

1 **TITLE OF RESOLUTION:** Calling The Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ to declare  
2 itself to be a Fair Trade Conference.

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4 **DATE RESOLUTION IS SUBMITTED:** March 6, 2015

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6 **NAME OF SUBMITTING BODY OR PERSONS:** First Congregational U.C.C. by vote of the  
7 church council; Pastor Dana Mann, 917 202-3738, [dana@mankatoucc.org](mailto:dana@mankatoucc.org), 150 Stadium Court,  
8 Mankato, 56001. Fair Trade Committee members: Renee Schunk 507 304-3237,  
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13 5092, [janedow@hickorytech.net](mailto:janedow@hickorytech.net), 37 Capri Drive, Mankato 56001. The contact person is Jane  
14 Dow.  
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16 **SUMMARY STATEMENT OF INTENT OF THE RESOLUTION:** The Fair Trade resolution is a call  
17 for the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ to declare itself a Fair Trade Conference.  
18 Being a Fair Trade Conference involves encouraging individual churches to pass resolutions to  
19 become Fair Trade churches that follow the Fair Trade Congregation standards of:  
20 Using Fair Trade Certified coffee, tea and sugar after services and in all meetings for which the  
21 church has responsibility; Moving forward on using other Fair Trade Certified products (e.g.  
22 chocolate, cocoa, bananas); Promoting Fair Trade during Fair Trade Day in May and Fair Trade  
23 Month in October through a worship service and events like film nights, Fair Trade bazaars etc.,  
24 speakers etc., Teaching Fair Trade curriculum in Sunday school; and Fair Trade Certified  
25 products on a regular basis.  
26

#### 27 **BACKGROUND AND SUPPORTING STATEMENT**

28 Whereas 40 percent of the world's population is small scale farmers, the large majority of  
29 whom cultivate less than five acres of land and produce more than 70% of the world's food  
30 supply, yet shockingly, represent 50% of the world's hungriest people.  
31

32 Whereas since the 1970's the price of agricultural products has dropped to 1/3 of what farmers  
33 need to break even. By the 1980's, from every \$1.00 of wealth generated in the global  
34 economy, the richest countries received 80 cents and the poorest countries received 3 cents.  
35

36 Whereas the corporations have consolidated power in the food industry, maximized profits at  
37 the expense of human rights, labor rights and the environment and rigged trade policies to  
38 serve their profit motives.  
39

40 Whereas purchasing commodities from 40 small scale farmers in developing countries at the  
41 least expensive price makes us participants in an exploitative system that has trapped  
42 thousands of developing country farmers and their families in an inescapable cycle of poverty.  
43

44 Whereas the Bible calls us to further social and economic justice for all people and to be good  
45 stewards of the earth. "The field of the poor may yield much food, but it is swept away through

46 injustice,” Proverbs 13:23. “What does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love  
47 kindness and to walk humbly with your God,” Micah 6:8. “For I was hungry and you gave me  
48 food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,  
49 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and  
50 you visited me.” Matthew 25:35-40.

51  
52 Whereas the Fair Trade Certified system seeks to empower farmers by paying a fair price and  
53 supporting cooperative organization; and combats global warming by promoting sustainable  
54 agricultural practices.

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56 Whereas the UCC Justice and Witness Ministries partnered in March 2004 with Equal Exchange  
57 to launch a denomination-wide coffee program, the UCC Coffee Project. Besides benefiting  
58 farmers by paying fair prices, Equal Exchange makes a donation to the UCC Small Farmers Fund  
59 each time a church or member buys a product through the project.

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61 **RESOLUTION:** Therefore be it resolved that the Minnesota Conference U.C.C. encourages  
62 churches in the Conference to become Fair Trade churches, by 1) Using and promoting fair  
63 trade products; 2) Celebrating Fair Trade through events; and 3) Educating and raising  
64 awareness of Fair Trade.

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66 Be it further resolved that the Minnesota Conference U.C.C. also use and promote Fair Trade  
67 products at events and activities whenever possible.

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69 **FUNDING:** Funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance with  
70 the overall mandates of the affected entities and the funds available.

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72 **IMPLEMENTATION:** The Conference Minister, in consultation with the appropriate ministries  
73 or other entities within the Minnesota Conference UCC, will determine the implementing body.