

UCC Synod Passes Plastics Resolution

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In March 2022, The United Nations Environmental Program called on global faith communities to join in helping ending plastic pollution. 9 million plastic bottles are purchased every minute, and 5 trillion single-use plastic bags are used worldwide every year. Half of the plastics produced internationally are designed to be used once and then thrown away; they break down into microplastics spreading into soil, waterways, and the food system. The plastics pandemic has become a danger to the health of humanity and planetary eco-system is a serious environmental issue.

Today the Thirty-Fourth General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed a Resolution of Witness, "Free From Plastics." The Resolution originated from the New Hampshire and Florida Conferences of the UCC, who were concerned that plastics pollution has become one of the pressing environmental issues in the 21st century. The global increased production of disposable plastic products is overwhelmingly waste management systems and the disposal of plastics in landfills or improper environmental pollution in the global lands and waters. Plastics pollution has escalated globally, and have become ubiquitous in in the soil, water, and food systems. Single use plastics and plastic bottles are not recycled but are disposed and are breaking down into microplastics and threatened the health of humanity and the biotic community. The United Church of Christ has decided to take prophetic action to limit and mitigate the use of single use plastics.

The General Synod Resolution encourages all settings of the United Church of Christ to commit to change from a throwaway and disposable culture of plastics to reusable and compostable products. The Churches are urged to educate themselves and their local, state, and national community on the toxicity of plastics and microplastics to human health and the ecosystems of the planet.

The United Church of Christ will partner with organizations in implementing plastic mitigation and advocate solutions to the on-going global plastics and choosing to use reusable containers/bags at grocery and retail stores, and lobby in their communities for bans of single-use plastics.