

Social Justice Ministry
Medicaid Expansion Statement
May 2014 Draft

The Social Justice Ministry of **Community United Church of Christ, Raleigh, NC** encourages the members of the General Assembly to change its 2013 position on the expansion of Medicaid and approve its passage in the “short” 2014 session. Massachusetts experienced a drop in the death rate of its citizens following passage of universal health care. A similar result is predicted for all states under the Affordable Care Act except those that rejected expansion of Medicaid. When the General Assembly and governor refused to accept the expansion of Medicaid, they left as many as 500,000 North Carolinians without health care coverage. The current (2014) session of the Legislature provides an opportunity to correct that error. The Social Justice Ministry implores General Assembly and governor to make that correction.

Should the General Assembly fail to take that step, 2015 will offer a fresh opportunity to bring virtually all North Carolinians under the health care umbrella. We believe that this is a prudent direction consistent with our faith in Jesus of Nazareth who repeatedly urged his followers to care for the poor and hungry. Expanding Medicaid will enable North Carolina to accept millions of dollars from the federal government to pay health care professionals to provide health care for up to 500,000 of our poorest North Carolina citizens.