

bacterial resistance to antibiotics caused by the routine feeding of antibiotics to animals; 3) “Mad Cow Disease,” bird flu, and other human health risks associated with intensive animal agricultural practices; 4) a wide range of medical disorders linked to the typical American diet, including heart disease, obesity, diabetes, arthritis, and certain cancers (*Journal of the American Dietetic Association* 2003;103:748-765); and 5) the negative impact of CAFOs on small family farms and thus on rural life, culture, and community, and

WHEREAS, people have different nutritional needs, financial situations, and degrees of access to food, such that a mindful and faithful diet for one person at one location might be very different from a mindful and faithful diet for another person at another location. For some people, animal agriculture may be an essential component of mindful and faithful eating, and

WHEREAS, Christians are called to make God-centered choices in every aspect of life; and our church communities are most vibrant when we respect the diversity of views, values, beliefs, and ways to address a given social justice concern; and our church communities can help us discern such God-centered living amidst this diversity; and consequently, faithful Christians will make different consumption choices in response to the call for mindful and faithful eating.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-eighth General Synod encourages Conferences, Associations, congregations and individuals to explore ways in which our food choices can be mindful and faithful, so that, to the best of our abilities, what we eat reflects our values and beliefs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UCC Covenanted Ministries identify and/or develop curricula for all ages that compassionately and respectfully explore the ways in which our diets impact our ecological “footprint” on the earth, human and animal welfare concerns, healthy nourishment for our bodies, and the needs and concerns of workers. These curricula would further explore ways that our food choices affect food security and the equitable availability of food for all God’s children.

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.

9. TO FORM A THEOLOGICAL FORUM

Assistant Moderator Belsom called upon Elizabeth Duffy, Chairperson of Committee Ten to present the resolution “To Form a Theological Forum.”

Ms. Duffy moved adoption of the resolution as amended and spoke to it.

Following discussion, Mr. Zachary Grant (ME) called the question.

11-GS-54 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to end debate on the resolution.

11-GS-55 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to adopt the resolution “To Form a Theological Forum,” as amended.

TO FORM A THEOLOGICAL FORUM

WHEREAS, a Seminar Group called together by the Office of Church Life and Leadership, in their document of 1978 “Toward the Task of Sound Teaching”, called us to be “more intentional and disciplined in teaching the faith”; and

WHEREAS, this document, immediately studied in partnership with the Evangelical Church of the Union in Germany and currently being studied anew, is an important milestone in the ongoing theological discussion between our two churches within a process that led to celebrating Kirchengemeinschaft in the Thirteenth General Synod in 1981, exactly 30 years prior to this Synod, – a partnership that has helped us be more faithful and discerning in mission; and

WHEREAS, our partner church in Germany, now the United Evangelical Church, says that it would be helpful for our partnership if there were at the national level of the United Church of Christ a theological commission to which their Theological Commission could relate; and

WHEREAS, our commitment to participate in God's mission to the world would be enriched by intentional and broad-based theological reflection; and

WHEREAS, a letter to the Executive Council from 39 faculty members engaged in theological education, entitled “A Most Difficult and Urgent Time” in 1984 has not yet been fully responded to in its call for “sustained rethinking of our theological tradition (as reflected in the various traditions behind the United Church) to see how that tradition can be reappropriated in faithful and fresh ways as a discipline and resource for our life and faith”, urging the Executive Council “to constitute a body of theological leadership and reflection responsible for assisting the local congregations, associations, conferences, national officers, and instrumentalities in developing teaching consensus”; and

WHEREAS, no mechanism currently exists specifically intended to promote a denomination-wide theological conversation; and

WHEREAS, we have a valuable resource in the *The Living Theological Heritage of the United Church of Christ* that deserves to be more widely shared and used; and

WHEREAS, a theological forum could help in deciding priorities, so that we can use our limited resources more effectively, since theology, as reflection on the good news about what God has done and is doing, can provide guidance about what we need to be doing as partners with God,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to the Twenty-eighth General Synod request the formation of a theological forum, structured so as to engage the widest possible diversity of perspectives within the United Church of Christ, to promote theological reflection and dialogue within our church and with partner churches, and to be a resource for local

churches, local church members, associations, conferences, national leadership, and instrumentalities. This forum would not be a prescriptive council, but a forum for descriptive and diverse theologies across the Church. The delegates request that the structure for such a proposed forum be developed by Local Church Ministries and the Office of General Ministries and brought to the Executive Council, with possible financial details, for approval.

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 Office of Local Church Ministries and the Office of General Ministries are requested to implement this resolution.

10. INVITATION TO THE TWENTY-NINTH GENERAL SYNOD

Ms. Belsom called upon Mr. Felix Villaneuva, Conference Minister of the California Nevada, Southern Conference for an invitation to the Twenty-ninth General Synod in 2013. Mr. Villaneuva extended a warm invitation to Long Beach, CA, followed by a video presentation.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moderator Robertson advised there were 3,219 persons registered for General Synod. The Credentials Committee report will be included in the minutes.

12. END OF AN AUTHORIZED MINISTRY

Mr. Robertson stated we have taken care to say good-bye to the three outgoing Collegium members by celebrating their ministry on Saturday evening and in worship on Sunday. However, part of the tradition of the United Church of Christ that we encourage all of our local churches and conferences to do is to formally and prayerfully bring to a close the authorized ministry of those who serve in leadership positions. He then invited Cally Rogers-Witte, Edith Guffey and Steve Sterner, along with members of Associations and Ms. Guffey's local church, to the stage. Mr. Pierson Kemp, Chairperson of the Executive Council led delegates and guests in a litany of closure. Mr. Hamilton Coe Throckmorton led the group in prayer.

13. INSTALLATION OF NEW MODERATORS

Moderators James Robertson, Patricia Aurand and Caroline Belsom installed the Moderator-elect, Libby Tigner, and Assistant Moderators-elect Dale Bonds and Brian Holeman for the Twenty-ninth General Synod. Delegates responded with applause.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Moderator Robertson thanked everyone on behalf of the moderators, for their participation during this General Synod and for their commitment to our denomination and the Church of Jesus Christ.

Mr. Pierson Kemp, Chairperson of the Executive Council, moved to adjourn the Twenty-eighth General Synod at the conclusion of the final worship service.