

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-use 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."

## **MINISTERING TO THOSE STRUGGLING AND SUFFERING IN THE TROUBLED ECONOMY**

WHEREAS, the nation is facing economic problems of crisis proportions;

WHEREAS, the General Synod is meeting in Michigan, whose citizens are among the most adversely affected, with the loss of 700,000 jobs in the last seven years, with the highest unemployment rate in the nation and with metropolitan areas among the most distressed in the nation;

WHEREAS, people everywhere are losing jobs, being forced into foreclosure on homes, carrying heavy debts, going without health insurance, seeing retirement savings disappear, and facing poverty, dislocation and hunger;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 27<sup>th</sup> General Synod be in prayer and solidarity with those who struggle and are suffering due to the nation's economic crisis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 27<sup>th</sup> General Synod, meeting in the State of Michigan, recognizes it is among those who are bearing especially heavy burdens in the economic crisis, and pledges to hold these people, and all those adversely affected, in its prayers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 27<sup>th</sup> General Synod asks the national bodies of the United Church of Christ, its conferences, associations and local churches to undertake renewed efforts to envision, encourage, support, and strengthen spiritual refreshment and outreach ministries that serve those in distress due to issues such as unemployment, bankruptcy, dislocation, hunger, illness, and financial problems. To that end the following actions are encouraged:

1. That Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ continue to develop a web-based clearing house describing a full spectrum of human service and outreach ministries and programs that conferences, associations, and local churches are pursuing and might be duplicated throughout the United Church of Christ in order to help and serve people who are struggling and suffering in the economic crisis.
2. That each congregation in the United Church of Christ be urged to respond to the economic crisis by implementing additional ministries and programs for the unemployed, dislocated, indebted, hungry, and distressed in their churches and communities.
3. That each congregation in the United Church of Christ be urged to undertake teaching ministries that encourage the adoption of simpler, just, debt-free, and sustainable lifestyles for those in the churches and communities.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution of witness, calling for an increase in direct and charitable actions to serve those who are struggling and suffering in the current economic crisis, also recognizes and supports the past and ongoing work of the national bodies of the United Church of Christ and its Conferences, Associations and local churches to seek social justice through political action and advocacy to bring Christ's voice into the public arena to shape a more just society and global economic system.

### **FUNDING**

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

#### IMPLEMENTATION

Local Church Ministries; The Proclamation, Identity, and Communication Ministry of the Office of General Ministries; and Justice and Witness Ministries are requested to collaborate and implement this resolution.

Mr. Mark Fuller (ME) called for a point of personal privilege. He spoke about global hunger which is not just about wheat. Those who are from maritime states understand that lobster workers cannot pay for the fuel that it takes to go to sea. It is important to recognize that food resources come from the sea.

#### **7. RESOLUTION: SACRED CONVERSATIONS ON RACE**

Ms. Tedder called upon Ms. Jennifer Barrett Siegal, Chair of Committee Three to present the actions from that committee.

Ms. Siegal moved the adoption of the resolution "Sacred Conversations on Race" as amended by the committee. She then spoke to the resolution.

09-GS-54 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the resolution "Sacred Conversations on Race."

#### **SACRED CONVERSATIONS ON RACE**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the United Church of Christ, based on our commitment to the Gospel, call upon the conferences, associations and congregations to establish, promote, and encourage Sacred Conversations on Race, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Justice and Witness Ministries is requested to maintain and promote a list of recommended resources for Sacred Conversations on Race.

#### 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 is requested to implement this resolution.

#### **8. RESOLUTION: AFFIRMING DIVERSITY/MULTI-CULTURAL EDUCATION IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Ms. Siegal continued with the actions from Committee Three by moving the adoption of the resolution "Affirming Diversity/Multicultural Education in the Public Schools." She spoke to the resolution.

Ms. Arlene Nebring was granted voice to speak. Ms. Nebring called on the entire church to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Gay children are given little affirmation of who they are. Recent suicides are a tragic reminder of this need. School leaders need resources to help combat bullying.

Ms. Melinda McLain (LCM) affirmed lines 67-61 directing Local Church Ministries to get engaged in local church settings.

Mr. David Runnion-Bareford, father of twelve children, most of color, opposes the resolution, but does not support bullying. Urged defeat of the proposal

Ms. Mary Nelson Abbott (VT) offered a friendly amendment to lines 7, 8, 24 and 25, adding the words "age and family structure."