

- identify and support at least one United Church of Christ seminary student in an “adopt-a-seminarian” or “each one fund one” program.
- provide internship stipends beyond basic living expenses that would enable students to pay down accumulated educational debt

The Twenty-fourth General Synod calls on the beneficiary of the financial aid (student) to demonstrate commitment to the United Church of Christ by finishing his or her education and to serve as an authorized minister of the United Church of Christ for a period of not less than five years. If the beneficiary is not able to fulfill his or her commitment, the financial aid shall be repaid to the provider of the funds.

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

8. YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Committee One Chairperson, Eliot Howard, moved the adoption of the Resolution “Young Adult Ministries in the United Church of Christ.” After a brief statement of support, the vote was taken.

03-GS-41 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution “Young Adult Ministries in the United Church of Christ.”

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WHEREAS, historically and currently, young adults have been called to and have provided significant leadership in the growth and shaping of the church; and

WHEREAS, many young adults have been nurtured and strengthened through strong youth ministries and are seeking ways to serve the church faithfully; and

WHEREAS, a gap exists between youth and young adult ministries in that ministries with

youth are stronger, better established, and have better financial support than young adult programming; and

WHEREAS, many young adults are now expressing a feeling of disconnection from the church and each other; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ acknowledges and proclaims that Young Adult Ministries is not merely a branch or an outreach of the church, but is an essential, driving life force that is in serious need of direction, resources, time, and energy in all settings of the United Church of Christ, in order to avoid stagnation and to be faithful to the claims of the gospel to go into all the world.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the body of this General Synod of the United Church of Christ reaffirms its dedication to the development and support of young adult leadership and opportunities for spiritual growth;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that steps be taken, including the development of a national young adult event specifically for the United Church of Christ, to extend leadership opportunities to young adults and to further promote the building of today and tomorrow’s leaders;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local churches are encouraged to develop Young Adult Ministry programs including, but not limited to, maintaining contact with young adults who are in college, seminary or serving in the armed forces, and establishing relationships and ministering with young adults in the community, especially if they are located within or near a college community. Such programs may include providing transportation to church, providing opportunities for community service, or a place to explore meaningful questions about their faith and life in an encouraging and nurturing environment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that conferences and/or associations are encouraged to establish councils or other bodies to plan and implement programming for young adults, provide support

for developing and nurturing programs within the conference or association, and to serve as a liaison between the national, conference, and local settings of the church.

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that the national setting of the United Church of Christ evaluate staffing patterns, provision of resources, and development of models, programs and resources to provide for the strengthening of ministry with young adults, recognizing their distinct and varied needs and gifts within the church.

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementing bodies include all settings of the United Church of Christ (local churches, agencies, and ministries; Associations and Conferences; and national offices) with the primary responsibility placed with Local Church Ministries in consultation with the Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Subject to the availability of funds.

9. SUPPORT OF CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA, AND CITIZENS OF COMMUNITIES LIVING NEAR CHEMICAL WEAPONS STOCKPILES

The Chairperson of Committee Sixteen, Anton Krinshaw, moved the adoption of the resolution and briefly spoke to it. Committee member, Pamela Cheney (OH) also spoke to the resolution.

03-GS-42 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution “Support of Calhoun County, Alabama, and Citizens of Communities Living Near Chemical Weapons Stockpiles.”

SUPPORT OF CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA, AND CITIZENS OF COMMUNITIES LIVING NEAR CHEMICAL WEAPONS STOCKPILES

WHEREAS the U.S. stockpile of lethal chemical weapons must be destroyed, as mandated by Congress and through the Chemical Weapons Convention;

WHEREAS Congress directed the U.S. Army to destroy these chemical weapons while providing

“maximum protection” to workers and citizens throughout the weapons destruction process;

WHEREAS the Army’s initial proposed method of weapons disposal was incineration, without consideration of the health consequences of incineration emissions;

WHEREAS incinerators of all kinds emit large amounts of contaminated gasses into the air, containing a number of toxic compounds that are irrefutably linked directly to cancer, birth defects, reproductive disorders, developmental delay, and many other chronic illnesses;

WHEREAS hazardous waste incinerators, landfills and other polluting industry are located near communities of color and low-income populations;

WHEREAS the list of common incinerator emissions – dioxins, furans, PCBs, mercury, lead, and other persistent pollutants – are also emitted from chemical weapons incinerators;

WHEREAS the Army’s chemical weapons incinerators also emit chemical agents into the environment, through the smokestack, via contaminated materials, and via chemical agent which may still be present in secondary wastes;

WHEREAS technologies demonstrated by the Department of Defense through its Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment (ACWA) Program can destroy chemical agents at low temperature and pressure, in a system that contains chemical agents and other toxics without any uncontrolled releases of these toxics into the environment;

WHEREAS these safe technologies are now being used, or will soon be used to destroy chemical weapons stockpiles in Indiana, Maryland, Colorado and Kentucky;

WHEREAS there is unanimous support for these safer technologies from local citizens as well as from local, state and federal elected officials and government agencies;