

shall thereby create a vacancy to be filled by election.

7. FULL COMMUNION BETWEEN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND THE CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA

Assistant Moderator Smith called on Rev. Cecil Prescod (CPC) Chairperson of Committee Eight. Mr. Prescod reported the changes the committee made to the original resolution.

Mr. Prescod, on behalf of the Committee, moved the Twenty-fourth General Synod adopt the resolution "Full Communion between the United Church of Christ and the Church of South India" as amended by the Committee.

03-GS-13 VOTED The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution "Full Communion between the United Church of Christ and the Church of South India" as amended by the Committee.

FULL COMMUNION BETWEEN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND THE CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ and the Church of South India are kindred expressions of Christ's one Church, basing their formation on Christ's prayer, "That they may all be one;" and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ and the Church of South India, both members of the world-wide network of united and uniting churches, have expressed the conviction prominently in their motto and symbol; and

WHEREAS, several United Church of Christ Conferences have received innumerable spiritual riches from contacts with the devoted members of the Church of South India and covet such an experience for all United Church of Christ Conferences; and

WHEREAS, the Church of South India in 1947 has recognized the state of full communion with the United Church of Christ, through one of our parent bodies, the Congregational Christian Churches.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fourth General Synod calls on the Office of the General Minister and President, with the assistance of the Council for Ecumenism, and Wider Church Ministries to pursue the steps that are necessary for the United Church of Christ at the Twenty-fifth General Synod to affirm a full communion relationship with the Church of South India.

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

8. DIALOGUE WITH ALLIANCE OF BAPTISTS: A PARTNERSHIP IN MISSION AND MINISTRY

Chairperson Cecil Prescod, on behalf of the Committee, moved the Twenty-fourth General Synod adopt the resolution "Dialogue with Alliance of Baptists: A Partnership in Mission and Ministry"

Mr. Prescod spoke on behalf of the resolution

Rev. Ed Roosa (PNE) requested more information, specifically the number of churches that are involved. Rev. Lydia Veliko, Minister for Ecumenical Relations, reported that the Alliance represents approximately one hundred twenty congregations with sixty thousand members primarily in the South East portion of the country.

Rev. David Runnion-Bareford of the Biblical Witness Fellowship spoke in opposition to the resolution stating that the Alliance of Baptists is a dissident group.

Rev. John Thomas, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, spoke about the dialogue process he and Rev. Veliko had been involved in with the Alliance of Baptists over the past years. He stated it is incorrect to refer to the Alliance as a dissident group. Many of their members have suffered for their convictions, including being removed from positions of responsibility in the Southern Baptists Convention. These are convicted

Christians who offer us grace and hope for the future.

03-GS-14 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution “Dialogue with Alliance of Baptists: A Partnership in Mission and Ministry”

DIALOGUE WITH ALLIANCE OF BAPTISTS: A PARTNERSHIP IN MISSION AND MINISTRY

WHEREAS, ecumenical relationships are realized in the commitments that friends and partners make to each other for support, assistance and mutual counsel; and

WHEREAS, we look forward to expanding and strengthening an evolved ecumenical relationship of deepening friendship, continuing dialogue, and joint public witness with the Alliance of Baptists and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ cherishes its ecumenical relationships and seeks to implement them in as many settings of the life of the church as possible.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the United Church of Christ commit itself to an ecumenical relationship of deepening friendship, continuing dialogue, and joint public witness, by establishing a Partnership in Mission and Ministry with the Alliance of Baptists and in continuing partnership with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage the United Church of Christ’s Covenanted Ministries, Associated and Affiliated Ministries, Associations and Conferences to consider what this partnership might mean in their roles and responsibilities in relation to participation by congregations, clergy, and church staff affiliated with the Alliance of Baptists; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage congregations, clergy and church staff of the United Church of Christ

to develop and deepen this ecumenical friendship by pursuing opportunities for worship, fellowship, collaboration, sharing of resources, and mutual support with neighbors in the Alliance of Baptists, and wherever possible in partnership with the Disciples; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage conversation between the Alliance of Baptists and the Disciples–United Church of Christ Common Global Ministries Board to discern where the ministry of all might be enhanced by cooperation and collaboration; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage the seminaries and other settings of the church, where teaching of history and polity occurs, to include information about the Alliance of Baptists in order to deepen understanding of the faithful witness and ministry of the Alliance as a new ecumenical partner and also encourage the development of programs of Baptist studies; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage, as part of the partnership with the Alliance of Baptists and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the continuation of theological conversation on matters of ministry, sacramental life, theology, and polity throughout the life of the church; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage all settings of the United Church of Christ to invite participation by the Alliance of Baptists, as with other ecumenical partners, in national and regional events; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage leaders in the United Church of Christ to seek to make common public witness with leaders of the Alliance of Baptists, with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and with other ecumenical colleagues on issues of national and international concern and collaborate wherever possible on works of public witness and justice-making; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod, in recognition of a deeply shared commitment to children and to the growth of our churches, encourage the United Church of Christ to share and, where possible, collaborate with the Alliance of Baptists in the development of educational resources for children and youth and share opportunities for mission, outdoor camp experiences, education, and the fellowship events for children and youth of the Alliance, in partnership with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); and

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that the General Minister and President name United Church of Christ representatives to an ongoing partnership council to facilitate and encourage the growth of this Partnership in Mission and Ministry among the United Church of Christ, the Alliance of Baptists, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

MOMENT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

A moment of personal privilege was requested and granted by consensus for the Rev. Stan Hastey, Executive Director of the Alliance of Baptists. Rev. Hastey spoke about the initial overtures for beginning conversations with the Alliance of Baptists made during the Twenty-first General Synod held in Columbus, Ohio six years ago. Those dialogues continued at the Twenty-second General Synod in Providence, Rhode Island, and at Twenty-third General Synod in Kansas City, Missouri. He expressed his appreciation for the continued dialogue and particularly for the gracious participation of Rev. John Thomas and Rev. Lydia Veliko.

Delegates responded warmly with a standing ovation following Rev. Hastey's speech.

9. A FAITHFUL RESPONSE CALLING FOR A MORE JUST, HUMANE DIRECTION FOR ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION AND PLAN OF ACTION

Assistant Moderator Smith introduced Rev. Keith Mills (NOPL), chairperson of Committee Two. Rev. Mills moved the adoption of the Proposed Pronouncement: "A Faithful Response

Calling for a More Just, Humane Direction for Economic Globalization and Plan of Action" Chairman Mills spoke to the resolution.

Mr. Don Osgood (CONN) offered a friendly amendment that in item number four under CALL TO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST COVENANTED MINISTRIES, CONFERENCES, ASSOCIATIONS, AND SEMINARIES, the words "through whatever means possible" be deleted and "in the spirit of Jesus" be inserted in lieu of the previous wording.

Chairman Mills was not comfortable accepting this as a friendly amendment.

Mr. Osgood moved the amendment and it was seconded.

03-GS-15 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the amendment that in item number four under CALL TO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST COVENANTED MINISTRIES, CONFERENCES, ASSOCIATIONS, AND SEMINARIES, the words "through whatever means possible" be deleted and "in the spirit of Jesus" be inserted in lieu of the previous wording.

03-GS-16 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the Proposed Pronouncement "A Faithful Response Calling For A More Just, Humane Direction For Economic Globalization and Plan of Action" as amended.

A FAITHFUL RESPONSE CALLING FOR A MORE JUST, HUMANE DIRECTION FOR ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION AND PLAN OF ACTION

CALL TO MEMBERS

The Twenty-fourth General Synod, convinced that God calls us to faithfulness in our economic decisions and commitments, calls on the members of the United Church of Christ to the following actions:

1. To grow in spiritual maturity through consistent participation in public worship and the practice of spiritual