

44 Luke 12:42-48 *And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and prudent manager whom his*
45 *master will put in charge of his slaves, to give them their allowance of food at the proper time?*
46 *Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives. Truly I tell you, he will*
47 *put that one in charge of all his possessions. But if that slave says to himself, "My master is*
48 *delayed in coming," and if he begins to beat the other slaves, men and women, and to eat and*
49 *drink and get drunk, the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him*
50 *and at an hour that he does not know, and will cut him in pieces, and put him with the unfaithful.*
51 *That slave who knew what his master wanted but did not prepare himself or do what was wanted,*
52 *will receive a severe beating. But the one who did not know and did what deserved a beating will*
53 *receive a light beating. From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required;*
54 *and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.*

55
56 God was pleased with His creation. All of creation was given over to humankind, to sustain and
57 please us. In exchange, God commands that we care for creation. God also commands that we
58 care for the poor and needy. We have defiled God's good creation and have failed to care for the
59 poor and needy. We have been blessed beyond measure, and now much is required of us. Will
60 we be faithful and prudent managers, at work when our Master comes?

61
62 Ambrose of Milan wrote, "The world has been created for everyone's use, but you few rich are
63 trying to keep it for yourselves. For not merely the possession of the earth, but the very sky, the
64 air, and the sea are claimed for the use of the rich few.... The earth belongs to all, not just to the
65 rich." (Sleeth, 2008)

66
67 *Praise be you, my Lord through Sister Water, who is very useful and humble and precious and*
68 *chaste. Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks and serve Him with great humility. St.*
69 *Francis of Assisi, [Canticle of the Creatures](#).*

70
71 Our UCC website states, "[We are a church where Jesus the healer meets Jesus the revolutionary,](#)
72 [and where together, we grow a just and peaceful world.](#)" This resolution is one small step that
73 UCC congregations can take toward putting a "just and peaceful world" into practice. The UCC
74 General Synod has previously approved resolutions demonstrating concern for eco-justice,
75 environmental racism, sustainability, clean air and water, and international environmental policy.
76 These include related resolutions, "[ON MAKING UCC CHURCH BUILDINGS MORE](#)
77 [CARBON NEUTRAL](#)" (GS 29, 2013) and "[TRANSITION FROM FOSSIL FUELS TO](#)
78 [RENEWABLE ENERGY](#)" (GS 30, 2015).

79
80 TEXT OF THE MOTION

81
82 WHEREAS Styrofoam (a registered trademark by Dow Chemical so "Styrofoam" will be
83 replaced with plastic foam) is made of expanded polystyrene foam, and

84
85 WHEREAS polystyrene is made by linking styrene molecules into a polymer (American
86 Chemistry Council) and "polymer" is defined by Merriam-Webster as a chemical compound or
87 mixture of compounds that is formed by combination of smaller molecules and consists basically
88 of repeating structural units, and

89

90 WHEREAS plastic foam is used in many applications, including food service (Clean Water
91 Action, 2011), and
92
93 WHEREAS it takes 500 years for plastic foam to decompose (Sims, 2016), and
94
95 WHEREAS landfill contents are 25-30% plastic, which includes plastic foam (Sims, 2016), and
96
97 WHEREAS styrene and benzene are used in the production of plastic foam, and styrene is a
98 probable carcinogen in humans (Aarhus University, 2018), and benzene is a known carcinogen
99 in humans (American Cancer Society), and
100
101 WHEREAS plastic foam containers leach styrene when they come into contact with warm food
102 or drink, alcohol, oils, and acidic foods such as fruit juice (Sims, 2016), and
103
104 WHEREAS microwaving food in plastic foam containers increases styrene leaching into food
105 and is considered a health risk (Earth Resource Foundation), and
106
107 WHEREAS In 1986 the EPA listed polystyrene manufacturing as the 5th largest hazardous
108 waste contributor in the United States and polystyrene is manufactured with petroleum which is
109 non-sustaining and heavily polluting (Sims, 2016), and
110
111 WHEREAS the United Nations Environment Programs estimated in 2006 that 46,000 pieces of
112 plastic, including plastic foam, float in every square mile of ocean (Sims, 2016), because plastic
113 foam is lightweight and floats readily so it travels easily down storm drains and runs off into
114 waterways, and
115
116 WHEREAS plastic from urban runoff is the primary source of plastic ocean debris world-wide
117 (Sims, 2016), and
118
119 WHEREAS as plastics enter the waterways and oceans, they break down into smaller and
120 smaller pieces, which are then ingested by marine life, causing harm or death, which has
121 potential impacts on seafood fish populations (Monterey Bay Aquarium, 2018), and
122
123 WHEREAS in 2010 the United Nations estimated that 37% of the global population lives along
124 the coastline (United Nations Goal 14, 2016), and
125
126 WHEREAS seafood makes up 90% of protein in the diet of persons living in some parts of the
127 world (Monterey Bay Aquarium, 2018), and
128
129 WHEREAS a study of beach debris in Orange County, California found plastic foam to be the
130 second most abundant form of beach debris (Moore et al. 1998), and
131
132 WHEREAS a study of microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay found microplastics in 98% of
133 samples (Marine Debris Program, 2018)
134

135 WHEREAS 100% of human fatty tissues sampled in 1972, 1976, and 1982 contained levels of
136 styrene. A 1988 survey found levels of styrene in fatty tissue to be 8 to 350 nanograms of
137 styrene per gram of tissue (ng/g). 350 ng/g is 1/3 the level of styrene that is toxic to nerves or
138 nervous tissue (Sims, 2016), and

139
140 WHEREAS research on the effects of plastic pollution and chemical effects on the food web and
141 human health is currently inadequate (Monterey Bay Aquarium, 2018), and

142
143 WHEREAS non-plastic foam food packaging products are available online at the following
144 websites (this list is NOT all-inclusive – there are others, and users are encouraged and expected
145 to do their own research for quality and price):

146 <https://greenpaperproducts.com/styrofoam-alternatives.aspx>
147 <https://begreenpackagingstore.com>.
148 <https://www.goodstartpackaging.com/>
149 <http://letsgogreen.biz/>, and

150
151 WHEREAS the United Church of Christ is committed to [Environmental Justice](#), and the third of
152 the “[3 Great Loves](#)” initiative is Love of Creation,

153
154 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Thirty Second General Synod encourages
155 Conferences, Associations, Congregations, and individuals to avoid the use of plastic foam in
156 food packaging and other activities within their church and church-related facilities, and

157
158 Be it further resolved that Thirty Second General Synod encourages Conferences, Associations
159 and Congregations to educate their members about plastic foam and that they encourage the use
160 of alternatives such as paper products or, better yet, ceramic or other dishwasher-safe products.

161
162 FUNDING
163 The funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance with the overall
164 mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

165
166 IMPLEMENTATION
167 The officers of the church, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the
168 United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

169
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