

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.

**TO RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR COMPASSIONATE CARE AND HEALING**  
**TO OUR VETERANS**

WHEREAS, the recent wars of The Persian Gulf (1990 – 1991), Operation Provide Comfort (1991 – 1996), Somalia Intervention (1992 – 1995), Bosnia (1995 – 2004), NATO Air Campaign Yugoslavia (1999), Afghanistan 2001 – present, and Iraq 2003 – 2011 used regular military forces, activation of Reserves military, and the Federalization of state's National Guard units experiencing multiple deployments our citizen – soldiers have returned to civilian communities that are unaware of the effects of military service.

WHEREAS, the political landscape has shifted since World War II and military objectives and purpose have become increasingly abstract veterans suffer from a crisis of purpose which affects the individual as well as our nation.

WHEREAS, political objects are nebulous and the military is used as political “muscle” on the global stage our service personnel are sometimes left feeling used and betrayed by the society they swore an allegiance to protect and defend.

WHEREAS, these persons are our brothers and sisters, parents, neighbors, students, employees, and cohorts we have an obligation as followers of Jesus to be sensitive to their needs.

WHEREAS, the therapists within the Veterans Administration are now speaking about the “moral injury” of military service the moral injury is a spiritual and soul issue and needs to be addressed by The Church.

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ extends gracious hospitality and welcome to all people from every walk of life it behooves the United Church of Christ to become sensitive to the effects of military service and accept their responsibility to protect the veteran upon their return home.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ challenges all of the United Church of Christ congregations to express compassionate care and healing ministry to all our veterans and their families through education and the development of sensitivity to the issues of soul healing and spiritual care.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages “local church” awareness and reaching out to local Veterans Administration, Veterans Service Commission, support of Veterans Courts, through the compassion that is rooted in the teachings and example of Jesus.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages the Office of the Local Church Ministries to partner with the Soul Repair Center of Brite Divinity School in the development of resources for use by our military chaplains, Veterans Administrations Chaplains and our local congregations to express compassionate care and a healing ministry to our veterans and their families.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ challenges the members and local churches of the United Church of Christ to serve veterans with healing care beyond established medical and military protocols and seek ways to welcome our veterans home, through worship, fellowship, pastoral care and advocacy to reintegrate them in our communities, and help to bring peace to veterans, their families and the world.

### **FUNDING**

The funding for the implementation of the 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 the appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ will determine the implementing body.

### **11. RESOLUTION ON ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

Assistant Moderator Dale Bonds called on Ms. Brittni Badger, Chairperson of Committee 14 to present the next item of business.

Ms. Badger moved the adoption of the Resolution on Ecumenical Relationship Between the United Church of Christ and the United Church of Canada. She then spoke to the motion.

#### Discussion:

Ron Nicholas (FLA) urged support and said his home church is an unofficial southern home for Canadians during the winter months.

Bill Thwing (PW) strongly supports the resolution.

Mike Denton (JWM) is very excited about this resolution and urges support.

Jake Joseph (JWM) also supports the resolution.

Paul Clay (CA NV,S) also supports the resolution.

Hyo-Jung Kim (EC) urged support.

**13-GS-17 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Ecumenical Relationship between the United Church of Christ and the United Church of Canada.

### **RESOLUTION ON ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

WHEREAS, the gospel of Jesus Christ unites the followers of Christ in a single community of faith and compels us to make our unity visible so “that the world may believe...” John 17:21;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ and the United Church of Canada are united and uniting churches with multiple denominational streams which identify them and shape their Christian self-understanding;