

#### **4. RESOLUTION: SOLIDARITY AND FRIENDSHIP WITH IRAN**

Ms. Tedder called upon Mr. Geoffrey Brace, Chair of Committee Four to present the action from that committee.

Mr. Brace moved the adoption of the substitute resolution "Solidarity and Friendship with Iran." This resolution replaces the three resolutions received by General Synod. Mr. Brace spoke to the resolution.

09-GS-50 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the resolution "Solidarity and Friendship with Iran."

#### **SOLIDARITY AND FRIENDSHIP WITH IRAN**

WHEREAS, in 1985, at General Synod 15, the United Church of Christ, realizing there is no longer any rationale for a "just war," declared itself to be a Just Peace Church. This means the United Church of Christ is committed to the deepest meaning of the word "salaam/shalom";

WHEREAS, we recognize the ties that the United Church of Christ has with the churches throughout the Middle East, including in Iran, and our continuing commitment to interfaith dialogue; and

WHEREAS, The General Synod of the United Church of Christ is concerned about developments in Iran;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Twenty-seventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ

- stands in solidarity with the people of Iran as they express their will toward self-government;
- as a Just Peace (Peace with Justice) Church supports basic human rights and adherence to the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- recognizes and supports the many peaceful initiatives within Iran itself;
- promotes and works for friendship between the people of Iran and the United States of America, by creating opportunities through the United Church of Christ for citizen exchanges, participation in *Axis of Friendship Day*, and dialogue between all religious partners, including Iranian Christians;
- calls for an end to the violence, repression, and bloodshed, against peaceful Iranian demonstrators, media, and others;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this General Synod calls on the appropriate Covenanted Ministries staff to inform all our global partners of this action, and to explore with them possible similar actions.

#### **5. RESOLUTION: ON RESPONSIBLE MEETING PRACTICE**

Assistant Moderator Tedder called upon Mr. Keith Scott, Chair of Committee Eight to present the action from that committee. Mr. Scott indicated the committee agreed in principle with the essence of the resolution and by consensus made changes to strengthen the language.

Mr. Scott moved the adoption of the resolution "On Responsible Meeting Practice" as amended by the committee. He then spoke to the resolution.

09-GS-51 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the resolution "On Responsible Meeting Practice."

## ON RESPONSIBLE MEETING PRACTICE

WHEREAS, the Tenth General Synod (1975) affirmed a “shalom” call to “wholeness, integrity, social justice and reconciliation” by being “responsible custodians of the natural order and prophetic witnesses for social justice”; and,

WHEREAS, the Fourteenth General Synod (1983), echoing the biblical image in Genesis chapters one and two of service to, and care of, all that God has created, proclaimed our covenantal responsibility “to understand the world as God’s creation [and therefore,] to understand our responsibility as God’s stewards, and our accountability to God as tenants”; and,

WHEREAS, the Seventeenth General Synod (1985) identified as a priority concern for six years “to address in a major, all-church effort a crucial concern of our time,” the Integrity of Creation, Justice and Peace, which affirmed “that the biblical vision of shalom—justice and peace and integrity of creation—is central to the Christian identity of members of the United Church of Christ,” and called for an “intentionally collaborative effort to address the Priority”; and,

WHEREAS, the Twenty-second General Synod (1999) resulted in the UCC becoming one of the first denominations to recognize the crisis of global warming and affirmed the biblical mandate of stewardship and kinship, and recognized that the response to such a mandate must emanate from “addressing our own lifestyles (institutional and personal)”; and,

WHEREAS, the Twenty-fifth General Synod (2005) embraced the connection between the common good for all peoples and responsible environmental stewardship by recognizing “that the integrity of creation and the health and sustainability of ecological systems is the necessary foundation for the well-being of all people and all living things for all time”; and,

WHEREAS, the Twenty-sixth General Synod (2007) affirmed that irresponsible human actions have created not only a “profound sense of urgency” for God’s creation, but also an unconscionably disproportionate “impact on those living in poverty, the least developed countries, the elderly and children and those least responsible for the emissions of greenhouse gases,” and “urge[d] all segments of the Church to address global warming in their decisions and investments and in their educational and advocacy efforts”; and,

WHEREAS, as people of faith we are privileged to be partners both as individuals and as faithful bodies (local churches, associations, conferences, and General Synod) with Jesus Christ, the firstborn of all creation (Colossians 1:15), in the good work of reconciling in justice and love the entire creation that it may again be one and whole; and, united church of Christ, its conferences

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has a history of responding powerfully to issues in which social justice and creation care are intertwined and inseparable, such as the apology to Native Hawaiian people, which emanated from the challenge issued forth at the Ecumenical Conference on Tourism in Hawaii in 1989, for the complicit role of our antecedent bodies in the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy in 1893; and

WHEREAS, every day new practices and products emerge that reuse more resources and have the potential to reduce the amount of waste, pollution, and degradation we create, and provide new and just opportunities in an economy oriented towards creating a sustainable future for all that God has created; and,

WHEREAS, our choices of meeting venue can bear prophetic witness to a community, as exemplified by the Executive Council's decision to change the venue of the Twenty-sixth General Synod in commitment to be in solidarity with striking workers at our original venue despite the inconvenience it caused; and,

WHEREAS, we seek to be biblical people whose very actions reflect a life of true faithfulness;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-seventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges its churches and members to adopt personal, congregational, and community habits that reflect the interconnectedness and inseparability of creation care and social justice; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Synod encourages all expressions of the United Church of Christ (local church, association, Conference, and all national expressions) to plan and hold meetings, events, and programs in such a way that the interconnection and inseparability of creation care and social justice, as appropriate for the venue or location, are modeled; and that consideration is given to issues such as energy and water consumption, food origin, labor relations, waste and waste stream minimization, material re-usage and recycling, accessibility to all, and minimization of travel; and that education be offered to meeting attendees, local community members, and vendors on all these issues where possible and practical; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Justice and Witness Ministries, in consultation with Office of General Ministries, develop a document that offers guidelines and suggestions for responsible meeting practices to be made available to all expressions of the UCC; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that expressions of the United Church of Christ be encouraged to adopt this resolution and commit to its practice and implementation in all meetings within their settings; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-eighth General Synod in 2011 and all future General Synods after 2011 shall attempt to integrate this planning mechanism into its process, procedures, and execution.

#### 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

Justice and Witness Ministries and Office of General Ministries are requested to implement this resolution.

#### **6. RESOLUTION: MINISTERING TO THOSE STRUGGLING AND SUFFERING IN THE TROUBLED ECONOMY**

Mr. Scott continued with the actions of Committee Eight by moving the adoption of the revised resolution "Ministering to Those Struggling and Suffering in the Troubled Economy." He then spoke to the resolution.

Following discussion, a motion was made and seconded to close discussion.

09-GS-52 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod votes to close discussion.

09-GS-53 VOTES: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the resolution "Ministering to Those Struggling and Suffering in the Troubled Economy."