

1 Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of
2 Christ), the date for the next common gathering,
3 and AIDS.

4 **8. NEW CHURCH ESTABLISHMENT**

5 Ms. Jaramillo introduced a report on congregations
6 of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and
7 the United Church of Christ that have come into
8 existence or been renewed over the past two years.

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11 The Disciples of Christ Moderators presented the
12 report, "New Congregation Establishment," ac-
13 knowledging fifty-three new congregations that
14 have come to life since the last Assembly.

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16 The Rev. David Schoen, Minister and Team Leader
17 for Evangelism Ministry, Local Church Ministries,
18 recognized over one hundred new and renewed
19 United Church of Christ congregations in the past
20 several years. The report was concluded with a
21 video and a parade celebrating the many new
22 United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Dis-
23 ciples of Christ) faith communities.

24 **9. RESOLUTION "CALLING ON THE** 25 **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO JOIN** 26 **THE DECADE TO OVERCOME VIO-** 27 **LENCE"**

28 Ms. Jaramillo explained that the Committee of Ref-
29 erence Report would be offered in parts. This would
30 allow opportunity to vote on the resolution, "De-
31 cade to Overcome Violence," at the same time as
32 our partners, the Christian Church (Disciples of
33 Christ). Ms. Jaramillo then called on Ms. Beth
34 Anastasia (CAC), Chair of the Committee of Ref-
35 erence.

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38 Ms. Anastasia moved that the resolution "Calling
39 on the United Church of Christ to Join the Decade
40 to Overcome Violence" be referred directly to a
41 plenary of the General Synod.

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44 01-GS-07 VOTED: The Twenty-third General
45 Synod refers the resolution "Calling on the United
46 Church of Christ to Join the Decade to Overcome
47 Violence" directly to a plenary of the General
48 Synod.

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50 Ms. Anastasia then moved adoption of the resolu-
51 tion and called on the Rev. Henry Simmons, Chair
52 of the Board of Directors of Justice and Witness
53 Ministries, who spoke to the resolution.

54
55 The Disciples held discussion and adopted a simi-
56 lar item, "Calling on the Christian Church (Dis-
57 ciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada
58 to Join the Decade to Overcome Violence."
59

Ms. Jaramillo moderated discussion by the United Church
of Christ delegates on the resolution and called for the
vote.

01-GS-08 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod
adopts the resolution, "Calling on the United Church of
Christ to Join the Decade to Overcome Violence."

Calling on the United Church of Christ to Join the Decade to Overcome Violence

WHEREAS the Psalmist wrote, "Seek peace and pursue
it" (Psalm 34:14), and the prophet Isaiah wrote "the wolf
and the lamb shall feed together and the lion shall eat
straw like cattle, they shall not hurt or destroy in all my
holy mountain" (Isaiah 65:25), and Jesus said in the Ser-
mon on the Mount, "blessed are the peacemakers for they
shall be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9);

WHEREAS we recall with thanksgiving the history of
saints and martyrs of the church who gave their lives as
witnesses for God against the powers of violence and, at
the same time, we confess the role that the church has too
often played in adding to the violence and injustice of the
world;

WHEREAS the world's Nobel Peace laureates have ap-
pealed for a "Decade for a Culture of Nonviolence" and
a "Year of Education for Nonviolence," with special em-
phasis on children and youth;

WHEREAS the United Nations has designated the years
2001–2010 as the Decade for Nonviolence and a Culture
of Peace for the Children of the World;

WHEREAS the World Council of Churches, meeting at
its Eighth Assembly in Harare, called upon its member
churches to observe a Decade to Overcome Violence from
2001 to 2010, calling on its member churches to provide
a clear witness to peace, reconciliation, and nonviolence,
grounded in justice;

WHEREAS the U.S. Conference of the World Council
of Churches began this observance with a Lenten fast from
violence in 2001, requesting member churches to pray
the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, "Lord make me an
instrument of thy peace";

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has designated
itself as a "Just Peace" church and many local churches
have designated themselves as "Just Peace" churches;

WHEREAS violence is fracturing our world, destroying
our culture, and takes many forms—from the violence
of war and genocide, to the violence due to the use of
land mines and the proliferation of small arms, to the sys-
temic violence of poverty and racism, to violence in the
home against women and children, to the violence done
to the whole of God's creation, to the violence of hate
crimes and police brutality, to the violence of gangs, to
the violence which erupts in U.S. schools and is found in
our churches;

1 WHEREAS, as Christians, we are called upon to
2 recognize that our cultural addiction to violence
3 is a spiritual challenge that calls us to prophetic
4 witness;

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6 WHEREAS we have heard the call to nonviolence
7 as an active alternative to violence from modern
8 prophets such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and
9 as a way of living out Jesus' teachings and bear-
10 ing witness to God's promise of peace with
11 justice; and

12
13 WHEREAS the culture of violence surrounds us
14 all and is found in our entertainment, our sports,
15 our worldview, and is embedded in our history;

16
17 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the
18 Twenty-third General Synod calls on every local
19 church to act to overcome violence in our world
20 and especially in its own community by being a
21 witness for peace with justice and reconciliation,
22 through Bible study and theological reflection,
23 and through dialogue and prayerful consideration
24 of how it can be an active participant in the De-
25 cade to Overcome Violence;

26
27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-
28 third General Synod calls on the Conferences and
29 Associations of the United Church of Christ to
30 affirm the commitment of the United Church of
31 Christ to support a Decade to Overcome Violence
32 and to discern how they might become active
33 participants in the Decade;

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-
36 third General Synod calls on the seminaries of
37 the United Church of Christ and the historically
38 related seminaries to include education on issues
39 of violence in the curriculum for the preparation
40 of pastors and in continuing education programs;

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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-
43 third General Synod calls on Justice and Witness
44 Ministries to coordinate work in the national set-
45 ting of the church around overcoming violence
46 and to provide leadership training on nonviolence
47 and conflict resolution and violence prevention
48 education, to work with youth and young adults
49 in programs to end violence, to advocate for an
50 end to land mines and the proliferation of small
51 arms, and to work to overcome the institutional
52 and systemic violence of racism and poverty;

53
54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-
55 third General Synod calls on Wider Church Min-
56 istries to explore appropriate ways for the United
57 Church of Christ to participate in the United Na-
58 tions Decade for Nonviolence and a Culture of
59 Peace and to develop necessary resources for such
participation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third
General Synod calls on the Office of General Minis-
tries to coordinate the promotion and information for
the United Church of Christ's participation in the World
Council of Churches' Decade to Overcome Violence;
and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Twenty-third
General Synod calls on Local Church Ministries to pro-
duce the appropriate bulletin inserts and curriculum
resources for local churches to participate in the De-
cade to Overcome Violence.

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

10. SPEAK OUT!

Mr. Rivera announced that there would be ten minutes
for Speak Out!, with five speakers from the Christian
Church (Disciples of Christ) and five from the United
Church of Christ alternating.

The five speakers from the United Church of Christ
were:

The Rev. J. David Menchhofer (SE), who spoke about
the Allen Retreat Center

Ms. Noelle Damico, (JWM), who spoke on the work
of the Justice and Peace Action Network

The Rev. David Gaewski (ME) and two youth delegates
from the Maine Conference, who spoke about
the National Youth Event in 2004 in Maine

Mr. David Inglis (RM), who spoke on restorative
justice

Mr. Earl Menchhofer (IL), who spoke on the need
for evangelism

Speakers from the Christian Church (Disciples of
Christ) spoke on Palestinian peace, the Disciples Men's
International Day of Pancakes, homosexuality, a call
to hug the missionaries who serve the church, and min-
istry for older adults.

11. RESPONSE TO VOTE

Mr. Hamm and Ms. Bernice Powell Jackson introduced
Mr. David Satcher, Surgeon General of the United
States and a member of the National City Christian
Church in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Satcher brought greetings from Washington, D.C.,
and the Office of the Surgeon General. Acknowledg-
ing the earlier vote on the Decade to Overcome Vio-
lence and identifying violence as a serious health prob-
lem in the United States, he called attention to the Youth
Violence Prevention Report, which addresses the is-
sue. While acknowledging the effect of youth violence
on the United States, he encouraged the church not to
lose hope in their struggle against violence.