

COMMITTEE 9a

**RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP OF THE OUTER SPACE ENVIRONMENT**

WHEREAS previous General Synods of the United Church of Christ have acknowledged humanity's moral obligation to be faithful stewards of God's creation; and

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ's pastoral letter on faith and science provides a theological basis for enlarging our ethical perspective on creation to incorporate outer space; and

WHEREAS a sustainable space environment is necessary for many activities essential to human flourishing; and

WHEREAS the long-term sustainability of the space environment is at risk from space debris and irresponsible conduct; and

WHEREAS timely action is required to stabilize the space environment, particularly low Earth orbit...

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ praises God for the majesty, mystery and complexity of the whole of creation, from the Earth to the outer reaches of the universe, and acknowledges human responsibility for the stewardship of planet Earth, its ecosystems and the larger cosmological systems of which it is a part.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ expresses its concern about the pollution and degradation of the outer space environment and its dangerous implications for humanity and all of God's creation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests that Justice and Witness Ministries recommend educational materials for the churches on the subject of outer space sustainability;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests that educational materials recommended by Justice and Witness Ministries be presented to the Thirty-First General Synod with suggestions for how the United Church of Christ might undertake various forms of action;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests that Justice and Witness Ministries send copies of this resolution and supporting materials to its global ecumenical, interfaith, and civil society partners and invite them to join the United Church of Christ in its efforts to promote outer space sustainability;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the members of the United Church of Christ to educate themselves on this issue and advocate with members of Congress to adequately fund NASA to lead the nations of the world in working together to reduce the volume of debris in low Earth orbit;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ expresses its support for efforts by the United States and other nations to negotiate international agreements that encourage responsible behavior in space.

FUNDING

Funding for the implementation of this Resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

#### IMPLEMENTATION

The Officers of the Church, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.