

This Resolution **ENCOURAGING A PLANT-BASED LIFE**, incorporates a friendly amendment offered during Plenary that was accepted by the Committee Chair. However, the full resolution itself did not pass during the plenary of the Thirty-Fourth General Synod.

No further action will be taken by the General Synod on this resolution.

**ENCOURAGING A PLANT-BASED LIFE**

**A RESOLUTION OF WITNESS**

**TEXT OF THE MOTION**

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

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

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

**WHEREAS** there is no function of animal agriculture that cannot be served by plant- or synthetic-based replacements, including fortified plant-based milks and cereals;<sup>20</sup> and

**WHEREAS** animal-based products would not be affordable or widely available if not for government subsidies;<sup>21</sup> and

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

**WHEREAS** General Synods have passed dozens of resolutions decrying environmental degradation, racism, worker exploitation, world hunger and our responsibility to feed the planet, and has adopted measures related to global migration, noting that food and water are often at its root, each time urging UCC members to adopt new behaviors to lessen the impact or reverse the causes of economic, environmental, climate and immigration injustice; to become an anti-racist church, a labor- and immigrant-supporting church, an economic and environmental justice church,<sup>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</sup>

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

- 1. **encourages** individuals, local churches, associations, conferences, and the national setting

- 39 to work towards incorporating more plant-based items into their daily lives;  
40 2. **requests** the United Church Board and its appropriate ministries to create and provide  
41 multigenerational resources and opportunities for culturally and globally responsive  
42 education, so that informed decisions can be made regarding a move toward more earth-  
43 friendly practices, including (but not limited to) the health of all creation, sustainability,  
44 elimination of food apartheid\*, the ethical treatment of animals, and fair and safe practices  
45 for agricultural industry laborers;  
46 3. **encourages** individuals, local churches, associations, conferences, and the national setting  
47 of the United Church of Christ to consider taking steps toward the increased use of  
48 sustainable plant-based items;  
49 4. **requests** the United Church Board to recognize November 1 as World Vegan Day and to  
50 add it to the yearly calendar of observances of the church;  
51 5. **suggests** to local churches, associations, conferences, and the national setting of the  
52 United Church of Christ, that in any gathering of their boards, bodies, and committees,  
53 where meals and snacks are provided, a good-faith effort will be made to offer a variety of  
54 nourishment options that includes plant-based alternatives; and  
55 6. **calls upon** members of local churches, especially those with agricultural, environmental,  
56 and biologically scientific backgrounds: a) to advocate for responsible agricultural and  
57 environmental practices in an effort to end factory farming and repair its impacts,  
58 especially on marginalized communities, and b) to participate in local government with  
59 intention to promote sustainable farming, humane animal treatment, and fair labor  
60 practices.

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62 \* Food apartheid: a system of segregation that divides those with access to an abundance of  
63 nutritious food and those who have been denied that access due to systemic injustice  
64 (regeneration.org)  
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66 **FUNDING:** The funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance  
67 with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

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

71 NOTES

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<sup>1</sup> [t.ly/Tc3U](https://t.ly/Tc3U)

<sup>2</sup> US National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, [t.ly/1ALb](https://t.ly/1ALb) and [t.ly/KF5U](https://t.ly/KF5U).

<sup>3</sup> Center for Economic Policy and Research, [t.ly/pUFE](https://t.ly/pUFE)

<sup>4</sup> [t.ly/sz8I](https://t.ly/sz8I)

<sup>5</sup> [t.ly/b22W](https://t.ly/b22W)

<sup>6</sup> [t.ly/u8LS](https://t.ly/u8LS)

<sup>7</sup> [t.ly/bwl2](https://t.ly/bwl2)

<sup>8</sup> [t.ly/PLvp](https://t.ly/PLvp). See also [t.ly/lptr](https://t.ly/lptr); [t.ly/q6a4](https://t.ly/q6a4); [t.ly/3bVr](https://t.ly/3bVr).

<sup>9</sup> Resolutions ratified by the NAACP National Board of Directors at its October 2019 Board of Directors Meeting, p 55. [t.ly/vGqI](https://t.ly/vGqI).

<sup>10</sup> Boston Children's Hospital. [t.ly/ysP9](https://t.ly/ysP9)

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- <sup>11</sup> Dr. H. Kim Lyerly, at [t.ly/fJm6](https://t.ly/fJm6); See also [t.ly/g2bl](https://t.ly/g2bl).
- <sup>12</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7256495/>
- <sup>13</sup> <https://www.chathamhouse.org/2015/11/changing-climate-changing-diets-pathways-lower-meat-consumption>
- <sup>14</sup> <https://tenderly.medium.com/the-exploitation-of-factory-farms-doesnt-stop-at-animals-f40243c44a03>
- <sup>15</sup> “Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States.” U.S. Energy Information Administration. March 31, 2011. Cited by [cowspiracy.com/facts](https://cowspiracy.com/facts).
- <sup>16</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/a0701e/a0701e04.pdf>
- <sup>17</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/a0701e/a0701e05.pdf>
- <sup>18</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/a0701e/a0701e07.pdf>
- <sup>19</sup> <https://mercyforanimals.org/blog/tyson-foods-averages-one-human-amputee-per/>
- <sup>20</sup> [t.ly/qdhm](https://t.ly/qdhm)
- <sup>21</sup> <https://jia.sipa.columbia.edu/removing-meat-subsidy-our-cognitive-dissonance-around-animal-agriculture#5>
- <sup>22</sup> <https://new.uccfiles.com/pdf/GS31-Minutes-Final.pdf>
- <sup>23</sup> <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/AFFIRMING-GOVERNMENT-S-ROLE-TO-PROTECT-THE-COMMON-GOOD.pdf>
- <sup>24</sup> <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/accra-confession.pdf>
- <sup>25</sup> <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/economic-justice.pdf>
- <sup>26</sup> <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/ANOTHER-WORLD-IS-POSSIBLE.pdf>
- <sup>27</sup> <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/CALLING-FOR-A-MORE-JUST-HUMANE-DIRECTION-FOR-ECONOMIC-GLOBALIZATION.pdf>
- <sup>28</sup> <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/CALLING-THE-UNITED-CHURCH-OF-CHRIST-TO-BE-AN-ANTI-RACIST-CHURCH.pdf>
- <sup>29</sup> <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>
- <sup>30</sup> <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/Christian-Faith-Economic-Life-and-Justice.pdf>
- <sup>31</sup> <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/climate-change-final.pdf>
- <sup>32</sup> <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/A-FAITHFUL-RESPONSE-CALLING-FOR-A-MORE-JUST-HUMANE-DIRECTION-FOR-ECONOMIC-GLOBALIZATION-AND-PLAN-OF-ACTION.pdf>
- <sup>33</sup> <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/The-Family-Farm-1985.pdf>
- <sup>34</sup> <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/FOR-THE-COMMON-GOOD.pdf>
- <sup>35</sup> <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/FOR-THE-COMMON-GOOD.pdf>
- <sup>36</sup> <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/Resolution-on-Mindful-and-Faithful-Eating.pdf>
- <sup>37</sup> <https://new.uccfiles.com/pdf/gs29-2.pdf>
- <sup>38</sup> <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/Pron-on-Justice-and-Internat-Dev.pdf>
- <sup>39</sup> <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/RACIAL-JUSTICE-Seeking-Liberation.pdf>
- <sup>40</sup> <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/Racial-and-Economic-Justice-Statement-1975.pdf>
- <sup>41</sup> <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/REDISTRIBUTING-TAX-REBATES-TO-THE-POOR.pdf>
- <sup>42</sup> <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/tar-creek-superfund-final.pdf>
- <sup>43</sup> <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/Report-and-Issue-Statement-on-World-Hunger.pdf>
- <sup>44</sup> <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/Resolution-on-Mindful-and-Faithful-Eating.pdf>
- <sup>45</sup> <https://new.uccfiles.com/pdf/gs29-6.pdf>
- <sup>46</sup> <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/global-food-crisis.pdf>
- <sup>47</sup> <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/TO-EXPLORE-THE-IMPLICATIONS-OF-OUR-DIETARY-CHOICES.pdf>
- <sup>48</sup> <https://new.uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/THE-UNITED-CHURCH-OF-CHRIST-THIRTY-YEARS-OF-FAITHFUL-ACCOMPANIMENT-WITH-FARM-WORKERS.pdf>