

1 restructure born by the former instrumentalities and (2) the effects of any reduction in the mandates of any  
2 covenanted ministry, due to "off the top funding." Ms. Rose Lee (JWM) seconded the motion.

3  
4 Mr. Bill Morgan proceeded by providing background information on the amendment. Mr. David Greenhaw  
5 (MOMS) spoke against the amendment and questioned whether this served as an attempt to renegotiate allocations.  
6 He then stated that these are some of the consequences of General Synod as well as the decision not to approve less  
7 frequent Synods. Ms. Marilyn Pagan (ILL) spoke in favor of the amendment. She felt the Covenanted Ministries  
8 should not bear the brunt of the decisions about General Synod. Mr. Aaron Gould (ME) reminded delegates that  
9 General Synod belongs to, and is the responsibility of, everyone. Therefore, the funding should come off the top, as  
10 General Synod serves as a common mission. Ms. Phyllis Gant (MOMS) asked the question, "How do we do the  
11 work of the church without the funds? She then requested a call for the vote on the amendment. Mr. Luther  
12 Holland (ILL) called for clarity of the motion on the floor. After Rev. John Thomas attempted to provide clarity on  
13 the motion, a motion was made to stop debate.

14  
15 05-GS-48 VOTED: The Twenty-fifty General Synod votes to stop debate on the amendment to the National Basic  
16 Support Allocation base of \$10.7 million and \$11 million for the budget years 2006 and 2007.

17  
18 The amendment was defeated.

19  
20 Assistant Moderator Neal returned to main budget motion

21  
22 05-GS-49 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the following Our Church's Wider Mission National  
23 Basic Support Allocation percentages for the 2006 and 2007 biennium: Executive Council (0%); Office of General  
24 Ministries (22.5%); Justice and Witness Ministries (17.35%); Local Church Ministries (29.40%); Wider Church  
25 Ministries (23.65%); Pension Boards (7.05%); United Church Foundation (0%). The General Synod also authorizes  
26 the Executive Council, at its October 2005 meeting, to make necessary changes to the allocation based on additional  
27 information that is not available at this time.

28  
29 **5. PRONOUNCEMENT: "MINISTRY ISSUES: FORMING AND PREPARING PASTORAL LEADERS**  
30 **FOR GOD'S CHURCH"**

31 Assistant Moderator Eric Smith called on Mr. Jonathan Dean-Lee, Chair of Committee One who moved the  
32 approval of the pronouncement "Ministry Issues: Forming and Preparing Pastoral Leaders for God's Church."

33  
34 Mr. Lee gave a brief summary and plan of action for the pronouncement, "Forming and Preparing Pastoral Leaders  
35 for God's Church." He then stated an open forum was held on Friday and written responses were shared. He then  
36 referenced the recommended changes.

37  
38 Ms. Leslie Taylor (OH) questioned whether the noted changes on page eleven were part of the action.

39  
40 Mr. Quinton Chin (MASS) referenced sections "1D subsection (c)" as it relates to the racial and ethnic groups, and  
41 noted they are often under-represented on Church and Ministry, so this is intended as a vision and goal. He then  
42 asked whether the Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual and Transgendered persons were considered. The response was no,  
43 because it wasn't there, but that each conference can adapt the proposal for their own purposes.

44  
45 Mr. Dave Mears (IOWA) spoke in favor of the pronouncement. Mr. Duane Romberger and Ms. Loring McGreal,  
46 spoke as seminarians of the United Church of Christ, and expressed concern on how this would affect the health of  
47 seminaries and staff. Also, whether it would replace the class system. Mr. Romberger stated that Seminary  
48 campuses should be seen as the meeting place, and was in opposition to the resolution. He further suggested that a  
49 larger study should be done. Mr. Gene Miller (SD) sees the pronouncement as a benefit. Although it is not perfect,  
50 it can benefit the United Church of Christ as a starting place. Seminaries will need to develop new resources, and  
51 the mentoring process can be strengthened. Ms. Ann Emery (CAC) was concerned that seminary leadership was not  
52 involved in the recommendations. Their input serves as the theological foundation of these recommendations for  
53 alternative paths. She also went on to say that she hopes it is not implied that people of color cannot meet the  
54 standard.

1 Ms. Kay Loudon (VT) offered a motion to refer "Ministry Issues: Forming and Preparing Pastoral Leaders for God's  
2 Church," to the Executive Council with the charge to form a committee consisting of, but not limited to,  
3 representatives from: 1) Council for Theological Education 2) Parish Life and Leadership (3) Seminarians of the  
4 United Church of Christ related seminaries, chosen by their peers, and 4) The Council of Conference Ministers to  
5 further examine and clarify all aspects of the current Ministry Issues Proclamation, and to report back to General  
6 Synod. The motion to refer was seconded.

7  
8 Mr. Gene Kraus (IS) reminded delegates that this motion was proposed at the 1999 General Synod in Providence.

9  
10 The motion to refer this pronouncement to Executive Council was defeated.

11  
12 Assistant Moderator Smith returned to the main motion. After further discussion, Mr. Robert von Trebrot (ILL)  
13 proposed the following amendment under Section I.c: delete "the Statement of Faith and." The amendment was  
14 seconded.

15  
16 05-GS-50 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the proposed amendment under section I.c, to the  
17 pronouncement: "Forming and Preparing Pastoral Leaders for God's Church" and deletes "the Statement of Faith  
18 and."

19  
20 Mr. Brian Gaudet (CT) moved to end debate. The motion was seconded.

21  
22 05-GS-51 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod votes to end the debate on the pronouncement: "Ministry  
23 Issues: Forming and Preparing Pastoral Leaders for God's Church."

24  
25 Assistant Moderator Smith returned to the main motion to adopt the pronouncement on "Ministry Issues: Forming  
26 and Preparing Pastoral Leaders for God's Church," as amended.

27  
28 05-GS-52 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the pronouncement "Ministry Issues: Forming and  
29 Preparing Pastoral Leaders for God's Church," as amended.

## 30 31 **MINISTRY ISSUES: FORMING AND PREPARING PASTORAL LEADERS FOR GOD'S CHURCH**

### 32 33 **STATEMENT OF CHRISTIAN CONVICTION**

34  
35 The Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirms that our baptism calls us all to minister in  
36 Christ's name. Within the church, some are called to particular leadership roles in order to "equip the saints for the  
37 work of ministry" (Ephesians 4:12, NRSV).

38  
39 The Twenty-fifth General Synod affirms the current forms of authorized ministry: ordained, licensed, and  
40 commissioned. We believe that Christ's Church needs well-prepared and faithful servants to engage in God's  
41 mission.

42  
43 The Twenty-fifth General Synod believes that the United Church of Christ, along with the whole Christian church  
44 and every individual Christian, is called into God's mission in the world. We believe that in this mission, uniquely  
45 ours in Jesus Christ, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit. We believe that God's mission requires all the gifts and  
46 graces given by God to its members and to the church itself. We believe that the church requires faithful and  
47 effective leadership in order to respond to Jesus' call. We believe that each generation must be ready to change its  
48 practices of church life in response to the Spirit's call for each generation.

49  
50 The Twenty-fifth General Synod celebrates and gives thanks for the gifts of God and the call of Christ to the United  
51 Church of Christ and its members. Those gifts include a diversity of faith communities, a resolution to welcome  
52 fully all of God's children, a rich and diverse heritage, countless faithful leaders, and openness to Christ's call to  
53 faithfully witness to God's love in ways appropriate for new times and situations.

54  
55 The Twenty-fifth General Synod invites all in the United Church of Christ to join in repentance of those actions and  
56 practices which have prevented the leadership of some of its members from being effectively recognized,

1 encouraged and authorized. As repentance requires change, we pledge ourselves and invite others to join in  
2 developing new patterns of calling forth leaders, of equipping them for service, and of authorizing and supporting  
3 their ministries on behalf of the United Church of Christ.

4  
5 The Twenty-fifth General Synod recognizes that in a church with many diversities, there must also be many patterns  
6 of leadership and, therefore, of discernment of call, preparation, authorization, and continuing covenantal  
7 relationships. At the same time, we affirm that we are called to be one church and, therefore, we will continue to  
8 develop common understandings of ministry and leadership and live together into faithfulness by the power of  
9 God's Spirit.

10  
11 THEREFORE, the Twenty-fifth General Synod commits itself and calls upon all members and settings of the United  
12 Church of Christ to:

- 13 • Listen for God's call to mission and respond in faith;
- 14 • Participate actively in the discernment of call of particular persons to become authorized ministers of the  
15 church;
- 16 • Participate actively with called persons in discerning the appropriate ministerial vocation;
- 17 • Develop, support and engage in multiple patterns of preparation for authorized ministers, recognizing that  
18 preparation must be appropriate for the individual, the particular faith community, the United Church of  
19 Christ, and the ministry for which authorization is requested;
- 20 • Enter and live in continuing covenantal relationship with those authorized for ministry on behalf of the  
21 United Church of Christ, honoring and supporting all - commissioned, ordained, and licensed;
- 22 • Expect and encourage all authorized ministers to be lifelong learners, accountable to one another and the  
23 church for their learning and their ministry;
- 24 • Repent of all that has prevented us from faithfulness in the past, while continuing to give thanks for those  
25 whose leadership has brought us to this time and those who beckon us forward.

## 26 27 6. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD FORM AND FUNCTION 28 COMMITTEE

29 Assistant Moderator Annie Neal called on Ms. Ginger Brasher-Cunningham, Chair of Committee Four, to present  
30 the recommended actions of the committee. Ms. Brasher-Cunningham referenced the amended changes that were  
31 made for clarity. She then moved the adoption of the report and recommendation of the General synod Form and  
32 Function Committee, as amended.

33  
34 Ms. Jenna Ford (MA) supported the report as amended.

35  
36 Ms. Rochelle Stackhouse (PNE) proposed the following amendment: to delete lines 241-245 proclaiming the  
37 Twenty-sixth General Synod as a Jubilee Synod in which the Standing Rules are suspended and referring critical  
38 business to the Executive Council for appropriate disposition.

39  
40 After the motion was seconded, Ms. Amelia Sell (CJA), spoke in favor of the amendment. Mr. David Keller (NH)  
41 spoke as a member who formed this resolution, and therefore, stood in opposition to the amendment. He stated the  
42 idea is to put members and delegates together, voting turns out to make the majority of attendees as spectators. Mr.  
43 John Davis (NH) spoke in favor of amendment.

44  
45 Ms. Jennifer Fay (MA) moved to end debate. The Motion was seconded.

46  
47 05-GS-53 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ votes to end the debate to  
48 delete lines 241-245 of the "Report and Recommendation of the General Synod Form and Function Committee.

49  
50 05-GS-54 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ votes in favor of the  
51 amendment to delete lines 241-245 of the "Report and Recommendation of the General Synod Form and Function  
52 Committee.

53  
54 Assistant Moderator Neal referred delegates back to the original motion. After further discussion, Ms. Rebecca  
55 Brenner (PSE) proposed the following amendment to line 239: "proclaiming a Jubilee Synod in which the