setting conduct a marketing analysis of the names “Our Church’s Wider Mission,” “Our Church’s Wider Mission – Basic Support,” and “Our Church’s Wider Mission – Special Support,” in light of the multiple understanding and various uses of these across the church.

Funding The funding for the implementation of the 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.