

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.
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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.
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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

1
2 WHEREAS, medical technology, pain management and palliative care have made great advances, yet some persons
3 still face intolerable suffering during a terminal illness;
4
5 WHEREAS, the Ninth General Synod and the Eighteenth General Synod both passed end-of-life choice resolutions
6 entitled "Rights and Responsibilities of Christians Regarding Human Death," which did not address the issue of
7 physician aid in dying;
8
9 WHEREAS, other faith communities have addressed end-of-life issues over the past 20 years;
10 WHEREAS, Oregon in 1997 passed a "Death with Dignity Act" permitting a mentally capable, dying adult to
11 request and receive from a physician a prescription to hasten death if the patient finds his or her suffering to be
12 unbearable, but only if strict and specific safeguards are followed;
13
14 WHEREAS, in Oregon since 1997 there have been no incidents of abuse of this law, and its use has been a rare
15 choice, since the will to live is the greatest safeguard there is, yet thousands who will never use the law to hasten
16 their own death are comforted to know that this choice is legally available if they should be among the few who
17 need it and choose it;
18
19 WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court has affirmed Oregon's right to have such a law;
20
21 WHEREAS, many physicians, religious leaders, dying patients and family members strongly support physician aid
22 in dying with strong safeguards to prevent abuse;
23
24 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod calls upon the local churches, conferences,
25 and Justice and Witness Ministries in consultation with UCC Disabilities Ministries, Council for Health and Human
26 Service Ministries (CHHSM), UCC Professional Chaplains and Counselors, UCC Faith Community Nurses and
27 Physicians to study the following proposal and report their views through Justice and Witness Ministries to the
28 Twenty-seventh General Synod for further consideration and action:
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30 That on the grounds of compassion and choice, if strict safeguards to prevent abuse are followed, a terminally ill and
31 mentally competent adult should have a legal right to request and receive medication from a willing physician to
32 hasten death if the patient finds his or her suffering to be unbearable.
33
34 FUNDING
35 Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the
36 affected agencies and the funds available.
37
38 **7. RESOLUTION: A CALL FOR SOLIDARITY WITH THE PERSECUTED IN THE PHILIPPINES,**
39 **AND AN END TO EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLINGS AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**
40 Moderator Merlyn Lawrence called on Ms. Sarah Frische-Mouri, chairperson of Committee Eight, for the
41 introduction of resolutions from the committee.
42
43 Ms. Frische-Mouri moved the adoption of the resolution "A Call for Solidarity with the Persecuted in the
44 Philippines, and an End to Extra-Judicial Killings and Other Human Rights Violations," as amended by the
45 committee.
46
47 Ms. Jelani McGadney (MI) moved an amendment to strike lines 126 and 127 from the resolution:
48 "future military appropriations from the United States to the Philippines should be conditional . . . " and to change to
49 "any future appropriations from the United States of America should be conditional on . . . "
50
51 Following discussion, a motion was made to close debate.
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53 07-GS-38 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod votes to close debate on the amendment.
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