

## Synod Commissioner's Resolution "Economic Justice in These Troubled Times"

Be it resolved that the Synod of the Northeast condemns personal and corporate greed as a moral sin, and expresses its concern for the numerous individuals and families affected by our very troubled economy.

And furthermore, that the Synod of the Northeast proclaim:

- We stand with and advocate for those who have lost their homes, lost their jobs, lost their health insurance benefits, and who have lost basic services in their communities including quality public education and vital public infrastructure.
- We are concerned by political discussions related to reducing budgetary expenditures for critical safety net programs such as social security, Medicare, Medicaid and community services block grants that support Head Start, WIC, WAP and other services for our poorest citizens.
- We urge policy makers to pursue policies that meet human needs and support the public good, not the benefit of the most powerful.
- We decry a moral climate that condones unbridled greed as a necessary ingredient in our economic system.
- We uphold the religious and spiritual value of participation, that those most affected by decisions be present and involved at the table where decisions are made.

And finally, that the Synod of the Northeast:

- Call for our church members to follow the historic Reformed tradition of civic engagement, and insist on accountability, transparency and responsibility on the part of elected officials and public servants in this time of economic distress.
- Call on our churches to partner with other ecumenical, interfaith and non-profit community organizations to address in practical and effective ways the weaknesses in our social structure, paying particular heed to those people who have long been marginalized and excluded from the fullness of opportunity in American society.
- Commend to our presbyteries and congregations the 219th GA Report: "Living Through Economic Crisis: The Church's Witness in Troubled Times" for study, discussion and action.
- Commend to our presbyteries and congregations the forthcoming 220th GA study *"that assesses the long-term implications of our current economic trends and practices, including their impact on the church itself, and provides appropriate recommendations for consideration by members, congregations, presbyteries, and local, state, and federal government. This assessment should center on the role of fairness and justice in our economy, with particular attention to growing inequality, the decline of the middle class, the tax structure, the shifting makeup of the labor force and its effects on employee rights, the role of regulatory agencies in protecting the public interest, and access to environmental resources that is equitable and sustainable. The study should also reflect the concern of the impact of the economic crisis on women and incorporate case studies of both women and men."*
- Urge our presbyteries and congregations to participate in prayer vigils for the nation's budget process this fall, particularly during deliberations by the "Super Committee."
- Remind our presbyteries and congregations that: (F-1.0302d) "The Church is sent to be Christ's faithful evangelist: ...participating in God's mission to care for the needs of the sick, poor, and lonely; to free people from sin, suffering, and oppression; and to establish Christ's just, loving, and peaceable rule in the world."