

1 **Regarding the Cost of Residential Care Services**

2  
3 **Date Resolution is Submitted:**

4  
5 **Submitted by:** Congregational United Church of Christ  
6 430 N Broadway  
7 Minot, ND 58701  
8 (701) 839-1064  
9

10 **Summary Statement of Intent of the Resolution:** As long-time charitable contributors to residential care  
11 services for youth at-risk in our state, we would like to draw attention to the insufficiency of funding for  
12 these needed services in our state. Organizations providing residential care services have struggled  
13 more each passing year in which state budgets for these services have been constrained, and charitable  
14 contributors have not been able to compensate for the rising costs and emerging programming needs. It  
15 is the intent of this resolution to encourage members of churches across the state, in the interest of the  
16 compassion of our faith and social justice, to work together with state policy-makers to see how this  
17 problem can be solved, particularly in light of rapid population growth in the western part of the state  
18 and around major city centers all across the state.

19  
20 **TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION**

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, compassion for children and youth is a fundamental tenant of our faith (Mark 10:13-16,  
23 Proverbs 22:6) and those who are unable to remain in their home situations are most in need of that  
24 compassion;

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, social justice for those in need is a basic tenant of our faith (Psalms 82:3, Matthew 7:12, Luke  
27 10:30-37) and foundational to the mission of the United Church of Christ;

28  
29 **WHEREAS**, youth in residential care are considered wards of the state, not wards of charitable  
30 organizations, charitable organizations alone cannot solve this issue, but must work in concert with the  
31 state to increase funding commensurate with need;

32  
33 **WHEREAS**, youth in residential care have suffered events traumatic enough to require removal from their  
34 home situations, or are themselves troubled; they are in need of programming to address their unique  
35 coping and readjustment needs, not just basic direct care as is currently budgeted;

36  
37 **WHEREAS**, programming beneficial to at-risk youth with these needs requires specialized training for staff  
38 and periodic retraining; but costs of providing training for staff is not currently supported by the state;

39  
40 **WHEREAS**, we believe that residential care most like a home or small community setting, as we provide in  
41 our state, is most beneficial to at-risk youth, rather than the options of sending our youth in need out-  
42 of-state to larger facilities and communities unfamiliar to them;

43  
44 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, all local churches are encouraged to educate their congregation members and  
45 wider community members regarding the needs of at-risk youth in our state and those in residential  
46 care in particular—regarding increasing costs of basic direct care, programming to meet at-risk youths’  
47 coping and readjustment needs, periodic training and retraining for staff, and increasing costs for  
48 personnel in today’s economy.

49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Northern Plains Conference is asked to communicate this resolution to all local churches.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Northern Plains Conference is asked to communicate the passage of this resolution and its position to the general public via state-wide media.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Northern Plains Conference and members of its churches are asked to participate in public discussions of the needs of at-risk youth needing residential care leading up to and during the upcoming state legislative session; including increasing costs of basic direct care, programming to meet at-risk youths' coping and readjustment needs, periodic training and retraining for staff, and increasing costs for personnel in today's economy.

**Funding**

Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be primarily the responsibility of local congregations.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

Implementation for this resolution will occur at the local church and conference levels.