

Resolutions

Adopted by the 2014 Session of the North Carolina Annual Conference

Note: Resolution 1 – “Concerning Inclusive Language and Embracing the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning (LGBTQ) Community” was postponed.

Resolution 4 – “Mental Health Care” was referred to the Disabilities Concerns Ministry Team

Protection of God's Creation

WHEREAS in the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church (*Book of Discipline*, ¶ 160, section A) it says, “We support and encourage social policies that serve to reduce and control the creation of industrial byproducts and waste; facilitate the safe processing and disposal of toxic and nuclear waste and move toward the elimination of both; encourage reduction of municipal waste; provide for appropriate recycling and disposal of municipal waste; and assist the cleanup of polluted air, water, and soil;” and

WHEREAS the spill of coal ash into the Dan River by Duke Energy could potentially do great harm to the environment of the Dan River and poses a potential threat to drinking water; and

WHEREAS a recent news report points to negligence on the part of both Duke Energy and the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources [1]; and

WHEREAS it has been reported there has been significant reduction in staff at DENR including the elimination of the Division of Water Quality [2]. It has been reported that staff has been stretched so thin [2] that they cannot adequately keep up with all the coal ash waste sites in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS it says in Psalm 24 it says, “The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,”

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church calls on Duke Energy to clean up, and pay for, the coal ash spill; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the North Carolina General Assembly restore funding for DENR staff positions so that the rivers and streams of our State are protected;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Duke Energy President and CEO Lynn J. Good , Governor Pat McCrory, NC Speaker of the House Thom Tillis, and NC Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger.

1. *Independent Weekly* February 24, 2014
2. *News and Observer* March 7, 2014

As You Have Done To the Least of These

WHEREAS it is estimated that 50 million Americans do not know where their next meal will come from [1]; and

WHEREAS the average pay of chief executive officers of companies is now 380 times higher than the pay of the average worker [2]; and

WHEREAS the pay of average workers has actually declined or flatlined over the last 30 years relative to inflation while the pay of the top 1% of earners has gone up significantly [3]; and

WHEREAS childhood poverty is now over 25% in North Carolina [4] [5] and in some communities over 50% [6]; and

WHEREAS in Matthew 25:40 it says “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me;’” and

WHEREAS in the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church (*Book of Discipline*, ¶ 163), it says, “We claim all economic systems to be under the judgment of God no less than other facets of the created order. Therefore, we recognize the responsibility of governments to develop and implement sound fiscal and monetary policies that provide for the economic life of individuals and corporate entities and that ensure full employment and adequate incomes with a minimum of inflation. We believe private and public economic enterprises are responsible for the social costs of doing business, such as employment and environmental pollution, and that they should be held accountable for these costs. We support measures that would reduce the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few. We further support efforts to revise tax structures and to eliminate governmental support programs that now benefit the wealthy at the expense of other persons;”

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church calls on the North Carolina General Assembly to address the growing income inequality in our state by 1) Restoring the Earned Income Tax Credit 2) Raising the minimum wage gradually to \$10.50 per hour, and 3) Restoring unemployment benefits to 2013 levels. We also call on the state's Congressional delegation to address the national issue of income inequality; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon our churches to immediately raise the minimum salaries rates of their employees to \$10.50 per hour; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that North Carolina Conference churches become aware of income inequality in their communities and work with other churches to help at-risk children.

1. <http://thinkprogress.org/economy/2013/05/29/2073511/50-million-americans-are-going-hungry-as-congress-considers-gutting-food-stamps/> [accessed 6/13/2014]

2. <http://money.cnn.com/2012/04/19/news/economy/ceo-pay/> [accessed 6/13/2014]

3. http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/13/sunday-review/americas-productivity-climbs-but-wages-stagnate.html?_r=0 [accessed 6/13/2014]
4. <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/43-children-in-poverty-100-percent-poverty?loc=1&loct=2#detailed/2/2-52/false/868,867,133,38,35/any/321,322> [accessed 6/13/2014]
5. <http://www.smartstart.org/tag/health> [accessed 6/13/2014]
6. http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/data/statecounty/maps/iy2012/017_Pct_Poor2012.pdf [accessed 6/13/2014]

Fighting Hunger and Homelessness in Our Communities

WHEREAS, the world's food supply will need to be doubled by 2050 in order to meet the needs of a rising population (www.un.org); and

WHEREAS, one in six Americans live in poverty (www.povertyusa.org); and

WHEREAS, North Carolina exhibits a significantly higher food insecurity rate, 17%, than the national average (www.feedingamerica.org); and

WHEREAS, food insecurity is associated with a range of chronic illnesses such as hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and an increased risk of cardiovascular ailments (www.feedingamerica.org); and

WHEREAS, food insecurity has also been linked with delayed development, poorer attachment, and learning difficulties in the first two years of life, (www.feedingamerica.org); and

WHEREAS, in 2013, 92,593 individuals experiencing homelessness were reported as chronically homeless and 63,175 people of those reported homeless were living on the streets (www.onecpd.info); and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has been funding transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, and related supportive service projects for the homeless since 1988 under the authority granted by the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 and its subsequent modifications (www.huduser.org); and

WHEREAS, a number of communities prioritizing rapid re-housing as a response to homelessness have seen significant decreases in their homeless populations (www.endhomelessness.org); and

WHEREAS, research on rapid re-housing programs demonstrates not only low rates of returns to homelessness but better employment outcomes as well (www.endhomelessness.org);

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Annual Conference supports the NCCUMC Youth in their growing mission to partner with their district's local food banks or poverty agencies to support the fight to end homelessness, hunger, and poverty; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the North Carolina Annual Conference supports the youth in their efforts to designate a day for each district to come together in fellowship to help support these agencies and learn to develop ways for each district to fight to end homelessness, poverty, and hunger; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to each District Superintendent, District Youth Coordinator, the Rev. Dennis Peay, and the 2014 Annual Conference Session for youth for their consideration.