

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."

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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

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

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

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

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37 07-GS-24 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts "The Resolution on the Ending of the Recognition of
38 the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico as a Conference of the United Church of Christ."

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

41 **ENDING OF THE RECOGNITION OF THE IGLESIA EVANGELICA UNIDA DE PUERTO RICO AS A** 42 **CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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44 WHEREAS an Extraordinary Assembly of the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico (IEUPR) meeting June 10,
45 2006, voted to "disaffiliate from the United Church of Christ," and
46 WHEREAS subsequent conversations with the leadership of the IEUPR have confirmed the desire of the church to
47 end its historic and existing relationship with the UCC,

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

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod acknowledges with gratitude the historic
2 relationship of the United Church of Christ with the IEUPR, stretching back over 100 years to the ministry of the
3 American Missionary Association; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ ends its
6 recognition of the IEUPR as a Conference of the United Church of Christ; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod affirms the work of Local Church Ministries,
9 the Cornerstone Fund, and Justice and Witness Ministries in facilitating a process to resolve outstanding issues
10 related to loans, grants, mortgages, mission projects and support, and deed restrictions; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod affirms the continued relationship of the
13 United Church of Christ to the Seminario Evangelico de Puerto Rico and to Ryder Memorial Hospital, and requests
14 that the Council for Health and Human Services Ministries facilitate a process to enable Ryder Memorial Hospital to
15 retain recognition as a health and human service agency related to the United Church of Christ; and
16
17 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod requests the Collegium of Officers to invite
18 dialogue with the leadership of the IEUPR in the hope that a new relationship of mutuality and common mission
19 may eventually be established between our two churches.
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21 **7. RESOLUTION: CHANGING THE COMPOSITION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD**
22 Assistant Moderator Kevin Manz explained to delegates the procedural process involved in presenting a substitute
23 motion and introduced Ms. Julie Peeples (SC), Chairperson of Committee Five for the presentation of the resolution
24 entitled “Changing the Composition of the General Synod.”
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26 Ms. Peeples moved the adoption of the substitute motion presented by the committee entitled “Changing the
27 Composition of the General Synod.”
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29 07-GS-25 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the substitute motion as presented by the committee
30 entitled “Changing the Composition of the General Synod.”
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32 **CHANGING THE COMPOSITION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD**
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34 WHEREAS the intent of the proposed resolution entitled “Changing the Composition of the General Synod” is to
35 change the composition of the General Synod, with the goal of increasing the involvement of local churches in the
36 General Synod, we propose the following motion:
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38 In order to strengthen covenantal relationships and to encourage increased participation of local churches in the
39 work and ministry of the General Synod, while maintaining the mandates for a diverse delegation, General Synod
40 Twenty-six directs the Executive Council to engage in a conversation with the conferences about increasing local
41 church involvement in General Synod, including the nomination and election process for General Synod delegates,
42 and to report back on that conversation with recommendations to General Synod Twenty-seven.
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44 **8. RESOLUTION: A REAFFIRMATION OF MARRIAGE BASED ON THE WORD OF GOD**
45 Assistant Moderator Elizabeth King called upon Ms. Ginger Brasher-Cunningham (MASS), chairperson of
46 Committee Three, for presentation of the recommendations of the committee.
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48 Ms. Brasher-Cunningham noted that no proponents of the resolution were present during the work of the committee.
49 She further noted that one of the proponents of the resolution has since left the denomination.
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51 Ms. Brasher-Cunningham moved the adoption of the resolution “A Reaffirmation of Marriage Based on the Word of
52 God” and indicated the committee recommended no action.
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54 Ms. King explained the consequences of a vote to take no action.
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56 Following discussion, Mr. Elliot Munn (ME) moved the previous question.