

1 requests that Justice and Witness Ministries con-
2 vene a cross-covenanted ministries Public Educa-
3 tion Task Force to engage all parts of the wider
4 church in the work that the AMA/CRJ Public Edu-
5 cation Task Force began.

6
7 requests that this Task Force, in collaboration with
8 the Justice and Witness Ministries, Local Church
9 Ministries, and the Proclamation, Identity, and
10 Communications Team, convene at least once
11 yearly to visit public schools and reflect on their
12 findings for church-wide discernment;

13
14 calls on this Task Force to work with the Ministry
15 for Youth and Young Adult Empowerment to de-
16 velop youth leadership for public school transfor-
17 mation;

18
19 calls on the United Church of Christ Research De-
20 partment, along with this Task Force, to launch a
21 denomination-wide survey to identify and priori-
22 tize challenges public schools face, to which the
23 United Church of Christ may respond;

24
25 calls on this Task Force to develop an umbrella
26 coalition across the thirty-nine Conferences of the
27 United Church of Christ, comprised of clergy and
28 lay persons, public school educators, parents, stu-
29 dents, and civic activists to support public school
30 justice, parent involvement, and equitable public
31 school financing;

32
33 calls on this Task Force to report to the Twenty-
34 fourth and Twenty-fifth General Synods on its
35 progress, including identifying systemic barriers
36 to excellent public education and recommending
37 strategies to address those barriers.

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39 funding for this action will be made in accordance
40 with the overall mandates of the affected agencies
41 and the funds available.

42
43 Resolution of witness. Requires a two-thirds vote
44 for passage.

45 References

- 46 1. National Education Association: Available on-
47 line at <[http://www.nea.org/resolutions/00/
48 00a-1.html](http://www.nea.org/resolutions/00/00a-1.html)>.
- 49 2. Children's Defense Fund: Available online at
50 <[http://www.childrensdefense.org/fair-
51 start_faq.html](http://www.childrensdefense.org/fair-start_faq.html)>.
- 52 3. Children's Defense Fund: Available online at
53 <[http://www.childrensdefense.org/key-
54 facts_education.html](http://www.childrensdefense.org/key-facts_education.html)>.

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56
57 The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) con-
58 ducted business.
59

8. RESOLUTION: HEALTH EFFECTS AND IMPACTS OF TOBACCO ON CHILDREN, TEENAGERS, AND THEIR FAMILIES

Ms. Taylor called on the Chair of Committee Four, Ms. Amarilys Ramos (PR), to present the recommended action from Committee Four. She noted a change to the third "Be It Therefore Resolved:" following the words "the Interministry Health Table," add the words "... the Association of United Church Educators, Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries. . . ." Ms. Ramos moved adoption of the resolution on the Effects of Tobacco on Children, Teenagers, and Their Families. After discussion, Moderator Taylor called for the vote.

01-GS-44 VOTED: The Twenty-Third General Synod adopts the resolution "Health Effects and Impacts of Tobacco on Children, Teenagers, and Their Families."

HEALTH EFFECTS AND IMPACTS OF TOBACCO ON CHILDREN, TEENAGERS, AND THEIR FAMILIES

WHEREAS, God's good gift of creation includes our bodies, and we are called to be good stewards of our life and health;

WHEREAS, part of our responsibility for sharing in the shepherding activities of society as citizens is to help create conditions for the health of our communities;

WHEREAS, tobacco is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States;

WHEREAS, worldwide, every ten seconds another person dies as a result of tobacco use;

WHEREAS, smoking of tobacco products is a major cause of illness that contributes to the premature death of hundreds of thousands of people living in the United States;

WHEREAS, each day three thousand young people become regular smokers;

WHEREAS, four to five million youth aged twelve to seventeen are current smokers;

WHEREAS, smoking rates among youngsters continue to rise and are at their highest levels in nineteen years;

WHEREAS, tobacco companies are targeting their promotional efforts to children and youth with the result that ninety percent of new smokers are teenagers or younger;

WHEREAS, exposure to environmental tobacco smoke worsens symptoms of asthma and causes respiratory infections in children;

1 WHEREAS, we recognize that the right of indi-
2 viduals to use tobacco products in religious cer-
3 emonies should be preserved; and

4
5 WHEREAS, it is our Christian responsibility to
6 speak out and take action against those who would
7 seek profit and wealth by promoting tobacco;

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9 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-
10 third General Synod recommends that Justice and
11 Witness Ministries call upon the appropriate Jus-
12 tice and Witness Ministry Teams, the Parish Life
13 and Leadership Team in Local Church Ministries,
14 Health and Wholeness in Wider Church Ministries,
15 local churches, Associations, and Conferences to
16 be in discussion about the implications of recent
17 research on the health impacts of tobacco usage on
18 children, teenagers, and their families;

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-
21 third General Synod requests that Justice and Wit-
22 ness Ministries encourage local churches, Confer-
23 ences, and Associations to engage in collaborative
24 community and national efforts that are aimed at
25 preventing and/or reducing youth tobacco use in-
26 cluding:

27
28 sponsoring self-help groups for persons who want
29 to stop smoking,

30
31 providing children and youth group learning op-
32 portunities that educate them about the health ef-
33 fects of smoking and smokeless tobacco, and

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35 providing educational sessions for parents on how
36 to guide and talk with their children about tobacco;

37
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-
39 third General Synod requests that Justice and Wit-
40 ness Ministries convene the United Church of
41 Christ Parish Nurse Network, the United Church
42 of Christ Physician's Network, the United Church
43 of Christ Health Task Force, the Interministry
44 Health Table, the Association of United Church
45 Educators, Council for Youth and Young Adult
46 Ministries, and other interested and identified bod-
47 ies to work in concert to identify ministry models
48 and strategies to show how church members and
49 churches can respond to the tobacco issue; and

50
51 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that covenanted
52 ministries, organizations, health and human service
53 institutions associated with the United Church of
54 Christ, Conferences, Associations, local churches,
55 and members of the United Church of Christ ex-
56 press compassion and concern for persons who are
57 currently addicted to the use of tobacco products
58 and be urged to join in education and advocacy
59 activities to advance legislation that reduces the
smoking of tobacco products without being puni-
tive towards individuals who do smoke.

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

References

Health and Wellness Program, JWM
Public Life and Social Policy, JWM
David Jenkins, Ph.D., United Church of Christ,
Chapel Hill
Ted Johnson, Ed.D., West Parish UCC, Andover

The Rev. William Ingraham (MI) called for point of
personal privilege. He talked about the National Of-
fices' intentional work to maintain diversity among the
staff. A comparison would be made in the fall of 2001
of the current and prestructure staffing of the National
Offices, between the old and new staffs.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Edith Guffey and Mr. Don Manworren noted that
the business of the General Synod and the General
Assembly was officially completed. Mr. Manworren
reported that there were 8,045 Disciples in attendance,
1,500 of whom were youth. General Minister and Presi-
dent, Dick Hamm, thanked the moderators of the Chris-
tian Church (Disciple of Christ). Moderator Paul Rivera
called forward Lanny Lawler, First Vice-Moderator,
and presented him with a plaque in appreciation of his
service. Ms. Guffey and Mr. Hamm thanked all of the
staff that was responsible for making the General Synod
and the General Assembly meetings successful.

10. FINAL REPORT OF THE TWENTY-THIRD GENERAL SYNOD CREDENTIALS COMMIT- TEE

Ms. Guffey gave the final report of the Credentials
Committee as follows: there were 711 Conference
Delegates, 200 Covenanted Ministries and Ex-Officio
Delegates, 74 Associate Delegates, 33 Voice-without-
Vote Delegates, 24 Honored Guests, 1,754 Visitors,
440 Youth, 118 Ministries Staff, and 40 General Synod
Staff for a total of 3,394 United Church of Christ per-
sons at the Twenty-third General Synod!

Words of thanks were extended to Moderators: Nancy
Taylor, Dick Harter, and Linda Jaramillo. Chalice were
presented to each of them, as the audience responded
with a standing ovation.

11. FINAL SPEAK OUT!

Ms. Taylor called upon the participants of the final
Speak Out!

Ms. Cynthia Dobson McBride (Disciples of Christ)
urged fellow Disciple colleagues to act on the decision
on Churches Uniting in Christ. She called on them to
form study groups with the United Church of Christ,
to perform communion with the Methodist, or a con-
cert with the African Methodist Episcopal or Zion