

NO. 0720
(SENSE-OF-THE-ASSEMBLY)
CONCERNING A MOVEMENT TO RECONNECT WITH
OUR FOOD AND THE NATURAL WORLD

WHEREAS, our industrialized agricultural system of food production is not sustainable as it creates tremendous pressure on natural resources and surrounding habitats, compromises the economic health of rural communities, jeopardizes the food security of economically disadvantaged citizens, and threatens the well-being of many of those who grow and harvest our food; and

WHEREAS, our industrialized agricultural system of food production is dependent on oil (which includes machinery, pesticides and herbicides) and transportation; and

WHEREAS, the average North American meal travels an average of 1,500 miles from farm to plate, thus contributing to emissions of greenhouse gases which are known to exacerbate climate change contributing to ill health and environmental consequences; and

WHEREAS, industrialized agricultural practices are unsustainable in that ten calories of energy are expended to produce one calorie of food energy; and

WHEREAS, industrialized agricultural systems depend on monoculture plantings and an increasing use of genetically modified seeds and plants; and

WHEREAS, the long-term environmental consequences of producing genetically modified organisms (GMOs) or genetically modified crops remains unknown; and

WHEREAS, industrialized agricultural practices degrade the soil and increase water scarcity, thus over time, reducing the amount of food that can be produced per acre; and

WHEREAS, industrialized agricultural practices have resulted in a severe loss of biodiversity in many parts of North America; and

WHEREAS, it is deplorable that high quality, sustainably produced food often is not affordable to low-income workers, which contributes to unhealthy food choices that can lead to sickness and obesity; and

WHEREAS, our disconnection from the source of our food directly correlates to our disconnection with the natural systems upon which we all depend;

WHEREAS, hunger can be addressed through community food security, which is defined as “a condition in which all community residents obtain a safe, culturally appropriate, nutritionally sound diet through an economically and environmentally sustainable food system that promotes community self-reliance and social justice” (“Community Food Security and Nutrition Educators.” Hamm MW, Bellows AC. *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior*. January 2003 Vol. 35, Issue 1, Pages 37-43).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly meeting in Fort Worth, Texas, July 21 to 25, 2007, resolve to address issues of food quality and community food security, Biblically and theologically; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly urges the members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), as a people of the table, to recognize the importance of our connection with the source of our food and begin participating in sustainable, local food systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly urges members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to support the development of local agricultural initiatives, which include community gardens, sustainable small farms, and farmers markets; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly urges members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to support national movements toward the passage of legislation in their cities and states that requires that a certain percentage of food consumed annually is sustainably produced locally (within 100 miles, if possible).

First Christian Church of Concord, California
St. Andrew Christian Church, Olathe, Kansas
First Christian Church of Owensboro, Kentucky (awaiting final confirmation)

The General Board recommends that the General Assembly
ADOPT Business Item No. 0720. (Debate time 12 minutes).