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9. RESOLUTION: AGAINST DEPLETED URANIUM WEAPONS

Assistant Moderator Manz called upon Ms. Carol Stanley, chairperson of Committee Nine, for the introduction of business from that committee.

Ms. Stanley introduced the resolution "Against Depleted Uranium Weapons" and moved its adoption, as rewritten by the committee. Rev. Ino Limvere (NOPL) spoke to the resolution.

07-GS-45 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod votes to adopt the resolution "Against Depleted Uranium Weapons" as rewritten by the committee.

AGAINST DEPLETED URANIUM WEAPONS

WHEREAS, the United States government has admitted to the use of depleted uranium weapons in Iraq and Afghanistan AND

WHEREAS, the Parliament of the European Union has on March 13, 2003, passed a resolution to request a moratorium on the use of depleted uranium weapons AND

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut and Louisiana have passed laws to test for the presence of radiation in their veterans from the effects of exposure to depleted uranium; AND

WHEREAS, the uranium oxide depleted uranium created by the explosion of these weapons on impact remains radioactive and harmful for billions of years; AND

WHEREAS, the Pentagon has recently stated that they will not clean up depleted uranium from weapons used in Iraq; AND

WHEREAS, such radioactive weapons including depleted uranium arguably violates the Geneva Conventions on warfare; AND

WHEREAS, the use of depleted uranium violates the historic injunctions of the Christian tradition for the conduct of a "just war" AND

WHEREAS, numerous recent books and websites have pointed to the dangers of depleted uranium weapons for human health; AND

WHEREAS, Jesus in Matthew, Chapter 7, Verse 12 has given us the Golden Rule not to do to our neighbor what we would not want done to us, and to befriend the victim, and because we would not want any part of the world to become contaminated with depleted uranium particles that have the potential to cause cancer and genetic mutations in victims for thousands of years;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, deplors the use of depleted uranium weapons in recent conflicts in Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq, AND

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod calls for a world-wide freeze on the production of depleted uranium, sale and use of depleted uranium weapons, AND

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod calls for an internationally acceptable study of the long-term health effects of battle-generated depleted uranium on our veterans and on the affected citizens in other countries.

LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that we call on the United States government to be mandated to provide health care to members of our armed forces who have been exposed to the effects of depleted uranium weapons.

FUNDING

1 Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the
2 affected agencies and the funds available.
3

4 **10. INVITATION TO THE TWENTH-SEVENTH GENERAL SYNOD.**

5 Moderator Merlyn Lawrence called upon Rev. Kent Ulery, Michigan Conference Minister, and Ms. Dianne Roberts,
6 co-chair of the host committee, to invite delegates to the Twenty-seventh General Synod in Grand Rapids.
7

8 **11. REPORT ON COMMUNITY GROUPS**

9 Moderator Lawrence invited Mr. Phil Porter to report on the community groups.
10

11 **12. THANKS AND RECOGNITION**

12 Moderator Lawrence called on Ms. Edith Guffey to thank the Connecticut Conference Local Arrangements
13 Committee and volunteers. Ms. Guffey invited the Local Arrangements Committee to the stage for a round of
14 applause.
15

16 Ms. Guffey reported the total registration for the Twenty-sixth General Synod as 9,089 persons. She also noted
17 receipt of a letter from the service employees union that offered thanks for the United Church of Christ's support of
18 workers and their right to organize.
19

20 Rev. John Thomas reviewed the agenda change that required an adjustment to the worship schedule. He noted the
21 offering would be in support of Our Church's Wider Mission. He also indicated there would be an opportunity for
22 anointing and everyone attending worship would receive a light as part of the worship service.
23

24 **13. SECOND REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

25 Ms. Guffey reported final registration at 9,089.
26

27 **14. INSTALLATION OF MODERATORS**

28 A service of installation was held for incoming moderators of the Twenty-seventh General Synod.
29

30 **15. GENERAL SYNOD WRAP-UP**

31 The Proclamation, Identity and Communication Ministry Team presented the Twenty-sixth General Synod video
32 entitled "50 Years Bold."
33

34 Moderator Lawrence thanked the Proclamation, Identity and Communication Ministry Team members for all their
35 hard work and many long hours to help make this General Synod a success.
36

37 Mr. Ken Medema then led the General Synod in a closing song.
38

39 **16. ADJOURNMENT**

40 Ms. Lawrence thanked everyone in attendance for their participation and commitment to this Twenty-sixth General
41 Synod and called on Ms. Sharon MacArthur, Chairperson of the Executive Council, to present one final motion.
42

43 Ms. MacArthur moved the adjournment of the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ at the
44 conclusion of the evening's worship service.
45

46 07-GS-46 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod voted, with applause, to adjourn the Twenty-sixth General
47 Synod of the United Church of Christ at the conclusion of the evening's worship service.
48

49 **The closing worship sermon was given by Dr. Mary Mikhael, President of the Near East School of Theology
50 in Beirut, Lebanon.**
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