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Honored Lay Women
Recognized as a group

Assistant Moderator King corrected the previous statement regarding the blue recycling bins. They are for paper only.

Ms. King then led the General Synod in prayer, giving thanks for the gifts of vision and faithfulness of all those who received awards at the Twenty-sixth General Synod. The recipients were thanked with a round of applause.

4. INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATE FOR WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES EXECUTIVE

Ms. King called upon Rev. Curtis Reuter, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Wider Church Ministries, and Rev. Mary Ann Neevel, Vice Chairperson of the Wider Church Ministries Board, for the introduction of the Rev. Ann Calvin Rogers-Witte, nominee for re-election as Executive Director of Wider Church Ministries.

Rev. Rogers-Witte introduced her counterpart in the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, Rev. David Vargus, Co-Executive of Global Church Ministries. Ms. Rogers-Witte spoke of the loss of over two million dollars, making her job challenging, if not difficult, but always a wonderful experience. She promised two years ago to make our global ministries “our” ministries and that is in process. We’ve always been committed to taking God’s love to the farthest corners of the world. We changed “doing for” others into “doing with” others. We need to keep reminding our churches that Our Church’s Wider Mission is our primary source of funding for working together. Together we can be part of God’s miracles of transformation.

5. INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE PROCESS

Moderator Lawrence thanked the Committee Process Facilitators, Ms. Sheldon Culver (MOMS), Mr. Dennis Frische-Mouri (IK), Mr. Roy Mosely (CA NV,N), Ms. Susan Townsley (CONN) and David Anderson (PNW). She then asked all committee chairpersons to rise and be recognized.

6. RESOLUTION: REGARDING THE TAR CREEK SUPERFUND SITE

Ms. Lawrence reminded the delegates of the process related to the microphones and called upon Mr. Jeff Filkins, Chair of Committee One, to present the recommended actions from that committee.

Mr. Filkins thanked all involved in the process and moved the adoption of the resolution “Regarding the Tar Creek Superfund Site.”

07-GS-14 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the resolution “Regarding the Tar Creek Superfund Site.”

REGARDING THE TAR CREEK SUPERFUND SITE

WHEREAS, during this time the U.S. Federal authorities have spent at least \$100 million in the area trying to clean up damage from lead and zinc mining activities of the past 70 years; and

WHEREAS, homes and communities within the Site are located above abandoned mine shafts and are in immanent danger of 250-300 ft. “cave ins” at any time; and

WHEREAS, contamination from the Tar Creek mining operations extends into those areas of the states of Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma adjacent to the Site; and

WHEREAS, contamination has been found to exist in areas of the United States where mining wastes have been shipped from the Site for use as fill material in construction of foundation footings for buildings, parks, school playgrounds, highways, parking lots and various other construction uses; and

WHEREAS, a major portion of the land that is owned by the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma is within the Superfund site; and

1 WHEREAS, the property values of real estate of residents who live inside the designated superfund site have been
2 greatly diminished; and
3

4 WHEREAS, the damage to the health of the estimated 19,000 persons living in and adjacent to the Site, especially
5 the small children who have dangerously high levels of lead in their blood, continues while the efforts of various
6 Federal and State agencies to solve the problem prove to be unsuccessful.
7

8 WHEREAS, the Site is not limited to the 40 square mile epicenter on the Quapaw Reserve, but extends downstream
9 to the Neosho and Spring Rivers to the middle of the Grand Lake o' the Cherokees where stream and sediment
10 contamination impact the aquatic life, plants and game in the area. These impacts damage resources utilized by the
11 Eastern Shawnee, Seneca-Cayuga, Peoria, Wyandotte and Ottawa Tribes as well as low income subsistence users.
12

13 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ:
14 Petitions the appropriate officers and offices of local, state, federal and Native American tribal governments to move
15 forward immediately to establish and implement a plan to solve this problem which affects persons living in and
16 adjacent to the Site; and
17

18 Sends this resolution, duly signed by the President of the United Church of Christ to the President of the United
19 States of America, the United States Senators and the members of the United States House of Representatives from
20 the states of Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma, the Majority and Minority leaders of the United States Senate; the
21 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Governors and other appropriate officers of these states
22 and the Chair of the Business Committee of the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma.
23

24 Commends the ongoing efforts of Local Environmental Action Demanded Agency, Inc. of Vinita, OK (L.E.A.D.) to
25 document and remedy the hazardous situation in the Site; and

26 Recommends immediate broad based ecumenical and community efforts to facilitate opportunities for those
27 residents of the hazardous Tar Creek Superfund Site to voluntarily relocate, on a temporary or permanent basis, to
28 less toxic areas until such time as the Site has been restored to a habitable condition; and
29

30 Recommends that the agencies involved determine the extent of the area where contaminates have come to reside
31 and provide a remedial plan that addresses the contaminant impacts from the Tri-State Mining District to the Spring
32 and Neosho Rivers and the Grand Lake o' the Cherokees.
33

34 Supports the efforts of the Oklahoma Conference of Churches initiate remedial action in collaboration with local
35 churches and community groups at the Site; and
36

37 **FUNDING**

38 Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the
39 affected agencies and the funds available.
40

41 **7. RESOLUTION: A RESOLUTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

42 Mr. Filkins moved the adoption of the resolution "A Resolution on Climate Change."
43

44 Ms. Melinda McLain (LCM) moved to amend the resolution on line 125 by adding "and that Local Church
45 Ministries develop materials to help churches "green" their buildings."
46

47 07-GS-15 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the amendment adding "and that Local Church
48 Ministries develop materials to help churches "green" their buildings" on line 125.
49

50 07-GS-16 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the resolution "A Resolution on Climate Change" as
51 amended.
52

53 **A RESOLUTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

54
55 WHEREAS, the impact of global warming, as currently predicted and understood by leading scientists and scientific
56 bodies around the world in reports of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, as well as in reports of