

Ms. Mary Larsen, Disabilities Ministries
Mr. Alan Johnson, Mental Illness Network Dell Award
Ms. Julie Peeples, Antoinette Brown Award
Ms. Candita Bauza-Mattos, Antoinette Brown Award
Plymouth Congregational Church, MI, Congregational Vitality
City of Refugee, San Francisco, CA, Congregational Vitality
Honored Laywomen were presented as a group

Moderator Marvin Morgan led those assembled in prayer, giving thanks for the work and witness of these dedicated servants.

5. INTRODUCTION OF THE CANDIDATE FOR EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES

Moderator Morgan introduced Mr. John Gregory Davis (NH), Chair of the Justice and Witness Ministries Board, to present the candidate for Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries.

Mr. Davis submitted the name of the Rev. M. Linda Jaramillo for call by election to the position of Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries and as an Officer of the United Church of Christ. Ms. Jaramillo has served as moderator of her local church in Portland, OR; moderator of the Central Pacific Conference; chair of the Conference Minister Search Committee; Assistant Moderator of General Synod; represented the United Church of Christ as a delegate to the World Council of Churches Assembly in Harare, Zimbabwe; and is a champion for justice within the church and in organizations outside the church. She is currently serving her first term as Justice and Witness Ministries' Executive Minister.

Ms. Jaramillo addressed the delegates reminding everyone to preach the gospel at all times. If necessary, use words. Justice is not political, it is theological and we have a responsibility to influence this social culture, not be a product of it. We must not only state what we stand against, we must also explain what we stand for.

Moderator Morgan thanked Ms. Jaramillo.

6. RESOLUTION: ON THE SITUATION OF IRAQI REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED

Moderator Marvin Morgan called upon Mr. Mark Clark, Chair of the Committee of Reference, to present the resolutions coming directly to the floor of General Synod.

Mr. Clark moved the adoption of the resolution entitled "On the Situation of Iraqi Refugees and Internally Displaced." Discussion followed.

09-GS-11 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the resolution "On the Situation of Iraqi Refugees and Internally Displaced."

ON THE SITUATION OF IRAQI REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ and its predecessor bodies, and in ecumenical cooperation with the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Reformed Church in America (and their predecessor bodies) have engaged in Iraq through the United Mission to Iraq, establishing schools and hospitals, and developing relationships with the Iraqi people;

WHEREAS, the invasion and continuing occupation of Iraq have unleashed indescribable instability and insecurity in Iraq, including increased sectarian tensions between Muslims and Christians;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ's Collegium issued its *Pastoral Letter on the Iraq War* at the Twenty-sixth General Synod (2007), signed by Conference Ministers, Seminary Presidents, and the General Synod itself, a letter that

- Lamented the “thousands of precious American lives that have been lost” and altered by injury;
- Grieved the tens of thousands of lost Iraqi lives;
- Critiqued the high cost of the war and the impact on “education, health care, and the needs of the poor in this land and around the world”;
- Confessed the silence of the Church;
- Gave thanks for those who have spoken against the violence, for military personnel who have served with honor, for military chaplains who have cared for them, and for churches and organizations that have provided humanitarian relief;
- Called for an end to the war and to violence, to acknowledge failure, error, and responsibility, and to seek repentance and peace;

WHEREAS, one of the most significant impacts of the invasion and occupation—and perhaps one of the least reported in the US—is the staggering number of refugees and internally displaced Iraqis, estimated conservatively at 4.5 million (more than 2 million refugees and more than 2 million internally displaced);

WHEREAS, Syria has absorbed more than 1.5 million Iraqi refugees, Jordan, nearly a half a million, and Lebanon between 80,000-100,000, but fewer than 25,000 had been referred for admission to the United States through September 2008, and only approximately 7,000 had been admitted, according to the Department of Homeland Security;

WHEREAS, the “100,000 for Peace” campaign in the United Church of Christ offered prayers for military personnel, petitioned elected representatives with more than 67,000 signatures to end the war and change policies, and raised more than \$140,000 to provide humanitarian relief for Iraqi refugees through partner churches and organizations in the Middle East;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-seventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon national ministries, conferences, associations and local churches to continue to raise awareness of the impact of the Iraq war, especially on Iraqis who have been forced from their homes and are living with much uncertainty and hopelessness, either as internally displaced or as refugees;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-seventh General Synod calls upon all settings of the United Church of Christ to advocate for a clearer US recognition of our country's responsibility for the humanitarian crisis the war has caused, and for significant increases and expedited processing to offer resettlement of refugees to the United States;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that United Church of Christ members be encouraged to support the humanitarian relief efforts of its international partners to offer care for Iraqis forced from their homes, now living in other parts of Iraq, and in Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan,

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ affirm its commitment to refugee resettlement, and its support for the rights of refugees scattered throughout the Middle East and all over the world to safe repatriation or resettlement with compensation for their losses.

FUNDING

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

IMPLEMENTATION

Wider Church Ministries is asked to implement this resolution.

7. RESOLUTION: A CALL TO REAFFIRM THE IMPORTANCE OF ECUMENICAL COMMITMENTS AND INITIATIVES IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Mr. Clark moved the adoption of the resolution "A Call to Reaffirm the Importance of Ecumenical Commitments and Initiatives in the United Church of Christ." Mr. Clark called on Mr. Lee Barrett to speak to the resolution, and moved he be granted voice without vote.

09-GS-12 VOTED BY CONSENSUS: The Twenty-seventh General Synod grants voice without vote to Mr. Lee Barrett.

09-GS-13 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the resolution "A Call to Reaffirm the Importance of Ecumenical Commitments and Initiatives in the United Church of Christ."

A CALL TO REAFFIRM THE IMPORTANCE OF ECUMENICAL COMMITMENTS AND INITIATIVES IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WHEREAS, the Preamble to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ declares that the new denomination was created "in order to express more fully the oneness in Christ of all churches comprising it;" and

WHEREAS, that same Preamble announces that the United Church of Christ "acknowledges as kindred in Christ all who share the confession" that "Jesus Christ is sole head of the church);" and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United Church of Christ stipulates that a responsibility of the General Synod is to "encourage connections with other communions and when appropriate to authorize and guide negotiations with them, looking toward formal union;" and

WHEREAS, the oneness of the church universal is a gift from God, grounded in the common participation of all believers in Christ, and therefore also in one another (see 1 Cor. 12:27); and

WHEREAS, the church in every time and place is one by virtue of its communion with Christ; and

WHEREAS, the unity of the Church in every time and place is made visible in baptismal and Eucharistic communion and in common proclamation and service; and

WHEREAS, the individual faith traditions of Christians need the mutually affirming and admonishing witness of one another in order for any of them to appreciate the richness and fullness of God's grace (see 1 Cor. 12:15-21); and

WHEREAS, the unity graciously established by God should be concretely manifested in the interactions and interconnections of the particular historic faith traditions of Christianity; and

WHEREAS, participation in God's mission of establishing peace and justice on earth requires ecumenical co-operation;