

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 . . .

Discussion resumed on the original motion.

Sylvia Jones (EC) reported that representatives from the YWCA across the nation spent the day on Capitol Hill meeting with Representatives and Senators to urge immigration reform.

Ms. Jones urged everyone to vote in favor of the resolution and to contact members of the House of Representatives.

Sheila Angerer (SC) said of course we need immigration reform – it's what America stands for. Samuel Conde (FLA) works with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. This is an issue that affects thousands of people across America.

Dennis Alger (CPC) appreciated the amendment and encouraged a positive vote. We are aware of the fear in which many of our neighbors live.

Linda Jaramillo (JWM) commended the committee's work and supported the resolution. She appealed to everyone to go home and accept the responsibility to become a welcoming community and contact government representatives.

13-GS-15 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to adopt the resolution Supporting Compassionate Comprehensive Immigration Reform and the Protection of the Human Rights of Immigrants, as amended.

**SUPPORTING COMPASSIONATE COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM
AND THE PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF IMMIGRANTS**

WHEREAS, immigration law in the United States (U. S.) is a federal, not a state, responsibility, and

WHEREAS, America's current immigration system is dysfunctional, harms our economy, and does not reflect our denominational or national values; and

WHEREAS, worker visa programs must comply with U.S. wage, hour, and other labor standards, including portability of visas so that workers can change jobs; and maintain the ability for workers to petition for permanent residency; and

WHEREAS, enforcement of immigration law should affirm our nation's core legal values including due process, transparency, fairness, accountability, and proportionality; and

WHEREAS, immigration reform must occur in a comprehensive, thoughtful manner that both respects our nation's right to control its borders and the human rights of immigrants, and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ and the United States has prospered because of the contributions of hardworking migrants, immigrants, and aspiring citizens; and keeping families together not only is inherent to our faith values, but is also good for the economy because families are a base of support that increase worker productivity and spurs entrepreneurship; and,

there is a need to reduce the processing times of three to twenty years that keep families separated from their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has many DREAM Act eligible youth who were brought here as children, know this country as their only home, were educated here, and have shown their contribution to our congregations and communities; and

WHEREAS, immigration enforcement has deported a record 409,849 in 2012 fiscal year including 95,000 parents of U.S. citizens in 2011; and

WHEREAS, citizenship is a symbol of full societal membership and social participation that should be encouraged and supported with just and fair laws and procedures; and

WHEREAS, compassionate comprehensive immigration reform must include a realistic pathway to citizenship for all hardworking, taxpaying, aspiring citizens who live in the U.S. (including young people who have grown up in the United States) if they meet reasonable requirements; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform must update the legal immigration system so that the future flow of immigrant workers more realistically matches our nation's labor needs and is structured to protect the wages and working conditions of U.S. and immigrant workers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges the 113th Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform as outlined in this resolution that addresses (1) earned legalization with a path to citizenship; (2) updated future flow of immigrants for workers and unification of families; (3) enactment of the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act as part of a comprehensive immigration reform; (4) protection of workers' rights, including agricultural workers; (5) placement of humanitarian values at the center of enforcement policies; (6) protection of refugees and migrant survivors of violence; and (7) ensure that newly documented immigrants have the opportunity to enroll for health insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act; and (8) ending of Operation Streamline, stopping of the construction of the southern border fence, and limiting additional immigration border patrol agents on the southern border.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be delivered to the President of the United States, U.S. Speaker of the House and President of the Senate. The Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages General Synod delegates to deliver a copy of this resolution to members of their respective (state) General Assembly, Governor of the state, (state) Speaker of the House, and President of the (state) Senate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages congregations to further engage in educational work on immigration from a faith perspective, participate in border delegations and work towards making your congregation an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon United Church of Christ members to take action to help pass compassionate comprehensive immigration reform by (1) getting involved with a local coalition, (2) forming

relationships with immigrants, (3) joining advocacy delegations with your local Representative or Senator and (4) mobilizing congregants for vigils, actions, marches, interfaith services and other local or national activities on this issue.

FUNDING

The funding for the implementation of the Resolution (or Other Formal Motion) 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 within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

9. MUSIC/STRETCH BREAK

Moderator Tigner invited the General Synod musicians to lead the body in some singing and movement to reinvigorate everyone.

10. RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR COMPASSIONATE CARE AND HEALING TO OUR VETERANS

Assistant Moderator Dale Bonds called on Mr. Charles Kuthuru, Chairperson of Committee 9, to present the next item of business.

Mr. Kuthuru moved the adoption of the resolution To Recognize the Need for Compassionate Care and Healing to our Veterans. He ceded his time to Sam Buehrer (OHIO) who spoke to the motion.

Discussion:

Brynn Smallwood Garcia (CONN) spoke in favor of the motion and of the first responders to Sandy Hook Elementary School who are members of her congregation. She also expressed gratitude to everyone who also suffers from PTSD.

Sharon Prestemon (EC) serves on the Board of Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS and indicated that not only are many of our veterans not in churches, they are not in homes.

William Feld (CAC) moved to strike the word “in” on Line 1315. The amendment was accepted by the Moderator.

A delegate urged approval and said we need to act, not only approve this resolution.

Jim Clausing (OHIO) spoke in favor of the resolution. Mr. Clausing has a son who served in Iraq and has dealt with the needs expressed in the resolution.

Jamytta Bell (SC) is a veteran service officer and pleaded that delegates don’t just vote, but act.

13-GS-16 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to approve the resolution To Recognize the Need for Compassionate Care and Healing to our Veterans, as amended.