

1 WHEREAS, "Poverty is a religious issue that rings from cover to cover in the Bible" (Jim Wallis, "*God's*
2 *Politics*"); and

3 WHEREAS, the FY 2006 proposed Federal budget aimed to cut the deficit by half, proposing to achieve its budget
4 cutting goals by making deep cuts in programs that critically impact the health, education, and welfare of our most
5 vulnerable populations; and

6 WHEREAS, the FY 2006 Federal budget seeks to make permanent past tax cuts and to enact further tax cuts that are
7 rapidly increasing the gap between the rich and the poor; and

8 WHEREAS, when the Federal budget is cut in areas of health, education, and welfare, greater burdens to preserve
9 programs fall to the states, counties, cities, and towns, government entities whose taxes are regressive, falling most
10 heavily on those at the lower end of the income scale, unlike the more progressive federal income tax; and

11 WHEREAS, funding for health care, adequate food, housing, educational opportunity, child care, and all the other
12 programs that support life and the rise out of poverty are already inadequate to meet the need; and

13 WHEREAS, these deficiencies jeopardize our future as a nation and contradict our self-image as a wise, socially
14 compassionate, and fiscally responsible society.

15 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges its
16 General Minister and President and its Justice and Witness Ministries to:

- 17 • exert their full influence in the public forum to support the restoration of more progressive taxes and to
18 oppose cuts in programs that hurt the disadvantaged
- 19 • educate people within and without the United Church of Christ to understand that great social problems are
20 systemic problems that must be addressed by political decision makers, and solutions can best be
21 implemented through the agency of government
- 22 • lead, aid, coordinate, and be a voice for the work of our individual churches as they educate themselves,
23 and encourage, and work with their elected representatives to solve national, state, and local social
24 concerns.

25 The implementation of the Resolution will be made in accordance with the budgetary constraints and overall
26 mandates of the office of the Minister and President and of the Justice and Witness Ministries.

27
28 **8. CONCERNING USE OF ECONOMIC LEVERAGE IN PROMOTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

29 Ms. Lillian Daniel (ILL), chairperson of Committee Two moved the adoption of the resolution entitled "Concerning
30 Use of Economic Leverage in Promoting Peace in the Middle East."

31
32 Following discussion, Mr. Curtis Rueter, Chairperson of the Wider Church Ministries Board, moved the adoption of
33 a substitute resolution entitled "Proposed Substitute Resolution Concerning Use of Economic Leverage in
34 Promoting Peace In The Middle East." The motion was seconded.

35
36 After additional discussion, a motion to stop debate was made and defeated.

37
38 Ms. Jeanette Seaman (PNE) moved to amend the motion, by adding lines 86-94 from the original resolution to the
39 end of the substitute resolution. Those are as follows:

40
41 BE IT RESOLVED the Twenty-fifty General Synod directs these aforementioned settings of the church to provide
42 materials that may be used by all settings of the church to discern how economic leverage can be used to support the
43 development of Palestine and Israel as two independent, secure, economically viable states; and

44
45 FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED the Twenty-fifth General Synod calls upon these settings to create for and
46 disseminate to the local churches study materials on the range of issues contributing to violence and oppression in
47 the Middle East and ways to be involved in promoting peace.

48
49 This was accepted as a friendly amendment.

1 Mr. Don Partlow (IK) questioned a missing word. The word “church” after the phrase “settings of the” in the first
2 added paragraph was accepted as friendly amendment.

3
4 There was additional discussion.

5
6 Ms. Megan Hoelle (CPC) moved to close debate.

7
8 05-GS-37 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod votes to close debate on the discussion of the substitute
9 resolution “Proposed Substitute Resolution Concerning Use of Economic Leverage in Promoting Peace in the
10 Middle East.”

11
12 05-GS-38 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod accepts the substitute resolution “Proposed Substitute
13 Resolution Concerning Use of Economic Leverage in Promoting Peace in the Middle East.”

14
15 Division of the House was called for. The vote was 529 yes votes, 168 no votes and 12 abstentions to accept the
16 substitute resolution.

17
18 Moderator Jackson reminded the delegates that this vote requires a majority vote.

19
20 A motion was made and seconded to close debate on the resolution “Proposed Substitute Resolution Concerning
21 Use of Economic Leverage in Promoting Peace in the Middle East.”

22
23 05-GS-39 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod votes to close debate on the discussion of the resolution
24 “Proposed Substitute Resolution Concerning Use of Economic leverage in Promoting Peace in the Middle East.”

25
26 05-GS-40 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts resolution “Proposed Substitute Resolution Concerning
27 Use of Economic Leverage in Promoting Peace in the Middle East.”

28
29 **PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION CONCERNING USE OF ECONOMIC LEVERAGE IN**
30 **PROMOTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

31
32 WHEREAS the General Synod of the United Church of Christ has affirmed its commitment to Israel’s safe and
33 secure existence within internationally-recognized borders, neighboring an independent Palestinian state; and

34
35 WHEREAS the Twenty-Third General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirmed its participation in and
36 commitment to the World Council of Churches’ Decade to Overcome Violence (2001), condemning all forms of
37 violence including but not limited to the violence perpetuated in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict including acts of
38 suicide bombings by Palestinians; and the use of force by Israelis in perpetuating occupation of Palestinian lands;
39 and

40
41 WHEREAS General Synods of the United Church of Christ has been particularly mindful of its relationship in
42 Christ with Palestinian Christians, and notably the mission relationships mutually developed over decades of
43 engagement and presence; and

44
45 WHEREAS the General Synod of the United Church of Christ has affirmed its relationship to the Jewish
46 community, condemning anti-Semitism in all its forms, and affirming that God’s covenant with the Jewish
47 community remains inviolate (1987); and

48
49 WHEREAS the General Synod of the United Church of Christ has called for the use of economic leverage on behalf
50 of oppressed people in a variety of circumstances;

51
52 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod calls upon the Covenanted Ministries,
53 Pension Boards, United Church Foundation, Conferences, local churches and members to use economic leverage,
54 including, but not limited to: advocating the reallocation of US foreign aid so that the militarization of the Middle
55 East is constrained; making positive contributions to groups and partners committed to the non-violent resolution of
56 the conflict; challenging the practices of corporations that gain from the continuation of the conflict; and divesting

1 from those companies that refuse to change their practices of gain from the perpetuation of violence, including the
2 Occupation; and
3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all settings of the United Church of Christ are urged to remain committed to
5 inter-religious dialogue and to participation with Jewish, Christian and Muslim partners to work for peace in Israel-
6 Palestine.
7

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Twenty-fifth General Synod directs these aforementioned settings of the church
9 to provide materials that may be used by all settings of the church to discern how economic leverage can be used to
10 support the development of Palestine and Israel as two independent, secure, economically viable states; and
11

12 FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED the Twenty-fifth General Synod calls upon these settings to create for and
13 disseminate to the local churches study materials on the range of issues contributing to violence and oppression in
14 the Middle East and ways to be involved in promoting peace.
15

16 **9. RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL STAFF**

17 Moderator Jackson acknowledged national staff as they filed on stage to the obvious appreciation of delegates and
18 visitors who offered an extended standing ovation.
19

20 **10. COLLEGIUM REPORT**

21 Moderator Jackson invited Mr. Hans Holznagel, the Rev. Bennie Whiten and the Rev. Bernice Powell Jackson for
22 the third and final Collegium report. Mr. Holznagel interviewed Rev. Bernice Powell Jackson and Rev. Bennie
23 Whiten regarding "The Church and the World."
24

25 Rev. Whiten talked about the Global Ministries Board using a concept called "critical presence" in making decisions
26 about missionaries and funding. The Board seeks to be timely and appropriately meeting God's people and creation
27 at the point of deepest need – spiritually, physically, emotionally and/or economically.
28

29 Rev. Jackson discussed the mission statement the Justice and Witness Ministries Board uses to determine its work.
30 Members want to help every local church in the United Church of Christ, all 5750 of them, to see themselves as
31 peace with justice churches. Justice and Witness Ministries wants every local church to be actively involved in
32 God's mission of peace-making and justice-seeking in a broken, war-torn, violence-filled, ecologically devastated
33 and hurting world.
34

35 **11. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BY-LAWS**

36
37 Assistant Moderator Eric Smith called on Mr. Roy Mosely (CA NV, N), chairperson of Committee 13, who moved
38 the adoption of the resolution "Proposed Changes to the By Laws from Committee 13."
39

40 Mr. Bob Sandman (OHIO) moved to amend the resolution (p. 16, lines 860-864); Line 860 after "will have," insert
41 "fifty-seven", line 861 delete entire line, line 863 change "twenty-nine" to "thirty-nine" and delete words "a
42 majority of." The amendment was seconded. The amendment failed.
43

44 The Mr. David Gaewski (ME) moved to amend the voting process to separate Article 3 By-law changes into a
45 motion separate from the main motion. The amendment was seconded.
46

47 05-GS-41 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the amendment to separate Article 3 By-law changes
48 into a motion separate from the main motion.
49

50 Discussion was held on the remaining sections.
51

52 Ms. Kathy Plumb (MINN), a member of the Executive Council, moved to amend the voting process to separate
53 Article 4 By-law changes into a motion separate from the main motion. The amendment was seconded.
54

55 05-GS-42 VOTED: Twenty-fifth General Synod, by consensus, adopts the amendment to separate Article 4 By-law
56 changes into a motion separate from the main motion.