

1
2 WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has a long history of support for farm workers in their quest for justice and
3 dignity, including past boycotts of lettuce, grapes, Campbell's products, Mt. Olive Pickles and Taco Bell;
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5 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we celebrate this precedent-setting agreement which acknowledges the need
6 for reform in an industry where workers do not enjoy the same rights and conditions as employees in other
7 industries; and
8

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon the churches of the United Church of Christ to support the CIW
10 by contacting the CEO's of McDonald's, Burger King and Subway through calls, letters and e-mails asking them to
11 join with Taco Bell in working with the CIW and use their power to improve the wages and conditions of the
12 workers in their supply chain; and
13

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ support the CIW in its efforts to extend this new
15 model of corporate social responsibility throughout the fast food industry, and consider joining with CIW as a
16 member of the Fair Food Alliance.
17

18 Funding for this action will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds
19 available.
20

21 The Twenty-fifth General Synod calls upon Justice and Witness Ministries to develop the strategy and program to
22 implement this resolution.
23

24 **6. CALLING THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO DECLARE ITSELF TO BE A "FAIR TRADE"**
25 **DENOMINATION**

26 Mr. Hayes continued with the report from Committee Eight regarding the resolution "Calling the United Church of
27 Christ to declare itself to be a "Fair Trade" Denomination".
28

29 Discussion followed regarding the meaning of "certification" and "fair trade." An amendment was offered replacing
30 the words "fair trade" with "fairly traded" in the Therefore Be It Resolved sections. The amendment was seconded.
31

32 05-GS-29 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the amendment to replace the words "fair trade" with
33 "fairly traded".
34

35 A friendly amendment was offered to reverse the order of "education" and "mission project" in Line 100. The
36 friendly amendment was accepted.
37

38 An amendment was offered to eliminate the phrase "We joyfully commend Equal Exchange, a United Church of
39 Christ partner, as one avenue for bringing the coffee into our communities of faith." The amendment was seconded.
40

41 05-GS-30 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the amendment to eliminate the phrase "We joyfully
42 commend Equal Exchange, a United Church of Christ partner as one avenue for bringing the coffee into our
43 communities of faith"
44

45 05-GS-31 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the resolution "Calling the United Church of Christ to
46 Declare Itself to be a "Fair Trade" Denomination" as amended.
47

48 **CALLING THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO DECLARE ITSELF TO BE A "FAIR TRADE"**
49 **DENOMINATION**
50

51 WHEREAS for the past fifteen to twenty years there has been a growing human and environmental disaster in
52 coffee growers that has devastated farms and families and towns and threatened the stability of nations in the global
53 south and our city streets in the global north; and
54

1 WHEREAS parallel with that has been an emerging “fair trade” movement^o that seeks to help farmers by
2 highlighting their plight and by purchasing products directly from local coops adhering to the following
3 internationally recognized principles:

- 4 • Pay prices which establish a living wage for producers;
- 5 • Work with democratically run cooperatives, governed by the farmers themselves, and dedicated to
6 equitable distribution of income and services;
- 7 • Develop producer capacity, which means working with farmers to enhance their management skills and
8 marketing independence.
- 9 • Buy direct, meaning that benefits and profits go to the farmers and their communities;
- 10 • Promote gender equality, meaning valuing and rewarding the work of women;
- 11 • Encourage ecologically sustainable farming practices; and
- 12 • Promote decent working conditions, meaning (among other things) that if children are involved, their
13 working conditions conform to UN Conventions on the rights of the Child; and

14 WHEREAS today several colleges (including Brown, Yale, Georgetown and Dartmouth) have voted to become fair
15 trade institutions, several faith groups (including Catholics, Lutherans and Presbyterians) have established
16 partnerships with the fair trade organization, Equal Exchange, and several major grocery chains and coffee
17 companies now offer a line of fair trade coffee.

18
19 WHEREAS nation-wide, hundreds of UCC congregations have already joined with over 9,000 places of worship
20 and faith-based organizations who support small coffee farmers in developing nations by using fair trade coffee and
21 other products and have developed programs to foster purchase of fair trade coffee by their members to help
22 impoverished family farmers in the developing world provide for their families; and

23
24 WHEREAS the United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries partnered in March 2004 with Equal
25 Exchange to launch a denomination-wide coffee program (the “UCC Coffee Project”) through which Equal
26 Exchange, in addition to the benefits of paying fair trade prices to farmers, will also make a donation to the “UCC
27 Small Farmer Fund” each time a UCC church or member buys a product through the project; and

28
29 WHEREAS the Jubilee Justice Taskforce of the Commission on Mission and Justice of the Massachusetts
30 Conference of the United Church of Christ is sponsoring a nation-wide delegation to Chiapas, Mexico, in January of
31 2006, for members and friends of the United Church of Christ to witness first hand the causes and effects of the
32 devastation of the coffee industry and the hopes for a new future based on fair trade coops;

33
34 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ covenants
35 together to become a “Fair Trade denomination,” meaning that it will strive to offer fairly traded certified coffee and
36 other fairly traded products at official meetings and functions, including those of affiliated seminaries, colleges,
37 camp and conference grounds, etc., and will thereby become a moral example for other denominations and faith
38 groups, and

39
40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages
41 churches in the denomination to offer certified coffee, purchased through companies that follow the widely
42 established and commonly agreed upon principles of justice and fairness for coffee farmers and their communities.
43 We encourage churches in the denomination to offer fairly traded certified coffee as the standard coffee at their
44 “Fellowship Hour,” and offer it for sale in their churches; and

45
46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod supports the January, 2006 delegation, and all
47 groups who have and will participate in mission and outreach trips with our prayers, our endorsement, our
48 encouragement, and our offerings, and that we call upon members of those groups to help educate us about, and
49 connect us with, our global family members in the coffee crisis upon their return; and

50
51 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that churches also be called upon to take this approach of purchasing fairly traded
52 certified products, first as an education project and second as a mission project to help their members learn the
53 potential negative impacts of some global economic practices, and how our small economic choices can adversely
54 affect peoples’ lives in other countries.

1 The implementing bodies include all settings of the United Church of Christ (local churches, agencies, and
2 ministries; Associations and Conferences; seminaries and national offices), however primary responsibility will be
3 placed with the Economic Justice Team of the Justice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ.
4 Implementation will involve developing programs and ministries to make known the vision and goals of this
5 resolution.
6

7 Funding for this action will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds
8 available.
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10 **7. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

11 Moderator, Jack Jackson, introduced Ms. Edith Guffey who announced the following:
12

13 Rev. Yvette Flunder will sign copies of her book tomorrow, July 5, 2005
14

15 Ms. Guffey thanked everyone for their generosity of \$12,493 at Sunday evening's worship service. The funds
16 will go to the Still Speaking Initiative.
17

18 **8. ADJOURNMENT**

19 At 9:30 p.m. Assistant Moderator, Eric Smith declared the Seventh Plenary of the Twenty-fifth General Synod to be
20 complete at the close of worship.
21

22 The theme for worship was "Go." The service shared stories of faith in song and honored The Living Theological
23 Heritage of the United Church of Christ.
24

25 **TUESDAY MORNING, JULY 5, 2005**

26 **Eighth Plenary Session**

27 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

28 Assistant Moderator Annie Wynn Neal called the Eighth Plenary session of the Twenty-fifth General Synod to order
29 at 8:30 a.m. and announced the meeting would begin with Speak Out!
30
31

32 **2. SPEAK OUT!**

- 33 1. Ms. Andrea Camo (CPC) saluted Rev. Eugene Ross and Rev. Hector Lopez and the Racial Justice
34 Consultation to be held November 10-13.
35
- 36 2. Mr. Art Cribbs (CA NV, S) asked that lay employees consider setting aside 3% of their salary so an
37 additional \$300 per month could be provided for them at retirement.
38
- 39 3. Ms. Bridget Hughes (CONN) raised the issue of the torture of military prisoners and asked delegates to
40 take home a petition to send to U. S. Congressmen requesting an investigation of these tortures.
41
- 42 4. Ms. Ruth Garwood (NY) celebrated yesterday's decision regarding marriage and urges that we continue to
43 work for justice for all.
44
- 45 5. Ms. Ann Ito (HI) called awareness to disabilities ministry.
46
- 47 6. Ms. Virginia Ford (MASS) called attention to "God's October Surprise" website www.shalomctr.org
48
- 49 7. Ms. Dorothy Gager (SE) announced a luncheon today highlighting Addiction Awareness.
50
- 51 8. Ms. Sherman Oland (MONT-NO.WYO) gave thanks for support of the Conference Minister's Fund which
52 supports large geographic conferences with small membership.
53
- 54 9. Ms. Rebecca Johnson (WI) announced that comma cow t-shirts are available at the Wisconsin Conference
55 table.
56