

1 the General Synod charges the rich world to recognize its moral duty and indeed their own best interests lie in  
2 helping their African neighbors establish good governance and stable economies.”  
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4 07-GS-22 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the amendment “Be it further resolved that the  
5 General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourage ethical investment and business development through the  
6 continent. Further that the General Synod charges the rich world to recognize its moral duty and indeed their own  
7 best interests lie in helping their African neighbors establish good governance and stable economies.”  
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10 Mr. Dan Hatch (HI) alerted the delegates that in line 138, the House Bill is listed as #1130 and should read #2634.  
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12 07-GS-23 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the resolution “To Recognize 2007 as a Sabbath  
13 Year.”  
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15 **TO RECOGNIZE 2007 AS A SABBATH YEAR**  
16  
17 WHEREAS, the Hebrew Scriptures contain a liberating, just vision of life in community, governed by Sabbath  
18 cycles -- the Sabbath Day, the Sabbath Year, and the Jubilee Year; and  
19  
20 WHEREAS, these cycles are reminders of God’s intent that all creatures enjoy fullness of life and the abundance of  
21 God’s world; and  
22  
23 WHEREAS, the Sabbath Year is at the heart of Moses’ final instructions to the Hebrew people before they enter the  
24 Promised Land (Deuteronomy 15:1-18) ; and  
25  
26 WHEREAS, Sabbath Year observance requires that every seven years debts are canceled and those enslaved  
27 because of debts are freed, restoring equal relations among community members and preventing exploitation in  
28 which the rich accumulate wealth at the expense of the poor; and  
29  
30 WHEREAS, Jubilee Year 2000 was proclaimed across the world as a way to live out God’s call to remove extreme  
31 debt and restore balance in creation and among peoples, and the Millennium Development Goals of the UN were  
32 adopted widely as a means to achieve major poverty reduction by the year 2015, and  
33  
34 WHEREAS, seven years later (2007) we are half way to the MDG goal year of 2015 and much remains to be done  
35 as poverty has increased in Sub-Saharan Africa and elsewhere, a call to action in recognizing a Sabbath Year in  
36 2007 is one way to continue earlier commitments to live out the Jubilee promises for our time; and  
37  
38 WHEREAS, General Synods of the United Church of Christ, the national instrumentalities of other denominations,  
39 World Council of Churches, and many other churches and organizations have called for churches to restore right  
40 relationships by supporting the lifting of debt from heavily indebted nations; and  
41  
42 WHEREAS, Jubilee USA Network is a coalition of non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations, and  
43 churches, including the United Church of Christ, whose work is education about and advocacy for debt-cancellation  
44 for impoverished and heavily indebted nations; and  
45  
46 WHEREAS, the JUBILEE Act (HR 2634) was re-introduced in the U.S. Congress in March 2007 calling for total  
47 cancellation of debt for every country which meets the UN Millennium Development Goals; and  
48  
49 WHEREAS, as Christians, we are commended to reveal our love for God and neighbor by our actions within the  
50 global family; and,  
51  
52 WHEREAS, Wangari Mathaai and Bishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Prize winners, challenged churches and  
53 religious communities at the 2007 World Social Forum in Nairobi, Kenya by asking “*Where is the voice of the*  
54 *church? You have the numbers and the money, so why are you silent? The debt is immoral and unjust so let’s raise*  
55 *our voices to cancel the debt!*”  
56

1 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to General Synod Twenty-six recognize and affirm 2007 as a  
2 "Sabbath Year," in response to the Biblical call to cancel debt without conditionality and proclaim Jubilee for  
3 impoverished countries today;

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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that member churches, and all settings, Associations, Conferences, and National  
6 Ministries of the United Church of Christ be encouraged to commemorate this Sabbath year and begin working  
7 towards Sabbath year 2014, by becoming "Jubilee Congregations," a program based on four simple commitments:

- 8 1. Pray for a Jubilee for the world's poorest countries.
- 9 2. Provide a Jubilee contact person who will serve as a liaison between the congregation and Jubilee USA.
- 10 3. Contribute one dollar per active member per year to Jubilee USA, the proceeds of a special collection, or  
11 another amount to be determined by the congregation.
- 12 4. Advocate for debt cancellation by sending the equivalent of one letter per active member per year to a member  
13 of Congress or the administration calling on them to "drop the debt."

14  
15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that churches and all settings, Associations, Conferences, and National Ministries of  
16 the United Church of Christ be invited to make Jubilee Justice a continuing part of the worship life of their  
17 congregation by holding a Jubilee Sunday service each year and to commemorate the Sabbath Year by participating  
18 in Jubilee USA's rolling, 40 day fast for debt cancellation and an end to global poverty, which will take place from  
19 September 6 – October 15, 2007; and

20  
21 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the General Synod of the UCC encourage ethical investment and business  
22 development throughout the continent. Further, that the GS charge the rich world to recognize its moral duty and  
23 indeed their own best interests lie in helping their African neighbors establish good governance and state economies.

#### 24 FUNDING

25 Funding and implementation of this resolution is to be made in accordance with the mandates and available funding  
26 of the affected agencies.

#### 27 28 29 **6. CONTINUATION OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORT / ACTION RELATED TO PUERTO RICO** 30 **CONFERENCE**

31 Moderator Lawrence called on Ms. Sharon MacArthur, chairperson of the Executive Council, who described a brief  
32 history of activity related to the resolution adopted by the Puerto Rico Conference on June 10, 2006 to disaffiliate  
33 with the United Church of Christ. MacArthur's report also indicated the Executive Council had been visited by the  
34 General Minister of the Puerto Rico Conference, the Rev. Edward Rivera Santiago.

35  
36 Ms. MacArthur moved the adoption of "The Resolution on the Ending of the Recognition of the Iglesia Evangelica  
37 Unida de Puerto Rico as a Conference of the United Church of Christ."

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39 07-GS-24 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts "The Resolution on the Ending of the Recognition of  
40 the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico as a Conference of the United Church of Christ."

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42 Rev. John Thomas, General Minister and President, invited delegates to join him in prayer.

#### 43 44 **ENDING OF THE RECOGNITION OF THE IGLESIA EVANGELICA UNIDA DE PUERTO RICO AS A** 45 **CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

46  
47 WHEREAS an Extraordinary Assembly of the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico (IEUPR) meeting June 10,  
48 2006, voted to "disaffiliate from the United Church of Christ," and

49 WHEREAS subsequent conversations with the leadership of the IEUPR have confirmed the desire of the church to  
50 end its historic and existing relationship with the UCC,

51  
52 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ regretfully,  
53 but respectfully, receives the action of the Extraordinary Assembly of the IEUPR to disaffiliate from the United  
54 Church of Christ; and  
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