

1 granted to presenters be set aside so that the pre-
2 senter of the resolution be granted sufficient time
3 to finish the presentation.”

4
5 01-GS-40 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-
6 third General Synod sets aside the Standing Rule
7 for time granted to presenters so that the presenter
8 of the resolution “Support for Federally Funded
9 Research on Embryonic Stem Cells” be granted
10 sufficient time to finish the presentation.

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12 Following further discussion, Ms. Taylor called for
13 the vote.

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15 01-GS-41 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-
16 Third General Synod adopts the resolution “Sup-
17 port for Federally Funded Research on Embryonic
18 Stem Cells.”

19
20 **SUPPORT FOR FEDERALLY FUNDED RE-**
21 **SEARCH ON EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS**
22

23 WHEREAS, Jesus set an example, by his ministry
24 of healing and caring for the sick and disabled, chal-
25 lenging us to follow his example by supporting the
26 healing and caring ministry in our own day;
27

28 WHEREAS, human embryonic stem cells can form
29 virtually any type of human cell and thus have the
30 potential to form tissues for any part of the body;
31

32 WHEREAS, many scientists agree that research
33 on embryonic stem cells is more promising than
34 that of adult stem cells that have only a limited
35 capability to form certain cell types;
36

37 WHEREAS, many scientists believe that embry-
38 onic stem cell research could relieve suffering and
39 possibly cure patients with a variety of disorders
40 such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases, ju-
41 venile diabetes, spinal cord injury, Huntington’s
42 disease, and muscular dystrophy;
43

44 WHEREAS, there are currently over 25,000 fro-
45 zen embryos in in vitro fertilization clinics that
46 probably will eventually be discarded;
47

48 WHEREAS, the National Institutes of Health de-
49 veloped guidelines regulating federally funded re-
50 search on stem cells, provided they were taken from
51 frozen human embryos derived from in vitro fer-
52 tilization and which would be discarded after the
53 treatment of infertile couples;
54

55 WHEREAS, in Spring 2001 the present adminis-
56 tration canceled the inaugural meeting of a National
57 Institutes of Health committee that was to review
58 the applications for federal grants to study human
59

embryonic stem cells;
WHEREAS, there is bipartisan support for research
using human embryos, including many Democratic and
Republican legislators;

WHEREAS, research on embryonic stem cells is al-
ready underway in privately funded laboratories where
regulations and guidelines do not apply;
WHEREAS, the support for federally funded research
will impose ethical guidelines and oversight; and

WHEREAS, by banning the research, we foreclose the
possibility of doing all we can to improve the lot of the
living, and in many cases giving them new life;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-
third General Synod of the United Church of Christ
supports federally funded embryonic stem cell research
within ethically sound guidelines (including concern
for justice, privacy, access to the benefits of the re-
search for all) and the limitations set forth by the Na-
tional Institute of Health;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third
General Synod requests the General Minister and Presi-
dent of United Church of Christ to send a letter to the
President of the United States urging approval of fed-
eral funding for embryonic stem cell research within
National Institute of Health guidelines;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third
General Synod requests Justice and Witness Ministries
to advocate for allocation for stem cell research before
the appropriate Congressional committees;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third
General Synod requests Conferences, Association, and
local churches to work diligently in support of the leg-
islation allowing stem cell research, providing appro-
priate guidelines for such research, and allocating funds
to support the research; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Twenty-third
General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls
upon the Covenanted Ministries to provide leadership
and study materials for education, discussion, and theo-
logical reflection about the ethical issues of develop-
ments in the field of stem cell research.

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

Time was allotted for the Christian Church (Disciples
of Christ) to conduct business.