

Resolution for Transitioning from Coal Energy to Renewable Energy

The Central Pacific Conference United Church of Christ

1 Whereas, we are a people of faith who recognize that when “the world languishes and withers; the
2 heavens languish together with the earth” (Isaiah 24: 4), and
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4 Whereas, we are a people of faith who recognize the consequences of our actions when “the earth lies
5 polluted under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed laws, violated the statutes, broken the
6 everlasting covenant” (Isaiah 24:5), and
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8 Whereas, carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the leading cause of global warming, and coal-fired energy plants are
9 the leading source of CO₂ pollution in the United States with automobiles being the second largest
10 source, and
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12 Whereas, mercury pollution is known to have severe health effects, such as neurological damage in
13 fetuses and infants, and coal-fired energy plants are the leading source of mercury pollution in United
14 States, and
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16 Whereas, coal pollution has been linked to four of the five leading causes of death in the United States
17 by contributing to heart disease, cancer, stroke, and chronic lower respiratory disease, and
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19 Whereas, smog not only tarnishes the beauty of wilderness areas but also increases health risks such as
20 asthma attacks, and coal-fired energy plants are a leading cause of smog pollution in the United States,
21 and
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23 Whereas, coal mining irreparably devastates our land, water, and air in numerous ways, including the
24 removal of mountaintops and the destruction of approximately 2,000 miles of streams and more than
25 700,000 acres of forest, and
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27 Whereas, the transportation of coal via trains brings coal dust into communities and poisons their air and
28 water, and
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30 Whereas, the waste of combusted coal stored in poorly regulated ponds and landfills poses high risks to
31 human health and the environment due to toxic substances such as mercury, arsenic, and lead, and
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33 Whereas, coal is our dirtiest source of energy as it moves from mines to plants to ash ponds;
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35 Therefore, let it be resolved that we will respond to our calling as caretakers of creation in covenant with
36 God by seeking to transition our nation and our world away from the use of coal energy.
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38 Be it further resolved that the Central Pacific Conference (CPC) will call upon its member congregations
39 to support the passage of federal and state policies that will speed our nation’s transition to renewable
40 energy.
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42 Be it further resolved that the CPC will call upon its member congregations to undertake education,
43 advocacy, and action that promote the creation of renewable energy industries and jobs out of concern
44 for the health of our communities and the wellbeing of our planet.
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46 Cost analysis: there are no foreseeable direct costs to the CPC by this action. Individual congregations
47 may incur costs based on their particular actions.
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49 Submitted by: The Justice & Witness Ministry Team, Central Pacific Conference United Church of Christ.