

A PROPOSED WITNESS RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE PROVISION of MOSQUITO NETTING AND THE STUDY OF THE IMPACTS OF GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

- 1 **Whereas**, we have been called by God to be good stewards of resources provided to us and
- 2 **Whereas**, we are called to love our neighbors as ourselves and
- 3 **Whereas**, a good deal of scientific evidence suggests that our reliance upon fossil fuels may
- 4 be contributing to an overall rise in surface and ocean temperatures and
- 5 **Whereas**, the mosquito population will continue to rise in areas with warming global
- 6 temperatures and
- 7 **Whereas**, already over 1 million people every year are killed by malaria; 90 percent of these
- 8 deaths occurring in Africa and
- 9 **Whereas**, these deaths are overwhelmingly preventable with insecticide-treated bed nets
- 10 and the effective delivery of anti-malarial medicines in integrated health care programs
- 11 **Therefore, Be It Resolved** that the Michigan Conference United Church of Christ supports the
- 12 distribution of bed netting in Africa through such programs as the United Nations
- 13 Foundation's Nothing But Nets, extending God's love and mercy to those who may be
- 14 harmed by global climate change, without waiting for final calculation or proof and
- 15 **Be It Further Resolved** that we appeal to our sister churches and denominations to join us
- 16 in serving those who may be impacted by rising global temperatures and
- 17 **Be It Further Resolved**, that we study the responsibility of the worldwide Church to help
- 18 those who may be damaged with our continued reliance on fossil fuels and
- 19 **Be It Further Resolved**, that we encourage worldwide governments to refine and tighten
- 20 forecast models to help better direct aid to those affected by climate change.

Resolution proposed by Salem United Church of Christ in Farmington, MI Contact Robert Bailey 734.451.1574
As a witness resolution, a two-thirds majority vote is required for passage. Any implementation cost to the Michigan Conference will come from the Prophetic Integrity Mission Area Team's 2010 budget.

SUPPORTIVE STATEMENT

Scripture offers the possibility that Jesus held those responsible for injuring others to account and expected them to make restitution, as much as several times over.

Scripture offers the message that churches that viewed themselves as alienated from other churches were in error. We are one in Christ, and are expected to act together at appropriate times.

The damage estimated from global warming, in the several decades to come, varies greatly among the several models. The optimistic one suggests temperature rises half of one degree for each quarter century. Others forecast 11 degrees in this century. In the first case mission could consist of supplying new technology mosquito nets first to African families, then to other tropical locals later. Support could be offered to locals that found it necessary to evacuate due to failed crops or other issues. The rise of 11degrees per century would likely exhaust resources quickly and limit us to praying for families of the dead.

The U.N. endorsed charity, Nothing But Nets, supplies for \$10 insecticide treated nets good for at least 5 years. Results in Africa have shown that infant deaths from malaria and other mosquito born diseases can be reduced by 600,000 per year, at minimal cost. Each rise in the ocean temperature by a half degree worsens the suffering and death rate considerably. Early action would allow families to get on top of the danger.

BIBLICAL /THEOLOGICAL RATIONALE

James 2:8-19

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” ...

What good is it, my brothers and sisters if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill”, and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead ... Even the demons believe – and shudder.

James 1:22-22

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and on going away, immediately forget what they look like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act – they will be blessed in their doing.

Mathew 25:18-40

But the one who received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master ... came and settled accounts ... Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying ... I went and hid your talent in the ground ... But his master replied ... as for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ...

The king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me. Then the righteous will answer him, Lord when ...? And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.

Luke 19:1-10

A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was chief tax collector and was rich ... When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.” So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, “He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.” Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.”

Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and save the lost.”

See also Paul’s letters about relations between Jewish and Greek churches.