

1 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ declares its
2 abhorrence of government by deceit and falsehood and the violation and relaxation of standards of ethics for
3 Congressional and other public leaders, and confesses its too often complicity in such deception and unethical
4 behavior through its own indifference and silence; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon its
7 leaders and its local churches to

- 8 • devote time to study and discuss and pray over the issues of truth-telling and ethical behavior in public life
9 as well as the life of the church itself, recognizing that many matters are very complex and that truth is
10 often not easy to discern;
- 11 • uphold truth-telling and stated standards of ethics in the conduct of their own affairs and to acknowledge
12 their own sins of commission and omission in the telling of the truth and upholding of ministerial and
13 congregational ethics;
- 14 • examine routinely the statements and publications of elected and appointed officials and offices in all areas
15 of government, and the ethics of their behavior, and communicate to said officials and offices questions of
16 apparent deception, challenges of outright distortion and falsification, and perceptions of the violation of
17 stated standards of ethics in the conduct of their affairs (“Let no one deceive you with empty words, for
18 because of these things the wrath of God comes on those who are disobedient.” (Ephesians 5:6); and
- 19 • hold the media accountable for manipulations, distortions and omissions of the truth by sending letters to
20 editors and station managers.
- 21 • Communicate to the FCC and appointed and elected officials the importance of diverse sources of news
22 rather than increased concentration of the media because truth is best protected when multiple avenues of
23 investigation and expression are available.

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests that its
26 officers communicate this Call to Truth-Telling and standards of Ethics in Public Life to:

- 27 • the local churches, Associations, Conferences and clergy of the United Church of Christ
- 28 • the President of these United States of America
- 29 • the Senators and Representatives who make up the Congress of the United States
- 30 • the editors of the major newspapers and managers of the major television and radio stations in our nation.

31
32 Funding for this action will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds
33 available.
34

35 **11. RESOLUTION: “UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL**
36 **CRIMINAL COURT.”**

37 Moderator Norm Jackson yielded to Ms. Heather Iriye to present the next action of Committee Seven, “United
38 Church of Christ Support for the International Criminal Court.” She then moved to adopt the resolution.

39 Mr. Kwame Osei Reed (CAC) spoke in support of this resolution that he sees as an issue of justice and human
40 rights.

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42 Moderator Jackson called for the vote.

43
44 05-GS-61 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted in favor of the
45 resolution, “United Church of Christ Support for the International Criminal Court.”
46

47 **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**
48

49 WHEREAS the United Church of Christ is committed to educating and advocating on behalf of human rights, global justice
50 and peace.
51

52 WHEREAS the International Criminal Court sustains the advancement of human rights and, within the norms of international
53 law, supplants impunity with accountability concerning crimes of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity,
54

1 WHEREAS for reasons of moral leadership and national interest, the United States should once again fully participate in the
2 shaping of the policies of the International Criminal Court,
3

4 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages members
5 of the United Church of Christ, to become informed advocates for the International Criminal Court,
6

7 WE FURTHER RESOLVE that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges the President of the
8 United States to restore the signature of the United States to the Treaty establishing the International Criminal Court and to
9 cease efforts to undermine the Court's effectiveness and international support, and to prepare for eventual ratification by the
10 Senate of the United States,
11

12 AND, TO THAT END, the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges the Covenanted Ministries of the
13 United Church of Christ, in particular the Public Life and Social Policy Ministry in Washington, DC, to educate and advocate
14 for responsible United States participation in the International Criminal Court.
15

16 Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected
17 agencies and the funds available.
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19 **12. RESOLUTION: "TEAR DOWN THE WALL."**

20 Moderator Jackson called on Mr. Bill Eilers, Chair of Committee Sixteen to present the actions of that committee.
21 Mr. Eilers noted the amendments to the original resolution "Tear Down the Wall," and moved to adopt the
22 resolution.
23

24 Mr. Eilers chose to speak to the resolution by saying that the wall currently violates human rights. Such walls are
25 often said to be temporary, but last for centuries sometimes.
26

27 Mr. Edgar Roosa (PNE) had a problem with calling on one side to respond. This creates an imbalance, and should
28 be urged through negotiations and not statements like this. Ms. Julia Goodall (IK) had the opportunity to meet with
29 a group of Palestinian Christians, who took her on a tour of a school. Children of Bethlehem are suffering, due to
30 the wall. Ms. Kate Walsh (OH) affirmed compassion with the Palestinian people. She would support this resolution
31 if there was a suggestion to move to Israel borders, so they could still protect themselves.
32

33 Mr. Mark Fernald (NH) proposed an amendment to line 124: After the word "constructed" add "or move it to
34 internationally recognized borders." The motion was seconded Mr. Gregory Morecy (MA) expressed that this
35 body should not say how Israel should secure its borders.
36

37 Moderator Jackson called for the vote.
38

39 The proposed amendment was defeated.
40

41 Mr. Mark Fernald (NH) proposed the following amendment to lines 130-131: replace "abide by international law
42 and agreements and withdraw from" with "cease the expansion of Israeli settlements within."
43

44 Moderator Jackson called for the vote.
45

46 The proposed amendment was defeated.
47

48 Moderator Jackson referred back to the original resolution, and called for the vote.
49

50 05-GS-62 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ votes in favor of the resolution
51 "Tear Down the Wall," as amended.
52

53 Ms. Juanita Helphrey (CAIM) asked delegates and visitors to recognize Mr. Norm Jackson as the first Native
54 American to lead as moderator.
55

56 **13. INVITATION TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH GENERAL SYNOD**