

ENCOURAGING A PLANT-BASED LIFE

A RESOLUTION OF WITNESS

1 TEXT OF THE MOTION

2
3 **WHEREAS** Jesus devoted his life to manifesting a world honoring all creation, tending to the
4 well-being of all creatures, and attuned to the life coursing through the earth itself; and

5
6 **WHEREAS** our most often and fondly quoted scriptures call us to be caring stewards of crea-
7 tion, but creation is dying on our watch; and

8
9 **WHEREAS** consumption of animals has been linked to almost every serious threat facing crea-
10 tion, including climate crisis, poor physical and mental health in people, environmental degrada-
11 tion, loss of biodiversity, food injustice, economic and labor injustice, the water crisis, colonial-
12 ism and resulting wars; and causes trauma and immense physical and psychological pain for sen-
13 tient beings bred in abominable conditions for exploitative purposes; and People of Color and
14 people living in poverty bear the brunt of animal agriculture's harmful effects on humans;^{1 2 3 4 5}
15 ^{6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19} and

16
17 **WHEREAS** there is no function of animal agriculture that cannot be served by plant- or syn-
18 thetic-based replacements, including fortified plant-based milks and cereals;²⁰ and

19
20 **WHEREAS** animal-based products would not be affordable or widely available if not for gov-
21 ernment subsidies;²¹ and

22
23 **WHEREAS** UCC General Minister and President John Dorhauer called the UCC in 2017 to the
24 mission emphasis of “The Three Great Loves” and invited every setting of the UCC to make a
25 commitment to “discover ways in which you can engage the members of your faith community
26 in mission that ... honors the call to be good stewards of God's creation;”²² and

27
28 **WHEREAS** General Synods have passed dozens of resolutions decrying environmental degra-
29 dation, racism, worker exploitation, world hunger and our responsibility to feed the planet, and
30 has adopted measures related to global migration, noting that food and water are often at its root,
31 each time urging UCC members to adopt new behaviors to lessen the impact or reverse the
32 causes of economic, environmental, climate and immigration injustice; to become an anti-racist
33 church, a labor- and immigrant-supporting church, an economic and environmental justice
34 church,^{23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48}

35
36 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Thirty Fourth General Synod of the United Church
37 of Christ

- 38 1. ~~endorses encourages~~ movement toward a plant-based diet as a means of mending the
39 ~~world~~ individuals, local churches, associations, conferences, and the national setting to
40 ~~work towards incorporating more plant-based items into their daily lives;~~
41 2. ~~requests appropriate ministries provide resources and opportunities for education~~the

42 United Church Board and its appropriate ministries to create and provide multigenera-
43 tional resources and opportunities for culturally and globally responsive education, so that
44 informed decisions can be made regarding a move toward more earth-friendly practices,
45 including (but not limited to) the health of all creation, sustainability, elimination of food
46 apartheid*, the ethical treatment of animals, and fair and safe practices for agricultural in-
47 dustry laborers;

- 48 3. ~~encourages congregations and affiliated ministries individuals, local churches, associa-~~
49 ~~tions, conferences, and the national setting of the United Church of Christ to begin con-~~
50 ~~sider to take~~ taking steps toward ~~reduction in animal consumption~~ the increased use of sus-
51 tainable plant-based items;
- 52 4. requests the United Church Board to ~~add~~ recognize November 1 as World Vegan ~~Month~~
53 Day and to add it to the yearly calendar of observances of the church;
- 54 5. ~~encourages that,~~ suggests to local churches, associations, conferences, and the national
55 setting of the United Church of Christ, that in any meeting-gathering of the Church and its
56 their boards, bodies, and committees, where meals and snacks are provided, a good-faith
57 effort will be made to offer a variety of nourishment options that includes ~~are~~ plant-based
58 alternatives; and
- 59 6. calls upon Congress, the White House and state legislators: 1) to redirect farm subsi-
60 dies to plant-based agriculture; 2) provide resources to help animal farmers and ranchers
61 transition to plant-crops and markets; and 3) ban factory farming of animals. calls upon
62 members of local churches, especially those with agricultural, environmental, and biologi-
63 cally scientific backgrounds: a) to advocate for responsible agricultural and environmental
64 practices in an effort to reduce factory farming and its impacts, especially on marginalized
65 communities, and b) to participate in local government with intention to promote sustaina-
66 ble farming, humane animal treatment, and fair labor practices.

67
68 * Food apartheid: a system of segregation that divides those with access to an abundance of
69 nutritious food and those who have been denied that access due to systemic injustice (regen-
70 eration.org)

71
72 **FUNDING:** The funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance
73 with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

74
75 **IMPLEMENTATION:** The Officers of the Church, in consultation with appropriate ministries
76 or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

77 NOTES

¹ t.ly/Tc3U

² US National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, t.ly/1ALb and t.ly/KF5U.

³ Center for Economic Policy and Research, t.ly/pUFE

⁴ t.ly/sz8I

⁵ t.ly/b22W

⁶ t.ly/u8LS

⁷ t.ly/bw12

⁸ t.ly/PLvp. See also t.ly/lptr; t.ly/q6a4; t.ly/3bVr.

⁹ Resolutions ratified by the NAACP National Board of Directors at its October 2019 Board of Directors Meeting, p 55. t.ly/vGqI.

¹⁰ Boston Children's Hospital. t.ly/ysP9

¹¹ Dr. H. Kim Lyerly, at t.ly/fJm6; See also t.ly/g2bl.

¹² <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7256495/>

¹³ <https://www.chathamhouse.org/2015/11/changing-climate-changing-diets-pathways-lower-meat-consumption>

¹⁴ <https://tenderly.medium.com/the-exploitation-of-factory-farms-doesnt-stop-at-animals-f40243c44a03>

¹⁵ "Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States." U.S. Energy Information Administration.

March 31, 2011. Cited by cowspiracy.com/facts.

¹⁶ <https://www.fao.org/3/a0701e/a0701e04.pdf>

¹⁷ <https://www.fao.org/3/a0701e/a0701e05.pdf>

¹⁸ <https://www.fao.org/3/a0701e/a0701e07.pdf>

¹⁹ <https://mercyforanimals.org/blog/tyson-foods-averages-one-human-amputee-per/>

²⁰ t.ly/qdhm

²¹ <https://jia.sipa.columbia.edu/removing-meat-subsidy-our-cognitive-dissonance-around-animal-agriculture#5>

²² <https://new.uccfiles.com/pdf/GS31-Minutes-Final.pdf>

²³ <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/AFFIRMING-GOVERNMENT-S-ROLE-TO-PROTECT-THE-COMMON-GOOD.pdf>

²⁴ <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/accra-confession.pdf>

²⁵ <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/economic-justice.pdf>

²⁶ <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/ANOTHER-WORLD-IS-POSSIBLE.pdf>

²⁷ <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/CALLING-FOR-A-MORE-JUST-HUMANE-DIRECTION-FOR-ECONOMIC-GLOBALIZATION.pdf>

²⁸ <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/CALLING-THE-UNITED-CHURCH-OF-CHRIST-TO-BE-AN-ANTI-RACIST-CHURCH.pdf>

²⁹ <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/CALLING-UPON-THE-UNITED-CHURCH-OF-CHRIST-TO-INITIATE-A-JUBILEE-FOR-JUSTICE-FOR-THE-RURAL-UNITED-STATES.pdf>

³⁰ <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/Christian-Faith-Economic-Life-and-Justice.pdf>

³¹ <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/climate-change-final.pdf>

³² <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/A-FAITHFUL-RESPONSE-CALLING-FOR-A-MORE-JUST-HUMANE-DIRECTION-FOR-ECONOMIC-GLOBALIZATION-AND-PLAN-OF-ACTION.pdf>

³³ <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/The-Family-Farm-1985.pdf>

³⁴ <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/FOR-THE-COMMON-GOOD.pdf>

³⁵ <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/FOR-THE-COMMON-GOOD.pdf>

³⁶ <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/Resolution-on-Mindful-and-Faithful-Eating.pdf>

³⁷ <https://new.uccfiles.com/pdf/gs29-2.pdf>

³⁸ <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/Pron-on-Justice-and-Internat-Dev.pdf>

³⁹ <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/RACIAL-JUSTICE-Seeking-Liberation.pdf>

⁴⁰ <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/Racial-and-Economic-Justice-Statement-1975.pdf>

⁴¹ <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/REDISTRIBUTING-TAX-REBATES-TO-THE-POOR.pdf>

⁴² <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/tar-creek-superfund-final.pdf>

⁴³ <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/Report-and-Issue-Statement-on-World-Hunger.pdf>

⁴⁴ <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/Resolution-on-Mindful-and-Faithful-Eating.pdf>

⁴⁵ <https://new.uccfiles.com/pdf/gs29-6.pdf>

⁴⁶ <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/global-food-crisis.pdf>

⁴⁷ <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/TO-EXPLORE-THE-IMPLICATIONS-OF-OUR-DIETARY-CHOICES.pdf>

⁴⁸ <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/THE-UNITED-CHURCH-OF-CHRIST-THIRTY-YEARS-OF-FAITHFUL-ACCOMPANIMENT-WITH-FARM-WORKERS.pdf>