

1 Resolution on a Moral Economy

2 Submitted by College Street Congregational Church

3 **WHEREAS**, all the major indicators of poverty in Vermont are trending in the wrong direction;
4 that is, the number of Vermonters on food stamps is going up, the rate of homeless Vermonters
5 is increasing, the percentage of families, especially single mothers with young children, who live
6 below the federal poverty line is increasing;

7 **WHEREAS**, the Vermont economy overall is actually growing, yet real wages are down and real
8 median household income is declining;

9 **WHEREAS**, our Scriptural prophetic tradition decries community choices that result in economic
10 impoverishment in times of increasing abundance;

11 **WHEREAS**, the Scriptures and teachings of all major faith traditions speak on behalf of those
12 suffering from economic injustice, in which some have more than they need and others do not
13 have enough to live on;

14 **WHEREAS**, people of faith from many traditions can agree that we are called to bring about a
15 moral economy, which can be defined as one that honors the dignity of all people in these ways:

- 16 • By providing full opportunity for all to express their gifts and abilities through work and
17 play.
- 18 • By ensuring that all work is justly valued.
- 19 • By ensuring that all who are unable to work because of societal or personal limitations
20 are respected.
- 21 • By ensuring that the most vulnerable among us are respected.

- 22 • By acting as good stewards of the earth and its resources, and preserving life for
23 future generations.

24 **THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the Vermont Conference of the United Church of
25 Christ

- 26 1. Call on each of the local churches to educate ourselves about issues that affect our
27 development of a moral economy
- 28 2. Engage in the issues to which we are called by listening to congregation members,
29 individuals who utilize our congregations' charitable services, and members of the
30 community to understand ways in which the current economy excludes them
- 31 3. Work both within our churches and with other communities of faith to explore and act on
32 ways of honoring the economic dignity of those in our local community
- 33 4. Effect change on issues state-wide by supporting the community organizing efforts of
34 Vermont Interfaith Action and other organizations working toward economic justice
35 around specific legislation and budget priorities that will lead to a moral economy