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2 The Executive Council has recommended this resolution be sent to a committee of the General Synod.
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4 ***Affirming the Accra Confession: Covenanting for Justice in the Economy and***
5 ***the Earth***

6
7 (A Resolution of Witness)
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9 **Submitted By:** Justice and Witness Ministries to
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12 **Summary**

13 In 2004, the 24th General Council of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, meeting in
14 Accra, Ghana, adopted *The Accra Confession: Covenanting for Justice in the Economy and the*
15 *Earth*. This Resolution expresses General Synod's affirmation of this document and commends it
16 to the whole church for study, reflection, prayer, and action so that we may live into a more just
17 system of economic globalization.
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19 The full text of the Accra Confession is online.

20 English text: http://warc.jalb.de/warcajsp/side.jsp?news_id=1154&navi=45

21 Spanish text: http://warc.jalb.de/warcajsp/side.jsp?news_id=1195&navi=24
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23 **Background**

24 Over the past two to three decades, the economies of nations around the world have become
25 much more interconnected. Goods, services, and money move rapidly and quickly across
26 national borders. National and international laws and practices have been revised and newly
27 created to facilitate and govern these developments. The hope held out before citizens of major
28 industrialized nations and less economically developed ones was that these changes, which might
29 be difficult and disruptive, would lead to greater well-being for the world's people. The reality,
30 however, has fallen far short. The current system of economic globalization has brought:
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- 32 • growing economic inequality among people within countries in both the economically less
33 developed and more developed worlds, and growing inequality between countries;
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- 35 • greater economic instability and crises such as the one currently wrecking havoc in the U.S.;
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- 37 • slower economic growth in most countries with the exception of China, India, and a handful
38 of other nations that have not followed the dominant economic policies;
39
- 40 • ongoing destruction of the environment; and
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- 42 • the tragic destruction of people: poverty kills over 20,000 people each day and stunts the
43 bodies, minds, and opportunities of countless others. The past 25 years have witnessed a
44 slowdown in the rate of improvements in infant and child mortality, life expectancy, and
45 primary and secondary school enrollments and expenditures.
46

47 After a 15-year process, *The Accra Confession* was adopted in 2004 at a meeting in Accra,
48 Ghana, by delegates to the 24th General Council of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches.
49 WARC is composed of 214 denominations and faith bodies of Reformed and United churches,
50 including the United Church of Christ, with a combined membership of some 75 million people
51 in 107 countries.

52
53 WARC delegates believe that the economic and environmental injustices of today's global
54 economy require the family of Reformed and United churches to respond as a matter of faith
55 and engage injustices as an integral part of our churches' witness and mission. The *Accra*
56 *Confession* declared that working to create a more just global economy is essential to Christian
57 faith: "We believe that the integrity of our faith is at stake if we remain silent or refuse to act in
58 the face of the current system of neoliberal economic globalization;"

59 60 Biblical and Theological Rationale

61 God is sovereign over all creation. "The earth is the LORD'S and all that is in it" (Ps 24: 1). We
62 are called to share with our neighbors out of the abundance that God gives to the world. God's
63 economy is a gift of grace that is not for sale in the marketplace (Matt 14:13-21; 15:32-38).
64 God's economy of life provides abundantly for all God's people.

65
66 The poor and marginalized are special members of God's community and we are called to put
67 justice for "the least of these" at the center of the community of life and the mission of the
68 church. (Matt 25:40). God's vision for the earth is of justice and peace. God calls the Church to
69 "loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to
70 break every yoke" (Isaiah 58:6).

71
72 Rules devised to benefit some segments of society should not stand if they also disadvantage or
73 harm the poor. "Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
74 saying, . . . we will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false
75 balances, buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings
76 of the wheat" (Amos 8:4-6).

77 78 **The Resolution**

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80 **Whereas**, delegates at the 24th General Council of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches
81 (WARC) meeting in Accra, Ghana, in 2004, adopted *The Accra Confession: Covenanting for*
82 *Justice in the Economy and the Earth* based on the theological conviction that the economic and
83 environmental injustices of today's global economy require the family of Reformed and United
84 churches to respond as a matter of faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ;

85
86 **Whereas**, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ has long supported greater justice in
87 the international arena as expressed in Pronouncements and Resolutions including:

- 88 • *Calling for a More Just, Humane Direction for Economic Globalization* (A Pronouncement
89 adopted by the Twenty-fourth GS, 2003) <http://www.ucc.org/justice/pdfs-1/A-Faithful-Response-Calling-for-a-More-Just-Humane-Direction-for-Economic-Globalization.pdf>;

- 91 • *Affirming Democratic Principles in an Emerging Global Economy* (A Resolution adopted by
92 the Twenty-first General Synod, 1997) [http://www.ucc.org/synod/resolutions/AFFIRMING-](http://www.ucc.org/synod/resolutions/AFFIRMING-DEMOCRATIC-PRINCIPLES-IN-AN-EMERGING-GLOBAL-ECONOMY.pdf)
93 [DEMOCRATIC-PRINCIPLES-IN-AN-EMERGING-GLOBAL-ECONOMY.pdf](http://www.ucc.org/synod/resolutions/AFFIRMING-DEMOCRATIC-PRINCIPLES-IN-AN-EMERGING-GLOBAL-ECONOMY.pdf);
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95 **Whereas**, the General Synod affirms that global economic justice is essential to the integrity of
96 our faith in God and discipleship as Christians;
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98 **Whereas**, the General Synod seeks to be in unity with our family of Reformed and United
99 churches around the world in standing with those persons who are harmed by the current system
100 of economic globalization and in calling for and working toward justice for all people and the
101 environment;
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103 **THEREFORE** be it resolved that the Twenty-seventh General Synod of the United Church of
104 Christ affirms the *Accra Confession: Covenanting for Justice in the Economy and the Earth*;
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106 Be it further resolved that the Twenty-seventh General Synod urges all United Church of Christ
107 members, churches, associations, conferences, and institutions to:

- 108 • read and study the *Accra Confession* and use it in worship and as a focus for educational
109 forums;
- 110 • learn about neoliberal economic globalization and other economic systems which impoverish
111 and oppress people around the world and in the U.S., and study the impacts of these
112 economic systems;
- 113 • pray about and discern the implications of the *Accra Confession* for our daily life as
114 individuals, and for our life together in our homes, churches, and institutions; and
- 115 • engage in advocacy around national and international policies that will bring the reality of
116 globalization more in line with God's vision for God's world;

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118 Be it further resolved that resources created by the WARC North American Covenanting for
119 Justice Working Group will be made available (primarily online) for use by all settings of the
120 UCC (including online resources that describe the WARC process and detail its history posted at
121 http://warc.jalb.de/warcajsp/side.jsp?news_id=1154&navi=45).
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123 **FUNDING**

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125 Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall
126 mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.
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128 129 **IMPLEMENTATION**

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131 Justice and Witness Ministries is requested to implement this resolution.
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