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6. Mr. Cody Long (PNE) spoke of youth and young adult ministry and mission affiliated with Lancaster Theological Seminary. The group has raised over \$30,000 for the Lesotho Child Counseling Unit in Africa, which works with orphans and those with AIDS. Cody urged everyone to help with these efforts..
7. Mr. Ryan Mathews (OHIO) thanked Ms. Edith Guffey, our national staff members and American Medical Response for their work in transporting persons with disabilities. The staff, assisted by AMR serves as testimony to the extravagant welcome and hospitality of the United Church of Christ.
8. Mr. Bob Inderbitzen (CONN) reported the members of the Connecticut Conference had provided 14,000 dozen cookies for the delegates' enjoyment and told everyone to "take some home."
9. Ms. Debra Parson (KO) spoke of the work being done at the Evangelical Children's Home in St. Louis, which serves homeless and at-risk youth. She asked for prayers and financial support.
10. Mr. William Wildman (ME) issued a challenge and goal for the Twenty-seventh General Synod to do something about seminarian loan debt relief. He intends to work toward a pronouncement that addresses debt relief.
11. Mr. William Hendrick (CAC) spoke of how much hotel management values its employees. We should be careful not to alienate hotel management who identify with the values of the United Church of Christ. While unions are necessary in some hotels, there are many non-union hotels that treat staff well and pay decent wages.
12. Mr. Christopher Jenkins (MASS) requested the United Church of Christ reach out to the main stream press so the general public is more aware of who we are.
13. Ms. Olgha Sandman (IL) brought words of gratitude for the faithful support of the Immokalee Farm Workers Ministry. This ministry won agreement with McDonalds and continues to work with Burger King until justice is accomplished for its workers.
14. Ms. Mary Brownlow (VT) talked of the desire of the Iranian people for peace and how they have been hijacked by their government.

Assistant Moderator Manz thanked all of the Speak Out! participants.

3. RESOLUTION: A CALL FOR A MORE HUMANE US IMMIGRATION POLICY; END MIGRANT DEATHS; SUPPORT IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

Mr. Manz called on Mr. Rodney Sutton, chairperson of Committee Two, for the introduction of resolutions from the committee.

Mr. Sutton introduced the resolution "A Call for a More Humane US Immigration Policy; End Migrant Deaths; Support Immigrant Communities." He referenced the grammar correction in line 282 deleting the word "neither" and replacing the word "nor" with "and." He then moved the adoption of the resolution. Mr. Sutton then invited Ms. Lara Westby to speak to the resolution.

Ms. Phyllis Evelyn (MA) moved to amend the resolution on line 314 to delete the word "and" and add the words "and families facing or in the deportation process."

07-GS-31 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the amendment on line 314 to delete the word "and" and add the words "and families facing or in the deportation process."

1 Mr. William Sawyer (NH) Mr. Mark Furnalt moved amendments to the resolution. Those amendments were
2 defeated.

3
4 Following discussion, Mr. Al Thompson (MN) moved the previous question.

5
6 07-GS-32 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod voted to close debate.

7
8 07-GS-33 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the resolution “A Call for a More Humane US
9 Immigration Policy; End Migrant Deaths; Support Immigrant Communities” as amended.

10
11 **A CALL FOR A MORE HUMANE US IMMIGRATION POLICY; END MIGRANT DEATHS; SUPPORT**
12 **IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES**

13
14 WHEREAS, Jesus and the scriptures give us clear instruction on how we are to treat the foreigner and neighbors in
15 need; and

16
17 WHEREAS, the Biblical heritage of the Judeo Christian tradition specifically identifies the “stranger” in our midst
18 as deserving of our love and compassion; and

19
20 WHEREAS, we have been called by the one God to tear down all the borders we have built between us so that we
21 may see each person as a child of God, so that we may learn to love and welcome all of God’s children as members
22 of one family and one world; and

23
24 WHEREAS, our consciences are affronted by federal policies and actions that detain immigrants, that prosecute
25 undocumented workers, that fracture families and prosecute those who would give them aid; and

26
27 WHEREAS, more than 3,000 men, women and children have died attempting to cross the US/Mexico border since
28 the implementation of the blockade strategy of border enforcement and there is little evidence that this policy has
29 been effective in slowing the tide of illegal immigration; and

30
31 WHEREAS, many of us are in local churches and communities where we are aware of migrant peoples, but largely
32 unaware of their personal, communal, and national stories; and

33
34 WHEREAS, the United States is affected by the presence of new immigrants from all over the world, and

35
36 WHEREAS, although countries have the right to control their own borders, it is not an absolute right; the Church
37 recognizes a basic God given right for shelter, food, clean water and other basic necessities; and

38
39 WHEREAS, the blockade strategy of border enforcement has created an underground market for the smuggling of
40 human beings which exploits its vulnerable victims, and has encouraged an upsurge in vigilante activities, fosters an
41 anti-immigrant atmosphere and represents the potential for violence; and

42
43 WHEREAS, current immigration policy forces upon migrant families potentially deadly choices which separate and
44 dislocate them from one another, precluding free travel and mobility to return to their families; and

45
46 WHEREAS, migrant workers and their families enter the United States to live and work, and the current
47 immigration policy makes that passage dangerous, illegal, disorderly, and inhumane, with very few of the basic
48 rights afforded to all workers under international law; and

49
50 WHEREAS, approximately ten to twelve million undocumented workers and their families currently living in the
51 United States are pressured to live covertly, without rights, and in vulnerable situations all over the United States;
52 and

53
54 WHEREAS, the root causes of this migration lie in environmental, economic, and trade inequities between the
55 United States, Mexico, and all of Latin America, policies which reduce tariffs and taxes that would support the poor
56 in Mexico and Latin America; eliminate agricultural subsidies and low-interest loans for the poor in Mexico and

1 Latin America while keeping those subsidies in the United States and in Canada; reduce social spending for health
2 care, food stamps, and welfare reform in Mexico and Latin America; liberalize land ownership policies, thus
3 limiting the ability of the poor in Mexico and Latin America to own or share in the land; deregulate environmental
4 and labor laws in Mexico and Latin America; and limit the rights of Mexican and Latin American workers to protest
5 or seek remedies for wrongs done to them; and
6

7 WHEREAS, the fragile desert environment has sustained severe damage as a result of migrant and responding
8 enforcement patrols moving through remote desert regions; and
9

10 WHEREAS, General Synod XIII of the United Church of Christ (1981) adopted a Pronouncement on Immigration
11 calling upon all settings of the church to:

- 12 a. advocate for the rights of immigrants;
- 13 b. aid undocumented immigrants in attaining legal status;
- 14 c. aid immigrants in reunification with their families and in placement in areas
15 of the country most favorable for their productive participation in society;
- 16 d. assist in meeting the social welfare needs of immigrants; and
- 17 e. be inclusive of immigrants in existing and new churches; and
18

19 WHEREAS, General Synod XXIV of the United Church of Christ adopted a resolution supporting Humane Borders,
20 a faith-based group that offers assistance to those in need by maintaining water stations on and near the border and
21 recognizing that there is more that can be done within and by the United Church of Christ regarding border issues;
22 and
23

24 WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ proudly declares an extravagant welcome to all who seek to be in
25 relationship with Jesus Christ;
26

27 THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that General Synod Twenty-six of the United Church of Christ declares that
28 the Militarized Border Enforcement Strategy of the United States government has been ineffective and inhumane.
29

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UCC congregations with their congressional representatives, advocate for a
31 policy that allows immigrant workers and their families to live and work in a safe, legal, orderly and humane manner
32 through an Employment-Focused immigration program (as opposed to employer focused) that guarantees basic
33 international workers' rights to organization, collective bargaining, job portability, religious freedom, easy and safe
34 travel between the United States and their homeland, achievable and verifiable paths to residency, and a basic
35 human right of mobility.
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the conference ministers be urged to participate in delegations and immersion
38 programs, and that UCC congregations seek out opportunities for face to face dialogue with immigrant communities.
39

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the congregations and pastors of the UCC study the immigration issue through
41 discussion and reflection of films such as "El Norte" and "Babel" and books such as "The Devil's Highway" by Luis
42 Alberto Urrea.
43

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that congregations and pastors form grass roots organizations working in
45 conjunction with established groups such as:

- 46 • Border Links
- 47 • Presbyterian Border Ministry
- 48 • Samaritan Patrols
- 49 • Illinois Maya Ministry
- 50 • The New Sanctuary Movement
- 51 • Center for Education and Social Transformation
52

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that General Synod XXVI urges the Covenanted Ministries of the UCC and the
54 various settings of the Church to seek opportunities for building and participating in existing interfaith coalitions and
55 partnering with global and U.S. organizations/institutions that advocate for justice and provide services for those in

1 the undocumented community most in need, e.g. abandoned immigrant children, abused women, and families facing
2 or in the deportation process.
3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we reaffirm the action of General Synod XIII on the resolution JUSTICE IN
5 IMMIGRATION and General Synod XXIV resolution supporting HUMANE BORDERS.
6

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that General Synod XXVI calls upon the leaders of Conferences, Associations and
8 congregations to extend an extravagant welcome and radical hospitality to and continue to minister and care for all
9 who come to our doors.

10 FUNDING

11 Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the
12 affected agencies and the funds available.
13

14 **4. RESOLUTION: RETURNING TO UNITY AND DIVERSITY IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

15 Assistant Moderator Elizabeth King called on Ms. Lisa Gardner, chairperson of Committee Four, to present the
16 committee's resolution.
17

18 On behalf of Committee Four Ms. Gardner moved the adoption of the resolution "Returning to Unity and Diversity
19 in the United Church of Christ" and recommended no action be taken.
20

21 07-GS-34 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod voted to take no action on the resolution "Returning to Unity
22 and Diversity in the United Church of Christ." (Resolution attached: Page 46)
23

24 **5. RESOLUTION: REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO COVENANTAL RELATIONSHIPS**

25 Moderator Lawrence again called upon Ms. Lisa Gardner. Ms. Gardner introduced the resolution "Reaffirming our
26 Commitment to Covenantal Relationships" and moved its adoption as amended by the committee.
27

28 07-GS-35 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the resolution "Reaffirming our Commitment to
29 Covenantal Relationships," as amended by the committee.
30

31 **REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO COVENANTAL RELATIONSHIPS**

32
33 WHEREAS, 2007 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United Church of Christ, and
34

35 WHEREAS, the occasion of the founding of the United Church of Christ was preceded with extensive discussions,
36 prayer, scholarship, research, and negotiations to establish a common vision for this new venture in Christianity, and
37

38 WHEREAS our forebears came to an agreement known as The Basis of Union with Interpretations and summarized
39 the faith of our denomination in the Statement of Faith, and
40

41 WHEREAS, Jesus prayed in John 17:21 "that they may all be one" and these words have been the official motto of
42 the United Church of Christ, and
43

44 WHEREAS, the Twenty-fifth General Synod reaffirmed that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior and the representation
45 of that central faith tenet by our symbol, and
46

47 WHEREAS, it is our desire that the United Church of Christ continue to reflect theological diversity that includes
48 members and churches who consider themselves to be evangelical, conservative, orthodox, or traditional (ECOT) as
49 well as centrist, progressive, and liberal,
50

51 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod, meeting in Hartford, Connecticut,
52 reaffirms the Basis of Union with Interpretations and the Preamble to the United Church of Christ constitution as
53 ongoing valued and cherished testimonies of faith that guide our common life and identity in the United Church of
54 Christ, and under the ongoing guidance of the Holy Spirit, and commends these documents for review, reflection,
55 and study at all levels of the church.