

**REVIVE US AGAIN:  
THE CHURCH'S RESPONSE TO THE ECONOMIC CRISIS  
A Resolution approved by General Synod XVI of the United Church of Christ (1987)**

WHEREAS, the centralization of economic resources throughout the nation, with its emphasis on short-term profit rather than sustained development, destroys community life, inflames racial discrimination and ethnic conflict, decreases the quality of public education, and fragments family life with the stresses of unemployment and dislocation; and

WHEREAS, many UCC congregations are located in communities in rural America and Appalachia beset by the specific problems of plant closings, massive job loss, destruction of neighborhoods, and the erosion of a viable tax base on the local level; and

WHEREAS, the church, with its values and faith that God's coming realm will free all people for productive lives in caring communities, is called to confront controlling institutions; and

WHEREAS, the Fifteenth General Synod adopted a ten-year United Church of Christ Church Development Program; and

WHEREAS, the guidelines and practices guiding the administration of the ten-year church development exclude the majority of United Church of Christ churches, and in particular those churches located in critical mission situations; and

WHEREAS, there is no regular source of funding for support of churches in critical mission situations;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sixteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ;

- Declares its support for rural, urban and Appalachian organizations seeking to restore values of community control, affirms the dignity and self-worth of all citizens and fosters the stewardship of the earth's resources;
- Encourages coalitions among groups in these and other sectors to address the issues of monopolization and community life;
- Joins with other denominations and faiths in ecumenical partnership to enlarge the base of resources for building strong community organizations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Sixteenth General Synod calls upon the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to take steps to:

- Provide training and education for church and community leaders to strengthen their mission, increase economic literacy and revitalize their communities;
- Identify and relate to the "home missionaries" in impoverished areas who aid local communities and congregations in strengthening the mission of increasing citizen participation in economic life;
- Provide funding and technical assistance where necessary to implement these efforts.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, the Sixteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ recommends that a portion of all funds from all sources designated for the ten-year church development program be allocated to projects that do not necessarily meet the existing guidelines and that are located in critical mission situations as determined by the Directors of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries.