

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.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod calls upon all settings of the church to
2 consider prayerfully its policies and statements in terms of their impact on the unity and future of local churches,
3 associations, and conferences in the UCC.
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod recognizes and affirms the efforts of those
6 among us who are encouraging all members and all churches to remain in the United Church of Christ and to
7 increase covenantal partnerships through giving to the wider church, by sharing joys and concerns, and by
8 participating in every aspect of denominational life.
9

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod acknowledges the existence of a broad
11 spectrum of thought on contemporary issues of theology and ethics, and advocates fair representation of all points of
12 view in all settings of the United Church of Christ.
13

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-Sixth General Synod urges Association, Conference and General
15 Synod meetings to welcome speakers, displays and educational opportunities that exemplify an openness to the wide
16 range of ministries and theological diversity in our churches.
17

18 FUNDING

19 Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the
20 affected agencies and the funds available.
21

22 **6. RESOLUTION: LEGALIZATION OF PHYSICIAN AID IN DYING**

23 Assistant Moderator Kevin Manz called upon Ms. Liza Torres, chairperson of Committee Six, to introduce the
24 resolutions from that committee.
25

26 Ms. Torres introduced the resolution “Legalization of Physician Aid in Dying” and moved its adoption, as amended
27 by the committee.
28

29 Ms. Martha Jacobs (Chaplain) offered a friendly amendment adding “professional” before United Church of Christ
30 Chaplains. The amendment was accepted by the committee.
31

32 Rev. John Thomas (OHIO) posed a question to the committee chair, asking to support the study of the proposal. He
33 then suggested a punctuation change as a friendly amendment. The change was accepted by the chair as part of the
34 text.
35

36 Following additional discussion, Ms. Christina Kukock (MN) moved the previous question.
37

38 07-GS-36 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod votes to close debate on the resolution “Legalization of
39 Physician Aid in Dying.”
40

41 07-GS-37 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the resolution “Legalization of Physician Aid in
42 Dying,” as amended by the committee.
43

44 **LEGALIZATION OF PHYSICIAN AID IN DYING**

45 WHEREAS, life is both a sacred and a perishable gift from God;
46

47 WHEREAS, God intends that created life be more than simply the existence of a human organism (John 10:10);
48

49 WHEREAS faith sees death as a door into another room in God’s house (John 14: 2,3,19);
50

51 WHEREAS, compassion—love acted out—flows from the heart of God and through God’s children
52 (Luke 10: 25-37);
53

54 WHEREAS, from the beginning of our lives to life everlasting, God leads us, sustains us, and is always with us
55 (Psalm 139: 7-12);
56