

5. RESOLUTION ON MAKING UCC CHURCH BUILDINGS MORE CARBON NEUTRAL

Moderator Tigner called on Ms. Sara Brace, Chairperson of Committee 2, to present the next item of business.

Ms. Sara Brace moved the resolution On Making UCC Church Buildings More Carbon Neutral. She then ceded her time to Ms. Marilyn Pagan-Banks (ILL) to speak to the resolution.

13-GS-31 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to approve the resolution On Making UCC Church Buildings More Carbon Neutral.

ON MAKING UCC CHURCH BUILDINGS MORE CARBON NEUTRAL

WHEREAS, the twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges all segments of the Church to address global warming in their decisions and investments and in their educational and advocacy efforts; and

WHEREAS, the twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on the Church to address the severe nature of this global warming crisis as one of the most urgent threats to humankind and, indeed, all of God's precious planet earth; and

WHEREAS, General Synod is on record regarding the mediation of climate change and in 2009 reaffirmed that position; and

WHEREAS, the building sector consumes nearly half (48.7%) of all energy produced in the United States and was responsible for nearly half of U.S. carbon emissions in 2009; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted the "2030 Challenge for City Buildings" in June 2006, a plan which, if supported at all levels of our nation, is designed to avert dangerous climate change;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ acknowledge that our church buildings are significant contributors to climate change and to encourage congregations to take steps towards carbon neutrality by adopting the following church-based adaptations to the targets presented in Architecture 2030's 2030 Challenge:

- All churches are encouraged to conduct an energy audit.
- Buildings undergoing new construction and/or major renovations strive to be carbon neutral (operate with a net-zero use of fossil fuel, greenhouse gas emitting energy) by
 - reducing electricity and natural gas usage
 - generating on-site renewable power, and/or
 - purchasing renewable energy (suggested 20% maximum of total energy usage, in alignment with the standards of the 2030 Challenge).

Existing church buildings not undergoing major renovation at this time are encouraged to take steps to meet a fossil fuel, greenhouse gas emitting, energy consumption performance standard of at least 60% below the regional average for houses of worship or that building type.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that local congregations be requested to encourage their members to meet the above standards in their own homes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that conferences and congregations be encouraged to continue this work beyond the building sector by initiating or continuing the Earthwise Congregation commitment.

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 appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

6. RESOLUTION ON RESISTING ACTIONS SEEKING TO UNDERMINE THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY

Moderator Tigner called on Ms. Lessie Williams, Chairperson of Committee 10, to present the next item of business.

Ms. Williams moved the adoption of the resolution on Resisting Actions Seeking to Undermine the Status of Women in Society. She ceded her time to Ms. Marilyn Pagan-Banks (ILL) who spoke to the motion.

Discussion:

Emmery Grooms (SW) thanked all involved with the committee process and stated that words from conservatives regarding rape and abortion swayed his support.

Doyle Luckenbaugh (EC) spoke in favor of women's reproductive freedom and urged everyone to contact their state and federal representatives protesting restrictive legislation.

Susi Kawolics (OHIO) requested clarification on the title of the resolution.

Arthur Cribbs (CA NV, S) moved a friendly amendment to Line 1553 inserting "and urges from UCC" before conferences. The amendment was accepted by the Committee Chairperson.

Additional discussion:

Rebecca Castline (WIS) spoke in affirmation. This is not just a women's issue. We need to let women know that people of all genders of faith support this issue.

Amy Frenze (RI) offered a friendly amendment to change the title to "Resolution to Recognize and Address Gender Inequality and Discrimination."

Martha Jacobs (NY) expressed an issue with the fact that no women were added to the United Church of Christ leadership team. At the last General Synod, it was promised this issue would be looked into. Why didn't women apply for executive positions?