

1 parishioners and scholars be requested to study”
2 page 159, line 2, second column: replace “di-
3 rected” with “requested”
4

5 Mr. Toro moved adoption of the resolution and
6 spoke to it briefly.
7

8 01-GS-38 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-
9 third General Synod adopts the resolution “Call-
10 ing for More Just, Humane Direction for Economic
11 Globalization.”
12

13 **CALLING FOR A MORE JUST, HUMANE** 14 **DIRECTION FOR ECONOMIC GLOBAL-** 15 **IZATION** 16

17 WHEREAS numerous General Synod resolutions
18 have sought to support a more just national and
19 international economic system, including “Justice
20 in the Maquiladoras” (Eighteenth General Synod,
21 1991), “In Support of International Fair Trade”
22 (Nineteenth General Synod, 1993), “Affirming
23 Democratic Principles in an Emerging Global
24 Economy” (Twenty-first General Synod, 1997),
25 and “Ending the Stranglehold of Global Debt on
26 Impoverished Nations” (Twenty-second General
27 Synod, 1999);
28

29 WHEREAS the growth of economic globalization
30 has raised the quality of life for many people
31 (mainly in First World countries), it has lowered it
32 for many others (mainly in Third World countries);
33 it has lowered costs of food and clothing for some,
34 while lowering wages and levels of human rights
35 for others; it has created technological wonders for
36 some areas, while allowing the destruction of rain
37 forests and increases in hunger in others;
38

39 WHEREAS with the rise of globalization, concern
40 over the major International Financial Institutions,
41 such as the World Trade Organization, the World
42 Bank, the International Monetary Fund, North
43 American Free Trade Agreement, and others, has
44 brought protests in numerous countries, as local
45 laborers, merchants, farmers, human rights work-
46 ers, environmentalists, and others have begun to
47 see its effects on their countries;¹ and
48

49 WHEREAS the rules for international commerce
50 set by these institutions have contributed to the in-
51 creases of poverty and environmental degradation
52 in the Third World (for example, loan repayments,
53 required by the G-7 for external debt payments,
54 are ten times higher [relative to income] than the
55 Allies required of post war Germany; “Structural
56 Adjustment Programs,” required by the Interna-
57 tional Monetary Fund to qualify for debt relief are
58 targeted to raise unemployment and lower wages;
59 tariff resolutions, required by the World Trade Or-
ganization to enhance free trade, lower environ-

mental standards, and allow powerful transnational
corporations to compete on a level playing field with
small, emerging companies);

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Twenty-
third General Synod of the United Church of Christ
encourage local churches and Conferences to study the
implications of an increasingly globalized world on the
environment and human communities, and that issues
of globalization be raised in adult education programs,
Bible studies, and worship services in our various
churches, Associations, areas, and Conferences (study
guides and worship resources will be made available)
and to request and encourage that the learnings, ques-
tions, and concerns surfaced in the various settings be
forwarded to the appropriate bodies;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local church mem-
bers prayerfully consider becoming involved and/or
more deeply involved with campaigns that seek a more
humane form of globalization which lifts persons and
the environment over markets and profits, including
such things as the continuing Jubilee debt cancellation
campaign and the campaign against sweat shops;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Justice and
Witness Ministries and Wider Church Ministries in
cooperation with pastors, parishioners, and scholars be
requested to study the impact of corporate globaliza-
tion on the poor of the world for the purpose of bring-
ing to the Twenty-fourth General Synod of the United
Church of Christ a pronouncement of our
denomination's response to the issue; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our national de-
nominational leaders in offices of Global Education
and Advocacy Ministry, Justice and Witness Ministries,
and others be requested to work for legislative policies
which advocate a humane and ecologically sound di-
rection for economic and corporate globalization ef-
forts.

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

Note:

1. A survey of International Financial Institutions protests in the year 2000 can be found in Walden Bello, “2000: the Year of Global Protest against Globalization,” *Focus on Trade* 58 (January 2001).

10. RESOLUTION: TO END THE PRESENCE OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF VIEQUES, PUERTO RICO

Ms. Jaramillo called on Ms. Petra Malleis-Sternberg (SW), Chair of Committee Twelve, to present the recommendations of the Committee. Ms. Malleis-Sternberg moved adoption of the resolution on Vieques,

1 noting that the word “Team” had been left off in
2 typing on the first line of the fourth paragraph. After
3 brief discussion, the vote was called.

4
5 01-GS-39 VOTED: The Twenty-third General
6 Synod adopts the resolution “To End The Presence
7 of the United States Navy in the Municipality of
8 Vieques, Puerto Rico.”

9
10 **TO END THE PRESENCE OF THE**
11 **UNITED STATES NAVY IN THE MUNICI-**
12 **PALITY OF VIEQUES, PUERTO RICO**

13
14
15 To end by peaceful efforts the United States Navy
16 bombing of Vieques and to compel immediately
17 its exit from the island municipality, the Twenty-
18 third General Synod:

19
20 calls on the President of the United States to sup-
21 port and facilitate the implementation of the four
22 areas recommended by the 1999 First Commission
23 of Vieques: (1) immediate demilitarization of
24 Vieques, (2) initiate an ecological recovery and
25 cleanup program, (3) return back to Puerto Rico
26 the land on Vieques illegally appropriated from
27 1936–1941, and (4) provide means for an eco-
28 nomic recovery of the island, which was endorsed
29 by the majority of the people of Vieques and Puerto
30 Rico, and calls upon the federal government for
31 the immediate release of those imprisoned for civil
32 disobedience protests against the United States
33 bombing in Vieques, and calls upon the U.S. gov-
34 ernment to cease making Vieques available to other
35 nation’s military forces;

36
37 calls on the United Church of Christ Conferences
38 to immediately initiate a letter campaign to the
39 President of the United States and members of Con-
40 gress requesting the immediate end of the United
41 States Navy bombing of Vieques, to compel im-
42 mediately the United States Navy’s exit from the
43 island municipality, to immediately initiate the en-
44 vironmental cleanup of the island municipality and
45 surrounding waters, and to initiate an Action Alert
46 Program on Vieques to assist the members of its
47 local churches to monitor the positions taken by
48 members of the United States Congress about
49 Vieques;

50
51 urges that Justice and Witness Ministries delegate
52 to the Public Life and Social Policy Ministry and
53 the Human Rights, Justice for Women, and Trans-
54 formation Ministry Team the responsibility to as-
55 sist the Conferences and other bodies of the United
56 Church of Christ in the implementation of this reso-
57 lution;

58
59 calls on Local Church Ministries to work with lo-
cal United Church of Christ congregations and all
other church settings to engage in education,

prayerful solidarity, and advocacy to end the bomb-
ing;

calls on the Wider Church Ministries to use their world-
wide resources to alert nations who join United States
military practices and maneuvers about their complicity
with ecological environment damages, poor health
conditions, and economic scarcity of the residents of
Vieques, making those nations aware of the risk their
troops carry by the depleted uranium and other toxic
materials utilized in Vieques;

calls on the Office of General Ministries to monitor
the progress of this resolution and initiate joint efforts
with other United States denominations towards similar
goals; and

calls on the Council for Hispanic Ministries and the
Hispanic Ministries Implementation Team to receive
reports from the Covenanted Ministries mandated to
address the issue of Vieques and report to the Twenty-
fourth General Synod.

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

11. SPEAK OUTS!

The following persons spoke during the Speak Out!
Session:

Mr. Marvin Silver (JWM), a member of the Justice and
Witness Ministries Board, called attention to House
Resolution 7, the Community Solutions Act.

Ms. Karna Burkeen (PC) invited those attending the
General Synod to visit the exhibits of the Seminaries
of the United Church of Christ.

The Rev. Marilyn Pagan (ILL) called on the leaders of
the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) to address the housing crisis in
Chicago and elsewhere that has occurred because of
gentrification and land grabbing and because of envi-
ronmental racism.

Mr. Tony Lewis (CA NV, N) told of being raised in the
Missionary Baptist Church and how he struggled with
the idea of the sin of homosexuality. The real problem,
he said, was a failure of hospitality.

The Rev. Richard Braun (SE), a member of the Health
Care Task Force, spoke of new opportunities for change
in the health care industry.

The following persons from the Christian Church (Dis-
ciples of Christ) also spoke: John Bennett, Linda
Creason, Peggy Clark, Dale Butler, and Adelle Lemon.
At this point, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
conducted business. The Rev. Michael Kinnamon was
invited to speak about Churches Uniting in Christ. He