

The following resolution has been received by the Office of the General Minister and President after the deadline established by the Standing Rules of the Thirty-second General Synod but noting the “could not have been anticipated” paragraph in the General Synod Standing Rules. Any resolution must meet all of the requirements of the Standing Rules (see Standing Rule 11). The Sub-Committee on Disposition has recommended that this resolution go to a Committee of the General Synod. The Board of Directors will decide in June whether to affirm the recommendation of the Sub-committee on Disposition.

## **ON SUPPORT FOR THE ENERGY INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT OF 2019**

### **A Resolution of Witness**

Submitted by Irvine United Congregational Church, Irvine, CA  
Diamond Bar United Church of Christ, Diamond Bar, CA  
Mt. Hollywood United Church of Christ, Hollywood, CA  
Claremont United Church of Christ, Claremont, CA  
First Congregational Church, Long Beach, CA  
Boise First Congregational, Boise, ID  
Community Congregational Church, Chula Vista, CA  
The Neighborhood United Church of Christ, Bath, ME  
MCC United Church of Christ in the Valley, N. Hollywood, CA  
Calvary United Church of Christ, Reading, PA  
Federated Church, Marlborough, NH  
Second Church of Newton, Newton, MA  
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Grand Junction, CO  
Brea Congregational United Church of Christ, Brea, CA  
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Downers Grove, IL  
Immanuel Congregational Church, Hartford, CT  
Church of the Foothills UCC & DOC, Santa Ana, CA  
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Hendersonville, NC

1 SUMMARY

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3 This resolution supports the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, H. R. 763,  
4 which has been submitted to the U. S. House of Representatives on January 24, 2019. This Act  
5 applies the Fee and Dividend approach to help solve the climate change problem.

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7 BIBLICAL, THEOLOGICAL AND ETHICAL RATIONALE

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9 In the Psalms, we find “The Earth is the Lord’s,” (Psalm 24:1). In the Gospels, Jesus responded  
10 to the question, “Which is the greatest commandment?” by stating, “‘you shall love the Lord  
11 your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’  
12 This is the first commandment. And the second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as  
13 yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these” (Mark 12:29-31). As Christians,  
14 we must support legislation that will reduce the devastation from climate change both in our

15 country and around the world, especially when it is most destructive to the poorest people and  
16 nations.

17

18 TEXT OF THE MOTION

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20 Whereas, climate change, caused largely by pollution from using fossil carbon, has caused  
21 problems from drought, severe storms, flooding, rising ocean levels, ocean acid increase, and  
22 species destruction<sup>1</sup>; and

23

24 Whereas, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 was introduced into the U. S.  
25 House of Representatives on January 24, 2019, with bi-partisan cosponsors<sup>2</sup>; and

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27 Whereas, the 2017 UCC Synod passed "The Earth is the Lord's, not Ours to Wreck," a resolution  
28 to combat climate change<sup>3</sup>; and

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30 Whereas, the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church supports a national tax on  
31 carbon-based fossil fuels based on the Carbon Fee and Dividend proposal of the Citizens'  
32 Climate Lobby<sup>4</sup>; and

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34 Whereas, the Presbyterian Church (USA) has supported climate action using a carbon dividend  
35 plan<sup>5</sup>; and

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37 Whereas, climate change threatens most those who are poor and least able to cope with the  
38 changes<sup>6</sup>; and

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40 Whereas, the United Church of Christ consistently favors uniting actions; and

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42 Whereas, the fee and dividend approach of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of  
43 2019 provides an effective reduction in fossil carbon pollution, is good for people, especially the  
44 poor, is good for the economy, is supported by members from both major parties, and is revenue  
45 neutral<sup>7</sup>; and

46

47 Whereas, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 applies a fee on extraction of  
48 fossil carbon, returns the money to people as a dividend, supports fair international trade, and  
49 increases the fossil carbon fee yearly<sup>7</sup>; and

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51 Whereas, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 is bi-partisan and neither  
52 supports nor rejects other proposals related to climate change; it can co-exist non-competitively  
53 with such proposals;

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55 Therefore be it resolved, that the Thirty-Second General Synod of the United Church of Christ  
56 expresses its clear support for the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, H. R.  
57 763;

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59 Be it further resolved that the Thirty-Second General Synod encourages all settings of the United  
60 Church of Christ to seek ways to learn more about climate change and solutions;

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62 Be it further resolved that the Thirty-Second General Synod encourages the national setting of  
63 the United Church of Christ make available resources to learn about and engage with people of  
64 other faiths on climate change;

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66 Be it finally resolved that the Thirty-Second General Synod encourages members and settings of  
67 the United Church of Christ to speak out for energy innovations and conservation to reduce  
68 climate change.

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70 FUNDING

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72 The funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance with the overall  
73 mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

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75 IMPLEMENTATION

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

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80 <sup>1</sup> Special Report Global Warming of 1.5 C, IPCC, 2018:

81 [https://report.ipcc.ch/sr15/pdf/sr15\\_spm\\_final.pdf](https://report.ipcc.ch/sr15/pdf/sr15_spm_final.pdf)

82 <sup>2</sup> <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/hr763>

83 <sup>3</sup>  
84 [http://www.ucc.org/news\\_gs\\_declaring\\_the\\_earth\\_is\\_the\\_lords\\_ucc\\_calls\\_for\\_environmental\\_imperatives\\_for\\_a\\_new\\_moral\\_era\\_07042017](http://www.ucc.org/news_gs_declaring_the_earth_is_the_lords_ucc_calls_for_environmental_imperatives_for_a_new_moral_era_07042017)

85 <sup>4</sup> <https://episcopalclimatenews.com/2018/10/02/church-resolutions-carbon-tax/>

86 <sup>5</sup> <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/eco-journey/2018/07/27/general-assembly-policy-on-carbon-pricing/>

87 <sup>6</sup> Special Report Global Warming of 1.5 C, IPCC, 2018:

88 [https://report.ipcc.ch/sr15/pdf/sr15\\_spm\\_final.pdf](https://report.ipcc.ch/sr15/pdf/sr15_spm_final.pdf)

89 <sup>7</sup> <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/763>

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