

1 **TITLE OF RESOLUTION:** Calling on the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ to stand in support
2 of a basic guaranteed income for all citizens of the United States of America.

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4 **DATE RESOLUTION IS SUBMITTED:** March 4, 2016

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6 **NAME OF SUBMITTING BODY OR PERSONS:** First Congregational United Church of Christ Wadena, MN
7 by vote of the church council for purposes of discussion.

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18 **SUMMARY STATEMENT AND INTENT OF THE RESOLUTION:** The basic guaranteed income resolution is a
19 call for the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ to stand in support of a means to end
20 poverty, enhance wellbeing for all inhabitants of the United States through increased access to
21 nutritious food, adequate shelter, clothing, and educational opportunities. Additional benefits include
22 reducing unemployment as some workers will choose to work part time in the established labor market,
23 reducing carbon pollution as a result of revitalization of the local commons, access to locally grown food,
24 revitalization of small towns, reduced crime and recidivism, and the return of hope and faith in a
25 community that values and appreciates its participants.

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27 **BACKGROUND AND SUPPORTING STATEMENT:** WHEREAS the income of the majority of workers in the
28 United States has remained stagnant since the inauguration of "Reaganomics" and the middle class has
29 continued to decline in both percentage of the overall population and in overall income, while the top
30 1% has realized a mean household income of \$1,318,200 and a mean household net worth of
31 \$16,439,400 in 2010.

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33 WHEREAS the accumulation of wealth has had serious negative implications on our political process and
34 the realization of democracy, due to moneyed interests having undue influence in the political process
35 through donations and the funding of super PAC's. These funding streams have led to our current form
36 of government that many scholars describe as an oligarchy with citizens having little, if any, political
37 power to change the current system.

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39 WHEREAS In 2008 the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ passed a resolution calling for the
40 end of poverty in Minnesota, according to the Census Bureau 10.7% of Minnesotans lived in poverty
41 from 2011 to 2013. Childhood poverty continues with 420,000 children qualifying for Medicaid or
42 MinnesotaCare in 2014. 75% of those children also qualify for SNAP (food stamp) benefits.

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44 WHEREAS the first 5 books of Moses call for different economic principles concerning land and debt:
45 Every family was to have its own piece of agricultural land as the material basis for existence; that land
46 could not be bought or sold; debt was not entered into lightly and would be financed by more
47 prosperous families who were not allowed to charge interest; Every seventh year all debts were to be
48 forgiven and indentured servants (slaves) were to be set free and finally although land could not be
49 bought or sold it could be forfeited when debt was foreclosed upon, every fiftieth year (Jubilee Year) all
50 agricultural land was to be returned to the original family of ownership. The purpose of these laws was
51 to make sure every family had the material basis for existence without being enslaved or impoverished.
52 The basic guaranteed income is a modern day equivalent to those biblical laws.

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54 WHEREAS money has become a false idol placing greed and rugged individualism above community and
55 compassion. In such an economic atmosphere the real work of raising children, caring for the elderly,
56 doing vital community work such as organizing for the wellbeing of all residents is marginalized if not
57 totally discredited.

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59 WHEREAS one of many financing options for a basic income could be realized through a carbon
60 extraction tax whereby fossil fuel industries are required to pay a tax that is then used to fund a basic
61 income scheme. This would reduce carbon pollution and climate change enabling us to be good
62 stewards of God's creation.

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64 WHEREAS enabling people to have more time to participate in the political process and encouraging our
65 representatives to represent the 99% rather than the 1% and multinational corporations will further our
66 democracy and enhance the Kingdom of God rather than the American Empire.

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68 **RESOLUTION:** Therefore be it resolved that the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ stands in
69 support of a basic guaranteed income for all residents of the United States and encourages its members
70 to take an active role advocating for a basic income with the general public, faith community and
71 elected representatives.

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73 **FUNDING:** Funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance with the
74 activities of the affected entities (churches and participants) and the funds available.

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76 **IMPLEMENTATION:** The Conference Minister, in consultation with the appropriate ministries or other
77 entities within the Minnesota Conference UCC, will determine the implementing body (if any).