

1 **9. RESOLUTION: STATEMENT ON**
2 **CONVERGENCE WITH THE ALLIANCE**
3 **OF BAPTISTS**

4 Moderator Taylor called on the chair of Com-
5 mittee One, the Rev. Dennis L. Frische-Mouri,
6 to present the recommended action of the com-
7 mittee. Mr. Frische-Mouri thanked members of
8 the committee for their work, briefly described
9 the work of the committee and moved the adop-
10 tion of the resolution, "A Statement on Conver-
11 gence in Matters of Theology and Practice be-
12 tween the Alliance of Baptists and the United
13 Church of Christ." Mr. Frische-Mouri spoke
14 briefly to the resolution.
15

16 Ms. Taylor called for further discussion. Follow-
17 ing discussion, John Gage (CONN) offered an
18 amendment: "Be it further resolved that the
19 Twenty-third General Synod of the United
20 Church of Christ requests that the persons on the
21 dialogue team representing the United Church of
22 Christ engage in conversation with persons from
23 the Alliance of Baptist to explore how an inten-
24 tional ecumenical relationship will allow both
25 bodies to grow in their shared commitments to
26 becoming multicultural, multiracial, open and af-
27 firming, accessible to all, just peace communi-
28 ties of faith and. . ."

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30 After further discussion on the amendment, Ms.
31 Taylor called for the vote and the amendment was
32 defeated. There being no further discussion, Mod-
33 erator Taylor called for the vote on the main
34 motion.
35

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37 01-GS-17 VOTED: The Twenty-third General
38 Synod adopts the resolution, "A Statement on
39 Convergence in Matters of Theology and Prac-
40 tice between the Alliance of Baptists and the
41 United Church of Christ."
42

43 **A STATEMENT ON CONVERGENCE IN**
44 **MATTERS OF THEOLOGY AND PRAC-**
45 **TICE BETWEEN THE ALLIANCE OF**
46 **BAPTISTS AND THE UNITED CHURCH**
47 **OF CHRIST**
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50 WHEREAS the Alliance of Baptists has been a
51 faithful witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ;
52 and
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54 WHEREAS nearly six years of informal and for-
55 mal dialogue between leaders of the Alliance and
56 the United Church of Christ continues to reveal
57 significant shared theological convictions, poten-
58 tial opportunities for mutual support in common
59 mission, and a shared conviction of God's lead-
ing into a closer walk together;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-
third General Synod of the United Church of Christ
affirms the desire to develop an intentional ecumenical
relationship with the Alliance of Baptists which ex-
presses our common vocation, mutual friendship, and
developing collaboration through a covenant to be pre-
pared for formal affirmation in 2003;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Min-
ister and President be requested to name members of
the United Church of Christ to the dialogue team;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Min-
ister and President be requested to invite the Christian
Church (Disciples of Christ) to name up to two observ-
ers to this dialogue team; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the United Church
of Christ expresses its profound gratitude to God and
to the Alliance of Baptists for the promise of such a
rich relationship, to the end that together we may con-
tinue to seek the realization of Jesus' prayer, "that they
may all be one."

Funding for this action will be made in accordance with
the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the
funds available.

Ms. Taylor granted the Rev. Stanley Haste, Co-con-
vener of the Alliance of Baptist—United Church of
Christ Dialogue Team, voice to speak on the resolution
which had just been passed. Mr. Haste expressed
thanks to Paul Sherry, John Thomas, and Lydia Veliko
for their work on the relationship. He also thanked
Richard Hamm and Robert Welch, who represented
the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the dia-
logue. Finally, he offered assurance that the concern of
the proposed amendment would be given attention.
There was a standing ovation.

Mr. Rivera and Ms. Smith moderated discussion
and voting on the next business item of the General
Assembly, "Farm Workers, Social Justice, and the
Church," which was adopted.

10. RESOLUTION: CALLING UPON THE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO INITIATE
JUBILEE FOR JUSTICE FOR THE RURAL
UNITED STATES

Ms. Taylor called on Mr. Sol Codillo (MOMS), Chair
of Committee Ten, to present the resolution "Calling
Upon the United Church of Christ to Initiate a Jubilee
for Justice for the Rural United States." Mr. Codillo
briefly described the work of the Committee and noted
minor changes in the resolution for the purpose of clar-
ity on lines 11, 18, 25 and 32 and also added the final
paragraph, which he read to the delegates. Then, on
behalf of Committee Ten, he moved adoption of the
resolution as amended in Committee. There being no
discussion, Moderator Taylor called for the vote.