

1 **TITLE:** Minnesota Renewable Energy Standard Resolution

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3 **DATE SUBMITTED:** March 10, 2018

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5 **SUBMITTED BY:** Justice & Witness Team of the Minnesota Conference United Church  
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9 **SUMMARY OF INTENT:** This resolution declares that the 2018 Annual Meeting of the  
10 Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ supports adoption of a Renewable Energy  
11 Standard of 50% by 2030.

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13 **BACKGROUND AND SUPPORTING STATEMENT:**

14 WHEREAS Genesis 1.1-11.32 repeatedly expresses the hope for a divinely blessed  
15 flourishing of life that never dies and that God does not abandon the world; and

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17 WHEREAS in Genesis 1:26 God makes humankind stewards of all living things; and

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19 WHEREAS Psalm 104 praises and worships God as creator and sustains the vision of  
20 God's good creation; and

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22 WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has declared its Three Great Loves, including  
23 Love of Creation asking each of us how we uphold the mandate to steward the Earth by  
24 demonstrating a love for creation; and

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26 WHEREAS the Minnesota Conference UCC has included among its Core Values  
27 Stewardship of creation including responsible and transparent use of resources, and  
28 Justice seeking creation justice separately and in its intersectionality with racial,  
29 generational, and economic justice; and

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31 WHEREAS the changing of the global climate and the role of humans in the changing  
32 are no longer subject to scientific challenge, requiring urgent and extensive responses by  
33 people of faith along with all others; and

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35 WHEREAS Minnesota is on a path to clean energy, but is still over dependent on dirty  
36 coal, a major cause of health issues, such as asthma, and climate change, as coal still  
37 fuels nearly half of Minnesota's electricity; and

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39 WHEREAS the feasibility of renewable energy has already been demonstrated with most  
40 Minnesota utilities already achieving Minnesota's current renewable energy standard of  
41 25% by 2025 and solar energy standard of 1.5% by 2020; and

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43 WHEREAS Minnesota's clean energy industry has created more than 15000 jobs, many  
44 with family-sustaining wages, and is one of the fastest growing sectors of our economy;

45 and

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48 WHEREAS energy efficiency conservation programs save Minnesota families and  
49 businesses millions of dollars each year and provide good jobs that can't be outsourced;  
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51 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2018 Annual Meeting of the  
52 Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ supports amending Minnesota Statutes to  
53 require the State of Minnesota to

- 54 - Secure at least 50% of Minnesota's electricity from wind, solar, and other  
55 clean and renewable energy sources by 2030
- 56 - Establish a goal of securing 100% of Minnesota's electricity from  
57 renewable sources by no later than 2050
- 58 - Plan a transition away from fossil fuels as a source of electricity by  
59 increasing renewable energy and investing in energy efficiency to save energy  
60 and money on Minnesotans' energy bills
- 61 - Ensure a racially and economically just transition where everyone  
62 has access to the benefits of energy efficient housing and clean energy through  
63 programs and priorities to end energy poverty and allow community solar for  
64 all.

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66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Minnesota  
67 Conference United Church of Christ commends to its member congregations and  
68 authorized ministers the opportunity to inform all public officials and candidates for  
69 public office in the jurisdictions in which its church is located and its members reside and  
70 work of this Resolution and the urgency to meet its demands; and

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72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Minnesota  
73 Conference United Church of Christ directs its Creation Justice Team to:

- 74 -Notify all member congregations of this resolution
- 75 - Advise allied partner organizations of this resolution and its support for their  
76 efforts seeking enactment of legislation incorporating its provisions
- 77 - Assist member congregations and individuals in their efforts to support  
78 enactment of the provisions of this resolution.

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**80 FUNDING:** Funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance  
81 with the overall mandates of the affected entities and the funds available. The Creation  
82 Justice Team does not anticipate other than minimal costs to the Team or other entities of  
83 the Minnesota Conference.

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

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