WHEREAS, Scientists tell us that unless we start immediately to protect the ozone layer around the earth, which protects us from harmful ultra violet rays, by the year 2050 much of North America will be desert; and

WHEREAS, Continued ozone decline could lead to an increase in skin cancer, cataracts, immune system depressions, reduced crop yields, depleted marine fisheries, and increased smog; and

WHEREAS, The use of styrofoam cups and products contributes to the destruction of the ozone by releasing chemicals which when they reach the ozone level combine with one of the oxygen atoms of the ozone resulting in the change of ozone into oxygen.

FORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Desert Southwest Annual Conference encourage churches in the conference not to use styrofoam cups and products. In making this choice, churches can choose options which are more ecologically safe, such as paper items and washable cups and

IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Desert Southwest Annual Conference model this recommendation by discontinuing the use of styrofoam products in the Conference Headquarters, District Offices, and at Conference sponsored events.
Recycling Waste
1990 Journal, p. 33

WHEREAS, The Bible states -- "God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude," (Genesis 1:31-2:1); and,

WHEREAS, The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church (70-I) state, "All Creation is the Lord's and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it", and

WHEREAS: The Social Principles also states, "--we recognize the responsibility of the church toward life style and systemic changes in society that will promote a more ecologically just world and a better quality of life for all creation,"; and,

WHEREAS, Recycling materials saves energy, thus reducing acid rain, global warming and air pollution; and,

WHEREAS, Recycling conserves valuable natural resources; and,

WHEREAS, Recycling cuts down on landfill space needed. Based on current estimates, half of the cities in the United States will run out of landfill space by 1994, according to (Stanford California Fact Sheet distributed by General Board of Church & Society);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Desert Southwest Annual Conference encourage churches to purchase recycled paper, reduce the amount of garbage generated by purchasing products with minimal packaging and to provide separate containers for the recycling of bottles, newspapers and aluminum cans; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, That the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church provide information about recycling, ozone depletion, global warming to local churches as a guide to their constituencies to foster stewardship and moral responsibility for sustaining the earth; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, The Desert Southwest Annual Conference model this resolution by implementing its recommendations for local churches in all Conference and District offices.
WHEREAS, scientists tell us that unless we start immediately to protect the ozone layer around the earth, which protects us from harmful ultra violet rays, by the year 2050, much of North America will be desert; and

WHEREAS, continued ozone decline could lead to an increase in skin cancer, immune system depressions, reduced crop yields, depleted marine fisheries, and increase in smog; and

WHEREAS, the use of some styrofoam cups and products contributes to the destruction of the ozone by releasing chemicals which when they reach the ozone level combine with one of the oxygen atoms of the ozone resulting in the change of ozone into oxygen.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference encourage churches in the Conference not to use products that release chlorofluorcarbons (CFCs). In making this choice, churches can choose options which are more ecologically safe, such as paper items and washable cups and dishes. Churches are encouraged to use recycled paper products, reduce mini packaged goods, to provide separate containers for recycling bottles, newspapers, aluminum cans. All churches are to call their local governments for information.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference model this recommendation by discontinuing the use of products that release chlorofluorcarbons and encourage the use of recycled paper products and mini packaged goods.
WHEREAS, U.S. Senator Richard Bryan (D-Nevada) introduced legislation in 1990 and 1991 which would increase the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) of motor vehicles from approximately 27.5 miles per gallon to 40 miles per gallon:

WHEREAS, the combustion of one gallon of gasoline produces approximately 19 pounds of carbon dioxide (C02):

WHEREAS, over 50% of the calculated global increase of temperature (known as enhancement of the greenhouse effect) is attributed to increases in global concentrations of carbon dioxide;

WHEREAS, Mr. Bryan's proposal would decrease new car emissions of CO2; by 40%;

WHEREAS, motor vehicles in the United States account for approximately 35% of U.S. C02 emissions;

WHEREAS, most western countries support the goal of capping year 2000 CO2 emissions from all sources of fossil fuel combustion at the year 1990 levels;

WHEREAS, Mr. Bryan's proposals have been rejected by Congress. We are mindful of the safety issues espoused by his opponents, smaller vehicles that would be manufactured to meet stricter mileage requirements may have a higher risk of injury and loss of life, but this can be mitigated by better driving habits, seatbelts and air bags;

WHEREAS, the Bible teaches us to be stewards of our natural resources;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference supports Mr. Bryan's and other congressional efforts to increase the CAFE standards;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference encourages its members to purchase vehicles with enhanced fuel economy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference Board of Church and Society be directed to send copies of this resolution to all Congressional representatives of Arizona, Nevada and California, and to the Chief Executive Officers of the major automotive companies doing business in the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage the research and development of the use of alternate energy sources for motor vehicles.
WHEREAS, scientists have measured a significant increase in global temperature in the past century,

WHEREAS, concern has emerged that this increase may not be part of a natural cycle (to be succeeded by a similar cooling period), but that this increase has resulted from the global accumulation of heat absorbing gases including carbon dioxide, chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and methane. Additional carbon dioxide is the major source of the increase in heat absorbing gases.

WHEREAS, the possible consequences of a significant increase in heat absorbing gases, also known as the enhancement of the greenhouse effect, are global climate changes with unpredictable changes in local ecological balances. The greenhouse effect is a natural resource which is necessary for a living environment; But an enhancement of the effect would alter the natural balance of heat entering and leaving the planet.

WHEREAS, the exercising of humanity's dominion over the earth, plant and animal life, includes responsible stewardship of our natural resources, such as the natural greenhouse effect, in a manner similar to how a good shepherd cares for his flock.

WHEREAS, a consequence of maintaining comfortable living conditions in homes and businesses in the Desert Southwest Conference area is that these homes and businesses are equipped with electrically powered air conditioning systems.

WHEREAS, most electricity in the Desert Southwest area is generated by the burning of fossil fuels; coal, oil and natural gas. The burning of these fuels releases significant amounts of carbon dioxide. These fuels all contain carbon molecules; when burned these molecules combine with oxygen in the air and form carbon dioxide. A pound of coal when burned results in 2.5 pounds of carbon dioxide. A pound of coal supplies approximately one kilowatt hour of electricity which is roughly equal to the energy used on residential air conditioning system in 30 minutes during the summer.

WHEREAS, additional electrical power plants are being built to replace aging units and to provide for population growth in the Desert Southwest.

WHEREAS, non-fossil fuel sources of power are available, in appropriate locations, such as solar, geothermal, and wind; which do not result in the release of carbon dioxide. These non-fossil fuel power sources typically have higher capital costs than the traditional power sources and likely will result in higher consumer costs for electricity. Despite the possible higher near term cost of nonfossil fuel sources, global climate change resulting from fossil fuel power could be very costly, with respect to crops, animals and human survival.
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Annual Conference encourage churches in the Conference to contact their appropriate public officials and urge the officials to require that new electrical generating plants use non-fossil fuel sources of power, other than fission nuclear, to the maximum extent possible. The proper stewardship of our natural resources compels us to urge this action. The contact with public officials involves letter writing, attending and participating in public hearings, and educating fellow church members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Conference will encourage other conferences, both in this nation and other nations, to assert a similar stewardship role.
WHEREAS, Psalm 24 confirms that “the earth is the Lord's and all that is in it.” and

WHEREAS, Romans 8 declares that “the creation waits for eager longing for the revelation of the children of God. . . . in hope and that creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God,” (Romans 8:19-21) and

WHEREAS, US per capita energy use is approximately twice that of the industrialized nations of Western Europe and Japan, and in relation to densely populated nations, is twelve times that of China, and twenty times that of India, so, while other nations' use has remained flat, US use has increased by 15%, and

WHEREAS, Continuing dependence on foreign sources of energy has had far-reaching implications on US foreign policy and weakened our Moral voice among the nations, and

WHEREAS, Continuing reliance on fossil fuels (such as natural gas and coal) for electric power generation and heating/cooling has resulted in pollution of God's creation and ever increasing generation of greenhouse gasses, and

WHEREAS, Technological advances have continued in both energy conservation and renewable energy. Efficiencies of photovoltaic and solar-heated hot water systems have improved to make their use cost effective, and

WHEREAS, New financing and investment means have been developed which may mean minimal upfront investment for congregations, and

WHEREAS, Renewable energy efficiencies are only achieved when combined with an Energy Conservation program, and

WHEREAS, Installing weatherization and renewable energy infrastructure keeps jobs local and stimulates the local economy, while relying on non-renewable energy sources sends jobs overseas, and

WHEREAS, in 2007 the Desert Southwest Annual Conference approved resolution 21.60 which called upon the congregations of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church to be encouraged to educate themselves and members on how to become energy stewards in their churches, and

WHEREAS, God calls people of faith to participate in the restoration of creation, which we can begin to do by using less energy in our churches, by using energy more efficiently, and by shifting from reliance on fossil fuels to use renewable energy sources.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the congregations of the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church be encouraged to investigate the “no up-front” cost financing of energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy sources and infrastructure, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church provide workshops and information to enable congregations to access and participate in financing for and investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy.
WHEREAS our scriptures record that God created the world to sustain us and the other creatures that inhabit it, and entrusted it to our care (Genesis 1:29-31);

WHEREAS the United Methodist Church has acknowledged the risks of fossil fuel dependence for the last 35 years through its Energy Policy Statement (2012 Book of Resolutions, #1001);
WHEREAS the investment policy goals of The United Methodist Church exclude investing in companies that violate church values (2012 Book of Resolutions, #4071);
WHEREAS the Social Principles state that climate change will bring “severe environmental, economic, and social implications,” which will “disproportionately affect individuals and nations least responsible for the emissions” (Book of Discipline, ¶ 160, part D), and the extraction and burning of petroleum and natural gas exacerbates climate change (“Causes of Climate Change,” United States Environmental Protection Agency);
WHEREAS United Methodists live and serve on the front lines of disasters like Hurricane Sandy, Typhoon Haiyan, prolonged droughts, devastating floods, massive wildfires, and other extreme weather events, which will increase in frequency and severity with climate change (Justin Gillis, “U.N. Panel Issues its Starkest Warning Yet on Climate Change,” The New York Times, November 2, 2014) and continued investment in petroleum and natural gas companies undermines The United Methodist Church's ministries to the most vulnerable among us--including those who are hungry, sick and/or living in poverty, and signals a grave disregard for the lives of young people; and
WHEREAS the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHBJ manages more than $21 billion in assets on behalf of United Methodist clergy, staff, agencies, churches, and other institutions (Heather Hahn, “Changes Ahead for Pension Board Investments,” United Methodist News, January 22, 2015) including significant holdings in petroleum and natural gas companies (“Investment Holdings,” December 31, 2014), and shareholder advocacy cannot change petroleum and natural gas companies' core business model, which is to produce petroleum and natural gas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Desert Southwest Conference (DSC):
1. affirm the foundations of scripture, which call us to be good stewards of our environment;
2. affirm the positions and policies of our denomination regarding the risks of fossil fuel dependency, the need for denominational investment policies consistent with our social convictions, and the risks of climate change, as stated in The Book of Discipline and The Book of Resolutions;
3. petition the 2016 General Conference of The United Methodist Church to require that the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church avoid
investing in any company or entity which derives 10% or more of its revenue from the production of petroleum or natural gas;

4. petition the 2016 General Conference of the United Methodist Church to amend the Book of Discipline ¶ 717 as follows:
   It shall be the policy of The United Methodist Church that all general boards and agencies, including the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and all administrative agencies and institutions, including hospitals, homes, educational institutions, annual conferences, foundations, and local churches, shall, in the investment of money, make a conscious effort to invest in institutions, companies, corporations, or funds whose practices are consistent with the goals outlined in the Social Principles; and shall endeavor to avoid investments that appear likely, directly or indirectly, to support racial discrimination, violation of human rights, sweatshop or forced labor, gambling, or the production of petroleum, coal, natural gas, nuclear armaments, alcoholic beverages or tobacco, or companies dealing in pornography. The boards and agencies are to give careful consideration to shareholder advocacy, including advocacy of corporate disinvestment.

5. petition the 2016 General Conference of the United Methodist Church to amend the Book of Resolutions #4071, Socially Responsible Investing Strategies, 1. Portfolio screening, as follows: Socially Responsible Investing Strategies The Church shall pursue its investment policy goals through widely practiced socially responsible investing tools such as:
   1. Portfolio screening
      Based on long-standing United Methodist values, the Church does not invest in companies deriving significant revenue (usually 10 percent or more) from:
      • alcoholic beverages
      • tobacco products;
      • gambling equipment or enterprises;
      • pornography;
      • operating or managing prison facilities;
      • the production of petroleum, coal, or natural gas;
      • antipersonnel weapons, armaments, ammunition, or weapons-related systems provided for commercial and private markets and nuclear weapons.
WHEREAS, Psalm 24 confirms that "the earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it," and Romans 8 declares that, "the creation waits with eager longing for the revelation of the children of God... in hope that the creation itself will be set free from it’s bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God," (Romans 8:19-21) and

WHEREAS, each year nearly seven billion tons of heat trapping carbon ends up in the earth’s atmosphere, which contributes to the rise in the earth’s temperature, and to the eleven hottest years on record occurring between 1980 and 1999, and

WHEREAS, recent data strongly indicates that global warming has rapidly accelerated in the last three years, and events that may be, in part, related to the rapid growth are multiplying in both intensity and prevalence, and

WHEREAS, US per capita energy use is approximately twice that of the industrialized nations of Western Europe and Japan, and in relation to densely populated nations, is twelve times that of China, and twenty times that of India, so, while other nations use has remained flat, US use has increased by 15%, and

WHEREAS, 2500 of the world’s leading atmospheric scientists agree that failure to curb automotive and power plant emissions will change the earth’s climate, and trigger more extreme weather, such as floods, droughts, and deadly heat waves which damage cropland and forests, raise the sea level, flood coastal areas, and severely affect human, animal, and plant health, and

WHEREAS, God calls people of faith to participate in the restoration of creation, which we can begin to do by using less energy in our churches and homes, by using energy more efficiently, and by shifting from reliance on fossil fuels to use renewable energy sources.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the congregations of the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church be encouraged to educate themselves and their members on how to become energy stewards in their churches, workplaces, and homes, and to study the Bible, and include God’s concern for creation in worship and prayer, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church encourage individual members in the following 10 simple things we can do to help stop global warming: (from the liner note of "An Inconvenient Truth") Change a light - Replacing one regular light with a compact fluorescent light will save 150 pounds of carbon dioxide per year. Drive less - Walk, bike, carpool or take metro transit more often. You’ll save one pound of carbon dioxide for every mile don’t drive. Recycle more - You can save 2,400 pounds of carbon dioxide per year by recycling just half of your household waste. Check your tires - Keeping your
tires inflated properly can improve gas mileage by more than 3%. Every gallon of gasoline saved keeps 20 pounds of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere! Use less hot water - It takes a lot of energy to heat water. Use less hot water by installing a lowflow showerhead (350 pounds of CO2 saved per hear) and washing your clothes in cold or warm water (500 pounds saved per year). Avoid products with a lot of packaging - You can save 1,200 pounds of carbon dioxide if you cut down your garbage by 10%. Adjust your thermostat - Moving you thermostat down just 2 degrees in winter and up 2 degrees in summer could save about 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide per year. Plant a tree - A single tree will absorb one ton of carbon dioxide over its lifetime. 129 Turn off electronic devices - Simply turning off your television, DVD player, stereo, and computer when you’re not using them will save thousands of pounds of carbon dioxide per year. Be a part of the solution - Learn more and get active at ClimateCrisis.net
Recycling at DSW and District Events
2007 Journal, pp. 69-70
Referred to Covenant Council

WHEREAS this body passed a resolution at the 2004 Annual Conference to collect recyclables generated at annual conference and deliver them to the appropriate recycling facilities,

WHEREAS the resolution passed at the 2004 Conference also called for provisions to be made for recycling at official District and DSC Conference meetings and that each church be encouraged to recycle,

WHEREAS fully implementing this resolution would best be handled by a conference committee rather than a single individual,

WHEREAS recycling is an issue that falls under the domain of the Church and Society Committee,

WHEREAS the venue of this conference will be changed in 2009,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Conference Church and Society Committee, rather than Rev. Joyce Steiner, work with the Desert Southwest Annual Conference so as to carry out the logistics of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the issue of recycling be addressed in negotiations involving selecting a new venue for the conference.