

1 both short-range and long-term accessibility and inclusion plans, which may include some or all of the following
2 activities:

- 3 a) Establish Conference level Inclusion Task Forces charged with needs assessment, planning, and
4 education;
- 5 b) Join the National Organization on Disability's Accessible Congregations Campaign;
- 6 c) Continue to make improvements in United Church of Christ buildings and facilities to achieve full
7 physical accessibility;
- 8 d) Encourage local churches to establish Inclusion Committees and/or Inclusion Coaches to help conduct
9 any accessibility or inclusion evaluation and modify existing curriculum and practices when needed.
- 10
- 11 e) Seek out and befriend mentors in the disabilities community, keeping in mind the slogan, "Nothing about
12 us without us".
- 13 f) Consider ways to invite/include people with disabilities to participate in and lead worship services and
14 other programming. This may involve hiring professional support or acquiring specialized technology
15 (i.e. sign language interpreters, TTY phone devices, etc.)
- 16 g) Call clergy with disabilities and employ staff with disabilities.
- 17 h) Become advocates for people with disabilities by becoming familiar with the Americans for Disabilities
18 Act and other legislation that affects children and adults with disabilities, contact local advocacy groups
19 for information and expertise.
- 20 i) Utilize study/action process designed by the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries called "Any
21 Body, Everybody, Christ's Body" to become a congregation that is accessible to all (A2A).
- 22 j) Support and utilize United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries resources.
- 23

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

26 **4. SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY FROM PRIVATIZATION**

27 Mr. Lynn Slagle (SC), Chairperson of Committee Fifteen, directed the delegates to the resolution "Saving Social
28 Security from Privatization" and moved it's adoption.

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31 05-GS-33 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the resolution "Saving Social Security from
32 Privatization.

33 **SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY FROM PRIVATIZATION**

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35
36 WHEREAS the best step toward a strong and enduring U.S. democracy is to preserve Social Security, a social
37 insurance system that covers nearly all citizens and provides guaranteed benefits that disproportionately help those
38 with the greatest need; and

39
40 WHEREAS just 47% of the workforce has private pension coverage for retirement but 96% of workers are covered
41 by Social Security; and

42
43 WHEREAS Social Security is our largest anti-poverty program providing the only income received by over one-
44 fifth (22%) of the elderly and over half the income received by fully two-thirds of the elderly; and

45
46 WHEREAS in addition to serving retirees, Social Security provides income to disabled workers and the families of
47 deceased workers who comprise one-third of all beneficiaries; and

48
49 WHEREAS three in ten of today's twenty-year-olds will be disabled before they reach age sixty-seven (their legal
50 retirement age), but 72% of the private sector workforce has no long-term disability insurance except for Social
51 Security; and

52
53 WHEREAS one in seven workers will die before reaching age sixty-seven and an estimated 97% of the children and
54 spouses of these workers are insured for survivor benefits through Social Security; and

55

1 WHEREAS the “crisis” in Social Security is largely a fiction designed to alarm young workers who increasingly,
2 and wrongly, believe that there will be no Social Security funds left when they retire; and

3
4 WHEREAS Social Security can pay full benefits until 2042 and over two-thirds of benefits after that *with absolutely*
5 *no changes* in the program; and

6
7 WHEREAS diverting tax money currently used to pay Social Security benefits into private accounts would severely
8 *worsen* Social Security’s financial health; and

9
10 WHEREAS privatization replaces Social Security’s current guarantee of retirement income with a risky system
11 dependant on luck, investment wisdom, and the timing of the stock market; and

12 WHEREAS Social Security’s administrative expenses, currently less than 1% of benefit payments, would be greatly
13 increased in a privatized system; and

14
15 WHEREAS many people – especially women and people of color – with relatively low earnings, more
16 unemployment and disability, and more years out of the labor force are especially well served by Social Security’s
17 progressive benefit structure, but would be hurt by a switch to private accounts.

18
19 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ rejects any
20 attempts to privatize Social Security or to add private accounts to the current Social Security program, and supports
21 efforts to strengthen Social Security in ways consistent with its mission as a social insurance program; and

22
23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General synod encourages local churches, conferences and
24 associations of the United Church of Christ to engage in educational forums and circulate materials so that members
25 (especially youth and young adults) and pastors can become informed about Social Security privatization; and

26
27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests that
28 Justice and Witness Ministries study the proposals to change Social Security and conduct legislative advocacy to
29 educate members of Congress about the position of the Twenty-fifth General Synod on Social Security privatization,
30 and prepare and provide resources to be used by the wider church and community.

31
32 Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the
33 affected agencies and the funds available.

34
35 **5. SUPREME COURT JUSTICE NOMINATION**

36 Mr. Slagle then referred delegates to the second resolution from Committee Fifteen entitled “Supreme Court Justice
37 Nomination” and moved its adoption.

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39 05-GS-34 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the resolution “Supreme Court Justice Nomination”

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41 **SUPREME COURT JUSTICE NOMINATION**

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43 WHEREAS, we are a country divided against itself through its politics; and

44
45 WHEREAS, this nation faces profound issues to secure its future without need for further divisions and
46 contentiousness; and

47
48 WHEREAS, Justice O’Connor has been a moderating influence on the court, who was described by the President as
49 “a discerning and conscientious judge;” and

50
51 WHEREAS, the rule of God hinges on reconciliation and as Christians we are called to a ministry of reconciliation;

52
53 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ meeting in
54 Atlanta, Georgia, in accordance with its understanding of the reconciling mission of Jesus Christ, encourages
55 President George W. Bush to use a process of openness and bi-partisan consultation in nominating Supreme Court
56 justices; and