

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

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4 **9. RESOLUTION: IN SUPPORT OF MINISTRIES TO OUR CAMPUSES OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**

5 Ms. Neal called Ms. Sylvia Ferrel Jones, chair of Committee Twelve to present the work of the committee.  
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7 Ms. Jones moved the Twenty-fifth General Synod approve the amended resolution “In Support of Ministries to Our  
8 Campuses of Higher Education.”  
9

10 Ms. Jones thanked the recorder and technical service assistant for their work. She stated the Committee sought to  
11 affirm the importance of campus ministries and other outreach ministries to college students. The Committee saw  
12 the responsibility of General Synod as that of making policy, not being directive to the national staff. She stated the  
13 committee urges Conferences, Associations, and other United Church of Christ entities, to increase Our Church’s  
14 Wider Mission giving so the national office can increase support for this important ministry. She also mentioned the  
15 Committee had the privilege of speaking to Rev. Jose De Jesus and Ms. Kimberly Whitney of the national staff, as  
16 they sought to discern God’s will.  
17

18 Mr. James Darnell (ILL) moved to amend the resolution to eliminate some of the revised language and reinstate the  
19 original language. The motion was seconded.  
20

21 Mr. Darnell addressed the original intention of the resolution to provide a strong statement of support for campus  
22 ministries. He stated General Synod has set the precedent of directing the types of national staff. He stated that  
23 General Synod has deliberated and passed six young adult resolutions in the past fifteen years, and none have been  
24 implemented. He asked for some accountability in Local Church Ministries. He demanded that campus ministry  
25 concerns be heard and ministries respected.  
26

27 Ms. Neal then requested discussion for and against this amendment. Mr. Dave Johnston (IK) felt that General  
28 Synod is buffeted by an abundance of need, and needs to demonstrate conviction. He then asked people who were  
29 in attendance at Synod in large part because of the impact of a campus minister to stand.  
30

31 Ms. Leslie Taylor (OH) stated that she has benefited as a recipient of campus ministry at a United Church of Christ  
32 college and seminary. She is a former national staff member and feels that positions can’t continue to be added  
33 without a source of income to support them. She opposed the amendment, but supports an increase in Our Church’s  
34 Wider Mission so the position can be fully supported.  
35

36 Mr. Gregory Morrise (MA) reminded delegates of how his generation was hugely touched by the work of campus  
37 ministries, and he believes that the United Church of Christ should seek to lift up young adults in all of their  
38 ministries, issues and needs. He also reminded participants that Jesus never made it to age thirty-five.  
39

40 As a point of information, the committee was questioned about its rationale in removing some of the original  
41 language.  
42

43 Ms. Jones addressed the question. When the resolution was drafted there was no one in national staff serving in any  
44 of the positions targeted in the resolution. Last month one of these positions was filled. The Committee felt the  
45 resolution to be too directive, but affirmed the importance of campus ministries and a call to churches to increase  
46 Our Church’s Wider Mission. It is important that local churches step up to the plate.  
47

48 Following further discussion from delegates, Assistant Moderator Neal clarified the amendment before the house,  
49 and called for a vote on the amendment.  
50

51 The proposed amendment was defeated.  
52

53 Ms. Neal directed delegates to return to the main motion, the amended resolution as it came from the committee.  
54

55 05-GS-19 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the amended resolution “In Support of Ministries to  
56 our Campuses of Higher Education.

1 **IN SUPPORT OF MINISTRIES TO OUR CAMPUSES OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

2  
3 WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has been invested in the intellectual, spiritual and moral formation of future  
4 leaders, both lay and ordained; and

5  
6 WHEREAS on a world scale only one out of 100 people has access to higher education and whereas that one person  
7 will make decisions that affect the other 99; and

8  
9 WHEREAS the future leaders of our church, our country and, indeed, our world, can be found in our institutions of  
10 higher learning from community colleges to graduate and professional schools; and

11  
12 WHEREAS a plethora of competing voices are heard on those campuses and the church needs to have the resources  
13 to be there as an alternative voice of the loving, serving and healing way of  
14 Jesus Christ; and

15  
16 WHEREAS the recent removal of all campus ministry staff in the national offices of the United Church of Christ in  
17 Cleveland was done without notification to date of such removal to United Church of Christ chaplains, campus  
18 ministers and students and with little regard for the connections between students, campuses, local churches and our  
19 ecumenical partners, or cooperation with them in anticipating this radical step,

20  
21 WE HEREBY RESOLVE to urge our conferences, associations, and local churches to become knowledgeable about  
22 local campus ministries in their region and resolve that at every level of church life we offer our resources and  
23 hospitality to ministries of higher education and listen to the wisdom of those involved in campus ministry as they  
24 offer insights into the ways that such ministry might renew the church.

25  
26 We also urge churches to share names of students and educational workers involved in higher education (with their  
27 permission) with campus ministries in order to develop a network of support.

28  
29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage our conferences, associations, and congregations to support  
30 Local Church Ministries in its efforts to provide resources to our ministries in higher education through increased  
31 Our Church's Wider Mission giving.

32  
33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ in Atlanta,  
34 Georgia urges the national settings of the church to explore opportunities for expanded ministries, including  
35 evangelism, to students and campuses of higher education.

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

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40 **10. ELECTIONS**

41 Assistant Moderator Eric Smith reviewed the stages in which the elections would be completed. The first of which  
42 will be the election of the Executive Minister for Wider Church Ministries, then the Executive Minister for Justice  
43 Witness Ministries, the Executive Minister for Local Church Ministries and finally the General Minister and  
44 President.

45  
46 Mr. Smith stated that General Synod would move forward with the elections not affected by the proposed bylaw  
47 changes. He then called on Mr. Curtis Reuter (RM), Chair of the Board of Directors of Wider Church Ministries.  
48 Mr. Reuter moved that Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte be called by election to complete the two years of an unexpired  
49 term as Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries and Officer of the United Church of Christ.

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51 05-GS-20 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls by election the Rev. Cally  
52 Rogers-Witte to complete the two years of an unexpired term as Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries and  
53 Officer of the United Church of Christ.