

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. COVENANT FOR CHURCH YOUTH MINISTRIES

Moderator Robertson called upon Mr. Neill Robinson, Chairperson for Committee Five, for the presentation from that Committee.

Mr. Robinson moved the adoption of the resolution “A Covenant for Church Youth Ministries.”

Mr. Bob Atkinson (MOMS) moved to amend line 136 by adding “to take two full days away.”

11-GS-31 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to amend the resolution by adding the words “to take two full days away” at line 136.

Discussion followed.

Ms. Megan Waleff (PC) moved to close debate and the motion was seconded.

11-GS-32 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to close debate on the resolution “Covenant for Church Youth Ministries.”

11-GS-33 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod voted to adopt the resolution “Covenant for Church Youth Ministries,” as amended.

A COVENANT FOR CHURCH YOUTH MINISTRIES

WHEREAS, the Twenty-eighth General Synods believes that youth workers need spiritual support in their work with young people;

WHEREAS, gifts and call are best discerned in the context of the faith community;

WHEREAS, taking time to think and pray is just as essential for our youth workers as organizing events and meeting young people;

WHEREAS, maintaining the gifts and skills of the youth workers is an ongoing process and that it is important to continually invest in professional development;

WHEREAS, taking regular time off helps maintain our youth workers’ passion and energy for their work with young people;

WHEREAS, having a youth worker does not release the rest of the church from our responsibilities toward young people;

WHEREAS, it is vital to acknowledge what our youth workers are doing and the commitment they have made to work with young people in our Church;

WHEREAS, it is important to have clear structures and procedures for recruiting and employing youth workers, and to provide supportive management structures which are fair and just;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to the Twenty-eighth General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopt this Covenant for Church Youth Ministries.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-eighth General Synod encourage local churches to adopt this covenant and implement it as policy and practice for employing, nurturing and supporting youth workers - both paid and volunteer - as they minister to and with youth.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that by adopting this Covenant for Church Youth Ministries the Twenty-eighth General Synod encourages local churches to make the following promises:

1. to pray for our youth workers and keep their needs a high priority in church prayer life;
2. to provide our youth workers opportunities for prayerful discernment of gifts and call;
3. to provide opportunities for our youth workers to use part of their schedules for retreat, reflection, worship and personal development;
4. to set aside time and money to provide initial and ongoing training and professional development for our youth workers;
5. to actively encourage our youth workers to take two full days away from their role each week;
6. to encourage the people of the local church to volunteer with, to pray for, and to support youth;
7. to show appreciation for and celebrate the achievements of our youth workers;
8. to follow fair and just practices in the employment of our youth workers.

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

Local Church Ministries is requested to implement this resolution.

9. PUT OUR MONEY WHERE OUR VALUES ARE: EVALUATING CHURCH FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIPS

Moderator Robertson called upon Ms. Pamela Cook, Chairperson of Committee Three, for the presentation of the Committee.