

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;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-Seventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ reaffirms the centrality of its ecumenical mission to be a united and uniting church.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ shall continue and strengthen the various ministries that make the pursuit of this ecumenical vision possible.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ make its historic commitment to be a united and uniting church a priority in all its decision-making.

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:

The relevant ministries of the Office of General Ministries, particularly the Minister for Ecumenical Relations, are requested to be the primary implementers of this resolution. In addition, all members of the United Church of Christ are urged to live out this mandate.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Assistant Moderator John Humphrey explained the reporting process for committees. He then thanked the Committee Process Facilitators: Ms. Susan Henderson (CAC), Mr. Dennis Frische-Mouri (IK), and Ms. Susan Townsley (CONN). The team was staffed by Mr. David Anderson (PNW). All were asked to stand and be recognized. Mr. Humphrey then asked all Committee Chairs to rise and be recognized.

9. ADMENMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Mr. Humphrey called upon Mr. Rich Fluechtling, Chair of Committee One. Mr. Fluechtling reminded the delegates that proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ were published at least two months prior to General Synod. Constitutional amendments require a 2/3 majority to be voted by Synod and then, before the next Synod, must be ratified by 2/3 of the Conferences before being declared effective and in force by the Executive Council or the General Synod. Bylaw amendments require a 2/3 majority of the Synod to be adopted. Any Bylaw amendment contingent upon a Constitutional amendment becomes effective when the Constitutional amendment is so declared.

Mr. Fluechtling moved the adoption of the proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ (Ministry Issues) as submitted by the Executive Council and as circulated in advance of General Synod as required.

Mr. Fluechtling reminded delegates that Ministry Issues was the topic of a Pronouncement adopted by the Twenty-fifth General Synod in Atlanta, GA. These amendments, if adopted, will be inserted and will revise the main text of the Constitution and Bylaws in accord with the Proposals for Action adopted with the Pronouncement. General Synod Committee One is proposing changes to the proposed amendments submitted by the Executive Council. General Synod 27 will first vote whether or not to include the Committee One's proposals and then vote on the proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws.

Mr. Fluechtling then moved the Committee's proposed amendments to the amendments proposed by Executive Council.

Mr. Robb Kojima (HI) moved to amend by adding the words "or covenantal Association" after the phrase in "geographic area" in Paragraph 38. The motion was declared out of order.