

13-GS-12 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod delegates the determination of the percentage allocation for Our Church Wider Mission National Basic Support for the 2014-2015 biennium to the United Church of Christ Board.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Moderator Tigner stated that Committees are allocated approximately fifteen minutes in which to report to the General Synod. She reminded the delegates of the microphone layout and function.

Bill Sterrett (EC) requested the moderator read the total number of votes cast and Ms. Tigner agreed to do that.

Ms. Tigner thanked the Committee Process Team Ms. Susan Henderson (CAC), Mr. Dennis Frische-Mouri (IK) and Ms. Susan Townsley (CONN) and the Team Leader Mr. David Anderson (PNW). She then asked the Committee Chairs to stand and be recognized and thanked all of them for their hard work and diligence.

7. RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO REPUDIATE THE DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY WHICH AUTHORIZED THE GENOCIDE OF NATIVE PEOPLES AND THE THEFT OF NATIVE LANDS.

Moderator Tigner called on Mr. Brian Burke, Chairperson of Committee 1, for that committee's report. Mr. Burke moved that the Twenty-ninth General Synod adopt the resolution Calling for the United Church of Christ to Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery Which Authorized the Genocide of Native Peoples and the Theft of Native Lands. He then spoke to the motion.

Discussion:

David Felton (SD) advised the South Dakota Conference voted unanimously to support this issue.

Enno Limvere (SD) spoke in favor of the motion.

Richard Steele (WIS) stated he was born in the United States and feels he is also a Native American. We're all immigrants in this country.

Roseanne Dyce Anderson (JWM) asked for a 100% vote from delegates.

Kaitlyn Lemley (KO) spoke in favor of the motion.

Christopher Jenkins (MASS) asked that the committee chairperson elaborate on how this would play out.

James Moos (WCM) spoke in favor of the motion and committed WCM to implementation.

Aletha Kaohi (HI) requested support for the motion.

13-GS-13 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod adopts the resolution Calling for the United Church of Christ to Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery Which Authorized the Genocide of Native Peoples and the Theft of Native Lands.

CALLING FOR THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO REPUDIATE THE DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY WHICH AUTHORIZED THE GENOCIDE OF NATIVE PEOPLES AND THE THEFT OF NATIVE LANDS

WHEREAS, from the Crusades through the 16th century the Roman Catholic Church

promulgated several Papal Bulls which authorized and justified the destruction, killing and appropriating lands of indigenous peoples. These Papal Bulls formulated the theological base for what became the tragic genocide of American Indians; and

WHEREAS, Protestant churches beginning as early as 1609 when English clergy in Jamestown developed a coherent narrative that brought together a legal rationalization for invading America, debasing American Indians and made a Christian commitment to convert Indians – a commitment which they never delivered; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court in 1823 in Johnson vs. McIntosh incorporated into American law the Doctrine by claiming the United States inherited the American conquest from the English; and

WHEREAS, 1845 was the first time the phrase Manifest Destiny was used to affirm that the USA was called by Providence to dominate the continent for the free development of America's inevitable growth. Manifest Destiny grew out of, and was based on, the Doctrine of Discovery; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations adopted a resolution entitled United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007 requesting nations to affirm, it took the United States four years before it signed it; and

WHEREAS, the World Council of Churches called upon its member churches to adopt its Statement on the Doctrine of Discovery Impact on Indigenous Peoples, the UCC has not. The Episcopal Church and the Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church have done so.

WHEREAS, there is a growing awareness and concern in the United States about the Doctrine, the United Church of Christ, given its commitment to justice, has not yet participated in a formal manner; and

WHEREAS, not only has the Doctrine never been repudiated, court decisions against Indians have been made within the past several decades based on the Doctrine.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ repudiates the Doctrine of Discovery.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ declares and confesses that the doctrine has been and continues to be a shameful part of United States and our Church's history.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ joins with its ecumenical partners to explore ways to compensate American Indians, Alaskan Natives, and Native Hawaiians for lands and resources that were stolen and are still being stolen and which are now the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests that Justice and Witness Ministries join with the Council for American Indian Ministry and others to prepare educational materials for the churches.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests that the substantive study materials developed by JWM and CAIM be presented to the Thirtieth General Synod with suggestions for how the UCC might undertake various forms of action. The Episcopal Church provides a model for such follow through.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the United States government to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery.

FUNDING

The 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 Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities of the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

Julia Swayne (CA NV, N) requested the order of resolutions be announced as they are known to the moderator.

8. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING COMPASSIONATE COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM AND THE PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF IMMIGRANTS

Moderator Tigner called on Ms. Barbara Ferguson Kamara, Chairperson of Committee 13, to present that committee's report. Ms. Kamara moved that the Twenty-ninth General Synod approve the resolution Supporting Compassionate Comprehensive Immigration Reform and the Protection of the Human Rights of Immigrants. She then spoke to the resolution.

Discussion:

Felix Villanueva, (CA NV, S) called for approval of the resolution saying immigrants are already productive members of society.

Arthur Cribbs (CA NV, S) said we're violating our own values and ideology if we do not approve this resolution.

David Stuart and Shirley Fleming (ILL) moved to amend Line 1434 by inserting the following: . . . violence; (7) ensure that newly documented immigrants have the opportunity to enroll for health insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act; and (8) ending of . . .

The motion was seconded.

13-GS-14 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to amend Line 1434 by inserting the following: . . . violence; (7) ensure that newly documented immigrants have the opportunity to enroll for health insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act; and (8) ending of . . .