

1 Rev. Brueggeman spoke about his journey and how he has spent his whole ministry with the United Church of
2 Christ and its predecessor traditions. He recalled the Blue Catechism of the Evangelical tradition, specifically
3 question 72: Wherein is the humiliation and exultation of Christ briefly expressed? Answer: Phil 2:5-11, which
4 Rev. Brueggeman quoted. He then went on to say that right before that lyrical, Christological passage, the author of
5 Philippians tells us: “do not look to your own interests, but to the interests of others.” He cautioned us that the
6 Church is always tempted to look to our own interests, but that Christ gives us power to look beyond our own
7 interests to the interests of others.
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9 Ms. Neal called on Rev. Bernice Powell Jackson to give the second award to Rev. Andrew Young.
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11 Rev. Powell said that Rev. Young gives new meaning to ‘patriot and pastor’. Rev. Young, along with his wife, are
12 children of the Congregational Church. As part of this journey, he joined the staff of the National Council of
13 Churches Youth Department, helping young people understand their faith in the context of the world. He changed
14 the face of the South and our nation. He marched, was jailed and beaten, and provided care for those engaged in
15 nonviolent struggle for civil rights. He has often served as pastor to pastors. Little was known about the United
16 Church Board for Homeland Ministries paying his salary during the time he served with Dr. King. Rev. Young was
17 the first African American elected to the House of Representatives since reconstruction and Ambassador to the
18 United Nations. He was chosen because of his work in human rights. His meeting with representatives of the PLO
19 brought his service as Ambassador to the United Nations to an abrupt end. He served as Mayor of Atlanta and chair
20 of the Olympic Committee. Rev. Young’s call includes father, prophet, pastor and patriot.
21

22 Rev. Young responded by saying that he owes everything to this church. His parents and grandparents received
23 their educations through American Missionary Association colleges. His grandparents taught him that “to whom
24 much has been given, much is expected.”
25

26 He somehow found his way to seminary, to Alabama and to Georgia. His way to politics was kindled by the
27 concept that politicians are pastors. He served as council to President Jimmy Carter in response to South African
28 relations and apartheid. As Mayor of Atlanta, he had the vision and context that through interaction with churches,
29 Atlanta could become a holy city, with barriers broken down and openness to the world. This was celebrated in the
30 1996 Olympics.
31

32 Much of what he learned, he learned in Sunday school at Central Congregational Church in New Orleans, another
33 context for deep learning. During service at the National Council of Churches, he was one of two black
34 representatives out of 1600. The National Council of Churches consisted of a number of gay representatives who
35 had found a place of ministry there, when their local churches and denominations were not open to them. They told
36 him he could not fight the battle for civil rights because he was too emotional. They said: “let us fight this battle for
37 you; one day you may have the chance to speak for us.” He is glad “God is Still Speaking.” He is glad to be part of
38 the church that wrote the constitution of the United States, and glad to be part of the church of the Amistad. He
39 hopes that the United Church of Christ never shirks from its mission. After forty-five years, what seemed
40 controversial now seems simple. We are all compelled to speak the truth and bear the scorn. There is no education
41 without controversy, no resurrection without crucifixion.
42

43 Ms. Neal gave thanks to both Rev. Brueggeman and Rev. Young.
44

45 **4. RESOLUTION: PROMOTING PEACE FOR ALL IN THE SUDAN**

46 Assistant Moderator Neal announced the beginning of the first Committee reports, and reminded the delegates of the
47 microphone procedures.
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49 Ms. Neal asked all of the committee chairs to rise and be recognized by the Twenty-fifth General Synod, and
50 thanked the Committee Process Facilitators, Ms. Sheldon Culver, Mr. Dennis Friche-Mouri and Ms. Wanda Harris-
51 Watkins.
52

53 Ms. Neal called on Ms. Amity Royer, chair of Committee Nine to present the recommended actions from that
54 committee. Ms. Royer thanked members of the committee for their work, briefly described the work of the
55 committee, and noted the committee’s recommendation to give this resolution unanimous support. She then moved
56 the adoption of the resolution “Promoting Peace for all in the Sudan.”

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2 05-GS-15 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the resolution "Promoting Peace for all in the Sudan."
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4 **PROMOTING PEACE FOR ALL IN THE SUDAN**
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6 WHEREAS the crisis in the Darfur region of the Sudan continues unabated, and
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8 WHEREAS violence and threats against the lives, health, homes, and security of the people of the region persist,
9 and

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11 WHEREAS women in particular have been victims of brutal rape, have been captured and kept as sexual slaves, and
12 have been denied their physical, emotional, economic, and human rights;

13
14 WHEREAS official policies of exploitation, racial discrimination, and marginalization have been used to incite
15 social divisions and cultural animosities for political control and ideological ends, and

16
17 WHEREAS the Sudan Council of Churches and the New Sudan Council of Churches have condemned the role of
18 the Sudanese government in perpetuating the atrocities, and

19
20 WHEREAS the international community including the United States has condemned the assault on the people of
21 Darfur as genocide, but has not taken effective action to pressure the government of the Sudan to end the assault,
22 and

23
24 WHEREAS the lack of security and restrictions on access in western Sudan have hindered the provision of
25 humanitarian aid by international agencies, and

26
27 WHEREAS the conflict in Darfur should not be separated from the continuing conflict between the northern and
28 southern regions of the Sudan,
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30 LET IT THEREFORE BE RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ
31 deplores the suffering of the Sudanese people over the course of decades of conflict, and particularly in the current
32 crisis in the Darfur region; and
33

34 LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon
35 the Sudanese government to cease hostile actions against civilians, to end support for militant groups committing
36 violence, and to engage immediately in efforts to end the crisis in Darfur; to continue to work diligently to seek a
37 just and peaceful resolution to the conflict against factions in the southern regions; and to institute national policies
38 and encourage civil institutions that respect the language, culture, and religious rights and practices of all Sudanese,
39 regardless of race, gender, or color; and
40

41 LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ supports
42 efforts of the international community to intervene in bringing security to the region to ensure that the basic rights of
43 the people are guaranteed, including the commitment of the African Union to provide peacekeepers to the region;
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45 LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that, given the continued systematic violence and widespread murder of
46 civilians, the boards call upon the U.S. government to intensify efforts with the United Nations and the international
47 community to seek a comprehensive peace in the Sudan that would end the conflict throughout the nation and ensure
48 access to security and natural resources for all Sudanese; and requests Justice and Witness Ministries and Wider
49 Church Ministries through Common Global Ministries to advocate with the U.S. and the U.N. authorities to be so
50 committed; and
51

52 LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon
53 the congregations and members of the United Church of Christ to engage in prayer, study and public witness
54 regarding the Sudan through resources available through Justice and Witness Ministries, the Common Global
55 Ministries, and Church World Service; and encourages the coordination of worship, educational and public witness

1 efforts among our ecumenical partners and non-governmental organizations that emerged from the United Nations
2 World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance (WCAR); and
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4 LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ
5 encourages congregations and members of the United Church of Christ to participate in the Dear Sudan campaign.
6

7 LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ
8 encourages members to contribute generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing and Week of Compassion
9 (Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) special appeals to support efforts to deliver humanitarian relief and supplies
10 to the region and efforts to aid the refugees and internally displaced of the Sudan.
11

12 Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the
13 affected agencies and the funds available.
14

15 **5. RESOLUTION: HOPE IN A TIME OF TERROR**

16 Chairperson Royer continued the report of Committee Nine introducing the resolution "Hope In a Time of Terror."
17 Ms. Royer did not speak to the resolution, but moved the adoption of the resolution.
18

19 05-GS-16 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the resolution "Hope in a Time of Terror."
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21 **HOPE IN A TIME OF TERROR**

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23 WHEREAS on August 1 through 7, 2004, a delegation from Penn Central Conference of the United Church of
24 Christ met in joint colloquy with delegations from the Synods of the Rhineland and Berlin-Brandenburg of the
25 United Evangelical Church in Germany to discuss the impact of post-modern thinking on their understandings of
26 Christian theology; and
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28 WHEREAS the participants in the colloquy included discussion of terrorism, security, freedom, justice and peace in
29 the wake of the tragic use of airplanes as weapons on 11 September 2001; and
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31 WHEREAS the colloquy participants were moved to draft a joint statement on "Hope in a Time of Terror," in
32 response to the current world situation and offer that statement to their respective church bodies, including the Penn
33 Central Conference of the United Church of Christ;
34

35 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ receives with thanksgiving and endorses the
36 joint statement, "Hope in a Time of Terror," the text of which follows:

37 *UEK / UCC Penn Central Conference Colloquy*

38 *August 6, 2004*

39 *Precious Blood Spiritual Center, Lancaster, Pennsylvania;*

40 *"Hope in a Time of Terror"*

41 *We are meeting in a time troubled by the threat of terrorism and war, resulting in strains in the relationship between*
42 *our governments. Taking up these issues we have discussed the following points:*
43

44 *The generous, open-society practices of the United States following World War II developed a worldwide trust in the*
45 *U. S. as a model democratic nation. More recently, the horror of the terrorist attacks on 9/11 rekindled sympathy*
46 *for America among the peoples of the world. However the United States by starting a preemptive war, rejecting the*
47 *admonitions of allies and the U. S., and disregarding international covenants and treaties, has turned that sympathy*
48 *into widespread concern and even fear.*
49

50 *In Germany, church demonstrators against the war in Iraq are uncomfortable because they are grateful for the role*
51 *of the U. S. in the past but now are accused of being anti-American. Many weekly candlelight vigils, such as those*
52 *in Neuruppin, always include the reading of greeting from American friends. On a personal level, German*
53 *participants in this colloquy were not sure whether friends they had met before had also changed, and whether the*
54 *UCC statements opposing the war represent the general opinion of UCC congregations. The fear of division in our*
55 *churches due to polarization has deterred many from openly discussing these questions.*
56