TITLE: Minnesota Renewable Energy Standard Resolution

DATE SUBMITTED: March 10, 2018

SUBMITTED BY: Justice & Witness Team of the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ. Primary contact: Rev Dwight Wagenius, home 612-822-3347; mobile, 612-799-5009; e-mail, dwagenius@gmail.com.

SUMMARY OF INTENT: This resolution declares that the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ supports adoption of a Renewable Energy Standard of 50% by 2030.

BACKGROUND AND SUPPORTING STATEMENT:
WHEREAS Genesis 1.1-11.32 repeatedly expresses the hope for a divinely blessed flourishing of life that never dies and that God does not abandon the world; and
WHEREAS in Genesis 1:26 God makes humankind stewards of all living things; and
WHEREAS Psalm 104 praises and worships God as creator and sustains the vision of God’s good creation; and
WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has declared its Three Great Loves, including Love of Creation asking each of us how we uphold the mandate to steward the Earth by demonstrating a love for creation; and
WHEREAS the Minnesota Conference UCC has included among its Core Values Stewardship of creation including responsible and transparent use of resources, and Justice seeking creation justice separately and in its intersectionality with racial, generational, and economic justice; and
WHEREAS the changing of the global climate and the role of humans in the changing are no longer subject to scientific challenge, requiring urgent and extensive responses by people of faith along with all others; and
WHEREAS Minnesota is on a path to clean energy, but is still over dependent on dirty coal, a major cause of health issues, such as asthma, and climate change, as coal still fuels nearly half of Minnesota’s electricity; and
WHEREAS the feasibility of renewable energy has already been demonstrated with most Minnesota utilities already achieving Minnesota’s current renewable energy standard of 25% by 2025 and solar energy standard of 1.5% by 2020; and
WHEREAS Minnesota’s clean energy industry has created more than 15000 jobs, many with family-sustaining wages, and is one of the fastest growing sectors of our economy; and
WHEREAS energy efficiency conservation programs save Minnesota families and businesses millions of dollars each year and provide good jobs that can’t be outsourced;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ supports amending Minnesota Statutes to require the State of Minnesota to
- Secure at least 50% of Minnesota’s electricity from wind, solar, and other clean and renewable energy sources by 2030
- Establish a goal of securing 100% of Minnesota’s electricity from renewable sources by no later than 2050
- Plan a transition away from fossil fuels as a source of electricity by increasing renewable energy and investing in energy efficiency to save energy and money on Minnesotans’ energy bills
- Ensure a racially and economically just transition where everyone has access to the benefits of energy efficient housing and clean energy through programs and priorities to end energy poverty and allow community solar for all.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ directs its Creation Justice Team to:
- Notify all member congregations of this resolution
- Advise allied partner organizations of this resolution and its support for their efforts seeking enactment of legislation incorporating its provisions
- Assist member congregations and individuals in their efforts to support enactment of the provisions of this resolution.

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

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