

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?

John Kendall (ILL) expressed sadness this is still being talked about and women are still being discriminated against.

David Stewart (ILL) indicated that the last General Synod voted to change the title of a resolution. Are we going to vote on the title change?

Moderator Tigner advised that the Parliamentarian ruled the title change motion out of order.

The vote is on the substance of the resolution, not the title.

Adam Isbitsky (MASS) moved to amend Line 1336 to change “between” to “among.”

13-GS-32 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes by general consent to amend Line 1336 to change “between” to “among.”

13-GS-33 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to adopt the resolution on Resisting Actions Seeking to Undermine the Status of Women in Society.

RESISTING ACTIONS SEEKING TO UNDERMINE THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY

WHEREAS, previous General Synods of the United Church of Christ have affirmed the value and dignity of women in the church and society and called for an end to sexism and the consequences of patriarchy (1969, 1983, 1989, 1991, 1995); and

WHEREAS, recent and ongoing political conversation and legislative action across the country is leading to the loss of many of the significant advances toward full equality for women;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on National Staff of the United Church of Christ, Conferences, Associations, and Congregations to reaffirm the belief that societal distinctions which create an inferior-superior relationship among genders is contrary to the will of God; to bear witness to that belief by standing vigilant with and actively supporting women; to resist the reemerging cultural forces working to subjugate women.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that recognizing that the political conversations and legislative actions often begin with groups that attribute their attempts to subjugate women to Christian beliefs, the Twenty-ninth Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on the National staff of the United Church of Christ, Conferences, Associations and Congregations to

- publicly address and challenge policies, ideologies, and theologies that promote the inferiority and subjugation of women
- proclaim the biblical vision of oneness and equality in Christ
- encourage and work with other denominations, ecumenical, and interfaith partners to do the same
- empower and resource conference, state and national UCC policy advocates to ensure legislation which assures women equal pay, a full range of health care choices and services, including Title X and Planned Parenthood, and recognizes a woman’s right to make decisions about her own reproductive health.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on National Staff of the United Church of Christ, and urges Conferences, Associations, and Congregations to recognize and address gender inequality and discrimination where they exist within the Church itself, in systems and communities in all expressions of the United Church of Christ. We call upon the Church to increase its efforts to model gender equality in all expressions of the United Church of Christ.

FUNDING

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.

Mr. Geoffrey Black, General Minister and President, advised the General Synod that the Collegium of Officers has considered the lack of diversity in the pool of candidates, particularly with regard to women. Our vision plan calls for diversity of leadership as a target in the future. A primary step was the creation of an Executive Associate position which Ms. Loey Powell now holds to assist in developing this. We have taken you seriously.

7. RECOGNITION OF NEW AND RETIRING CONFERENCE MINISTERS

Moderator Tigner called on Mr. Kent Siladi, Chairperson of the Cabinet of Conference Ministers, to recognize the new and retiring Conference Ministers.

On behalf of the Cabinet of Conference Ministers, Mr. Siladi recognized the following new Conference Ministers and those who have retired since the last General Synod.

Retired Conference Ministers:

- Tim Downs, Southeast Conference
- Karen Smith Sellers, Minnesota Conference
- David Moyer, Wisconsin Conference
- Wade Schemmel, Northern Plains Conference
- Randy Hyvonen, Montana Northern Wyoming Conference
- Tom Rehling, Rocky Mountain Conference
- Alan McLarty, Penn West Conference

New Conference Ministers:

- Marc Stewart, Montana Northern Wyoming Conference
- Edith Guffey, Kansas Oklahoma Conference
- Edward Davis, Southern Conference
- Keith Mills, Northern Plains Conference
- Campbell Lovett, Michigan Conference