

1. John Schluep (OHIO) issued a call for action for veteran's ministry. Website is warriorsjourneyhome.org.
2. Enno Limuere (SD) spoke about his local church membership.
3. Jennifer Austin (SE) announced that the Southeast Conference is searching for a Designated Conference Minister.
4. Gunnar Cerda (OHIO) urged everyone to contact their state legislators to adopt autism insurance parity.
5. Julie Peebles (SC) requested prayer for people protesting cuts to public education, mental health and unemployment benefits in North Carolina.
6. Alan Johnson (RM) thanked the United Church of Christ for sending him to a mental health conference at the White House. There were only seven faith-based organizations there. October 13 is Access Sunday. Join the movement.
7. Stephen Daniels (PC) stated we need to learn how to invite others into what we have found in the United Church of Christ.
8. Dona Roll (NY) thanked everyone for adopting the resolution for veterans. While in Long Beach, she met a waitress who volunteers at a homeless shelter. Buy a bath towel and give it to New Image, 401 Ocean Blvd., Suite 202.
9. Steve Craft (PW) asked everyone to join Flat Jesus on Facebook. Youth are sending Jesus around the world. Take a picture and post on Facebook. Also advised his conference is searching for a Conference Minister.
10. Sharon Nelson (OHIO) invited youth in grades seven through twelve to the Great Lakes Regional Youth Event July 10-13, 2014

Ms. Bonds indicated the next SpeakOut! will be tomorrow morning during Plenary 7. Sign-ups will immediately follow this Plenary.

2. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

A delegate requested prayer for Mr. Todd Owens and Ms. Elizabeth Stevens who have lesions on their brains.

Assistant Moderator Bonds stated there is no such thing as a friendly amendment. Once an amendment is made, it requires a vote. If there is a grammatical correction to be made to a resolution, consent will be requested. If there is objection, a vote will be required.

3. RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ALL CHURCH OFFERING FOR SUPPORTING THE EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES OF MEMBERS IN DISCERNMENT PREPARING FOR AUTHORIZED MINISTRY OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST.

Ms. Bonds called on Ms. Crystal Silva-McCormick, Chairperson of Committee 5, to present the resolution. Ms. Silva-McCormick moved the adoption of the resolution Calling for an All Church Offering for Supporting the Education Expenses of Members in Discernment Preparing for Authorized Ministry of the United Church of Christ and spoke to the motion.

Eric Olson (CONN) requested the General Synod return to the previous speaker's request for prayer for Mr. Owens and Ms. Stevens. He then led the body in prayer.

Discussion:

Linda Bigler (LCM) requested clarification on the resolution. Are scholarship funds already set up for seminary students included in the resolution? Answer: No, this is not included.

Samuel Conde (FLA) stated there is little funding for many members in discernment. Seminary costs roughly \$45,000, which does not include room and board.

Roddy Dunkerson (NEB) We bring this resolution with the expectation that it will focus on the great gifts of those in ministry.

Carol Stanley (PNW) supports our seminarians, but adding a sixth all church offering is of concern.

Jane Tedder (EC) moved an amendment to Line 1147 – strike the second “and” and replace it with “or.” The motion was seconded.

Roddy Dunkerson (NEB) advised this issue was raised and debated by the committee and rejected. We hope the amendment is defeated.

Geoffrey Black (General Minister & President) spoke in favor of the amendment. The Collegium has discussed this matter in depth. Our concern is the resolution without the “or” language would tie our hands. Other options would help us tremendously in the immediate future.

David Greenhaw (Eden Seminary) spoke against the amendment. The United Church of Christ General Synods have studied how to support seminarians. Since 1957 this church has been trying to do this for members in discernment, not seminarians. What we’re asking is that we are given a mechanism to support those members.

Steve Keithahn (EC) supports the amendment. There is a lack of funding for seminarians. We should trust our executives to address this issue.

Janet McClain (ILL) stated Committee 5 was aware of the ongoing review of current offerings. We rejected “or” because this is as important as the other offerings.

Emily Heath (VT) is married to a seminarian and funding is very difficult. We participate in a seminary food bank.

John Deckenback (CAC) Chairs of the Conference Ministers Financial Development Committee that is undertaking the study of offering patterns in the United Church of Christ. Please allow us to study without dictating to us. This will be dealt with at the next General Synod.

Twila Rhodes (FLA) asked if the amendment would prohibit the offering or allow for other things to happen. Answer: Ron Patterson (EC) responded that “or” would not prohibit the offering, but would provide other options.

Samuel Conde (FLA) spoke against the amendment because it would stop the offering from being what is asked for.

Kaji Spellman (EC) called the question and the motion was seconded.

13-GS-34 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to end debate on the amendment.

13-GS-35 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to strike the second “and” to replace it with “or” on Line 1147.

Ron Freyer-Nicholas (FLA) requested a re-vote due to confusion of how the amendment was stated. The amendment was restated and a second vote was taken.

13-GS-36 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to strike the second “and” to replace it with “or” on Line 1147.

Assistant Moderator Bonds called the order of the day and advised the discussion on the All Church Offering resolution will resume tomorrow morning.

4. CELEBRATION OF PENSION BOARDS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Assistant Moderator Brian Holeman called on Mr. Michael A. Downs, President and CEO of the Pension Boards, to present a Statement of commendation Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Pension Boards.

Mr. Downs recognized past and present Trustees and former Executive Vice Presidents:

Ms. Joan Brannick and Mr. John Ordway and his wife Patricia

Ms. Marty Baumer, representing all past trustees

Don Barnes and all retired staff as well as present staff

Mr. Holeman introduced the formal Statement of Commendation Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Annuity Fund and Mr. Downs moved the adoption of the commendation.

13-GS-37 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod adopts the Statement of Commendation Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Annuity Fund.

STATEMENT OF COMMENDATION CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INCORPORATION OF THE ANNUITY FUND

WHEREAS, April 23, 2014 will mark the 100th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Annuity Fund for Congregational Ministers, and

WHEREAS, the Annuity Fund, during its first century, has gained strength and purpose from its foundations in the Evangelical Synod Fund, the Reformed Sustentation Fund, the Ministers' Retirement Annuity Fund and the Retirement Fund for Lay Workers, and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Annuity Fund faithfully continues forward into its second century through the Annuity Plan for the United Church of Christ, administered by the Pension Boards, an Affiliated Ministry of the United Church of Christ;

NOW THEREFORE, the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ expresses gratitude to the generations of Pension Boards Trustees and administrative staff persons who, hearing and following God's leadership, have provided a ministry that brings meaningful financial support and confidence to the clergy and lay employees of the Church, and

2. Twila Rhodes (FLA) expressed her feelings of finding it hard to be classified as youth at age twenty-nine.
3. Brenda Brown (RM) reminded everyone that the Rocky Mountain Conference is searching for a Conference Minister.
4. Andy Lang (OHIO) expressed appreciation that so many people took scarves and signed the no bullying pledge. He urged support from local churches.
5. Lorin Cope (MOMS) talked about Neighborhood Homes and the Nov. 1-3 celebration of 100 years of service to children and families.
6. Regina Low talked about the Mission 4/1 earth project, planting trees in Peru and preserving the rain forest.

Moderator Tigner thanked the participants and advised the final SpeakOut! would be during this afternoon's Plenary. Sign-up for that SpeakOut! immediately following this session.

Moderator Tigner advised there are ninety minutes this morning and ninety minutes this afternoon to complete the business before Synod and there are eleven pieces of business yet to be considered. Anything Synod does not complete will be dealt with by the United Church of Christ Board in October.

Ms. Tigner then reminded delegates which microphone is used for what piece of business.

3. RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ALL CHURCH OFFERING FOR SUPPORTING THE EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES OF MEMBERS IN DISCERNMENT PREPARING FOR AUTHORIZED MINISTRY OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ms. Tigner called on Ms. Crystal Silva-McCormick, Chairperson of Committee 5, to resume discussion on the resolution Calling for All Church Offering for Supporting the Educational Expenses of Members in Discernment Preparing for Authorized Ministry of the United Church of Christ.

Meredith Jackson (CA NV, N) offered the following amendment on Line 1151:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ recommends that the Collegium of Officers of the United Church of Christ explore the feasibility of offering low-interest loans to United Church of Christ members in discernment with a report delivered to the Thirtieth General Synod. The motion was seconded.

Discussion:

Megan Culbertson (EC) spoke in favor of the amendment and her anticipated debt following her seminary education.

Rich Pleva (IOWA) opposed the amendment. The problem isn't access to loans, it's the debt, which this would not address.

Meredith Jackson (CA NV,N) expressed the need for a multi-pronged approach and is asking for a feasibility study on low-interest loans. This only asks for a report.

David Greenhaw (Eden Seminary) is deeply discouraged with the resolution and the amendment. The amendment starts to turn the resolution into finding a solution to a very complex problem.

Deborah Dean-Ware (MICH) took a moment of personal privilege. There are delegates staying in far-away hotels who have not yet arrived at this morning's session.
Paul Clay (CA NV,S) called the question on the amendment. The motion was seconded.

13-GS-38 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to cease discussion on the amendment.

13-GS-39 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to approve the amendment to Line 1151: BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ recommends that the Collegium of Officers of the United Church of Christ explore the feasibility of offering low-interest loans to United Church of Christ members in discernment with a report delivered to the Thirtieth General Synod.

Further discussion on the main motion:

Rich Pleva (IOWA) opposes the resolution with sadness and some anger. As originally framed, the resolution committed the church to ongoing action with theological education. The offering would not have fixed the problem, but it would have been a step in the right direction. Now we are only going to kick the can further down the road.

Jean Tyler (WISC) offered the following amendment to Line 1149:

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the current scholarships of the United Church of Christ be included as beneficiaries of the new all church offering. The motion was seconded.

Linda Bigler spoke to the amendment.

Discussion on the amendment:

Roddy Dunkerson (NEB) opposes the amendment because it continues the process of trying to solve a problem in a very focused way. It's a train wreck.

Judy Fiocco (MOMS) stated it's better than nothing, but urged a "no" vote on the amendment.

Kaji Spellman (EC) requested clarification. Would there be any limit to addressing the debt limit? Does it look at those of us who have already incurred debt?

Answer: There is nothing in the resolution addressing this issue.

Kim Homans (CONN) commented that the plenary session was not opened with prayer. Could we do that now? The Moderator indicated it would be taken under advisement.

Felix Villanueva (CA NV,S) expressed concern that we are not addressing the systemic issue.

The resolution doesn't do anything to actually address the problem.

Brad Tadlock (MINN) called the question. The motion was seconded.

13-GS-40 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to close debate on the amendment.

13-GS-41 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes not to approve the amendment to Line 1149.

Erik Koepnick (WISC) offered the following amendment to Line 1151:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests that the Collegium of Officers of the United Church of Christ and the United

Church Board, in covenant and cooperation with the Council of Conference Ministers and closely related seminaries, implement a Seminarian Fund Initiative to generate one million dollars per year for members in discernment seminarian scholarships.

The motion was seconded and Mr. Koepnick spoke to his motion.

Discussion on the amendment:

Andrew Warner (WISC) expressed the need to make this resolution explicit. Previous resolutions have requested action on this issue, but nothing has been accomplished. If we don't address seminary debt, only the wealthy will become pastors.

Miguel Frias (ILL) requested clarification. The amendment proposed says seminary about three times. Does this only address seminarians and not lay leaders?

Jorge Bautista (CA NV, N) stated that his seminary education will end with a debt of over \$100,000. He will take the risk for ministry because he truly feels called by God.

Brenda Brown (RM) feels the intent of the resolution is to put forward a commitment for theological education, not to micromanage the Collegium. Please reject the amendment and trust the Collegium to take this conversation seriously.

Mr. Herb Oliver (ME) called the question and the motion was seconded.

13-GS-42 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to end debate on the amendment.

Alan Miller (PNE) requested the Moderator review this morning's votes since some of the delegations just arrived. Moderator Tigner agreed.

13-GS-43 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes not to approve the amendment to Line 1151.

Bill Imes (LCM) called the question on the original motion, as amended.

13-GS-44 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to close debate on the resolution Calling for All Church Offering for Supporting the Educational Expenses of Members in Discernment Preparing for Authorized Ministry of the United Church of Christ, as amended.

13-GS-45 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to approve the resolution Calling for All Church Offering for Supporting the Educational Expenses of Members in Discernment Preparing for Authorized Ministry of the United Church of Christ, as amended.

**CALLING FOR ALL CHURCH OFFERING FOR SUPPORTING THE
EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES OF MEMBERS IN DISCERNMENT PREPARING FOR
AUTHORIZED MINISTRY OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

WHEREAS, God provides for God's church by calling and gifting persons for ministry in a variety of ways, including pastoral leadership for the church itself;

WHEREAS, the church participates in this providence of God by equipping and authorizing the ministries of some of its called and gifted members through theological education and ordination or commissioning;

WHEREAS, the well-being of the church of Jesus Christ, and particularly of each local church, is enhanced by calling faithful, educated and competent pastors, teachers and other leaders, and is jeopardized by the unavailability of such leadership;

WHEREAS, the church has historically provided for its leadership needs through institutions of theological-pastoral education;

WHEREAS, General Synod III phased out national, direct support to seminaries and called upon Conferences and local churches to assume this responsibility; and General Synod X urged each local church to support the seven closely related (now the seven seminaries of the United Church of Christ) seminary or seminaries in its region at a level equivalent to two percent of its operating budget, but few local churches have done so;

WHEREAS, the cost of educating persons for ministerial leadership has gradually shifted from the church itself to the persons themselves, and, inclusive of living expenses, has increased to 4,000 per year and more to many seminarians;

WHEREAS, many of the current generation of seminary graduates have borrowed large sums of money—often \$30,000 to \$50,000 in addition to any undergraduate student loans still being carried—to complete their theological education and one seminary’s average student loan for the year 1996-97 alone was \$10,200;

WHEREAS, indebted seminary graduates must seek starting salaries sufficient to enable debt repayment on top of costs of living, while the salaries offered by many local churches are marginal at best and inadequate to do so, and these local churches are increasingly hard-pressed to finance even marginally-paid leadership;

WHEREAS, these trends point toward a dearth of church leadership, with only wealthy persons being able to afford to answer God’s call to full-time leadership and only wealthy churches being able to call them;

WHEREAS, the fund-raising efforts of the seminaries of the United Church of Christ and of the Make A Difference Campaign, although providing some increase in scholarship resources, have not been sufficient to stave off these trends;

WHEREAS, all the previous whereas clauses were taken directly from the action of the Twenty-first General Synod “Prevention and Reduction of Seminarians’ Educational Debt” (97GS40) and have not been sufficiently addressed;

WHEREAS, the multiple paths of ministry provide for greater diversity of educational preparation but do not eliminate the need for financial support for members in discernment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests the Collegium of Officers of the United Church of Christ to develop a plan and an implementation schedule for an annual all- church offering or other possible funding initiatives to provide tuition assistance for theological education for members in discernment with associations of the United Church of Christ.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ recommends that the Collegium of Officers of the United Church of Christ explore the feasibility of offering low-interest loans to United Church of Christ members in discernment with a report delivered to the Thirtieth General Synod.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Collegium be requested to present an actionable plan as quickly as possible and no later than the Thirtieth General Synod in 2015.

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.

In compliance with the Standing Rules the following Minority Report was voted in Plenary 8.

MINORITY REPORT ON THE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN ALL CHURCH OFFERING FOR SUPPORTING THE EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES OF MEMBERS IN DISCERNMENT PREPARING FOR AUTHORIZED MINISTRY OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Many who opposed the resolution from Committee 5 did so because we desired a stronger response to the problem of seminarian debt, including a special offering. We call on all expressions of the United Church of Christ to faithfully engage this issue.

4. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Norman Jackson (former Moderator) requested the United Church of Christ find resources for the development of American Indian pastors.

5. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF OUTDOOR MINISTRIES OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Moderator Tigner called on Ms. Penny Lowes, Chairperson of the Executive Council, to introduce the resolution In Support of Outdoor Ministries of the United Church of Christ. On behalf of the Executive Council, Ms. Lowes moved adoption of the resolution In Support of Outdoor Ministries of the United Church of Christ and yielded her time to Ms. Ann Hughes (CONN) to speak to the resolution.

4. Tyler Smith (SOC) and friends invited persons to consider their application for new leadership at Lancaster Theological Seminary.
5. Cathy Burbury and Nila Fitzgerald (WIS) invited delegates to join them in the recognition of David Moyer, retired Wisconsin Conference Minister.
6. Diane Johnson (CA NV, N) invited qualified persons to apply for the “Change-maker” Scholarships available at Pacific School of Religion. Fifteen scholarships are available for students of color. Applications are due July 15, 2013.
7. Brigit Stevens (MINN) expressed appreciation to the Local Arrangements Committee for providing superb child care.
8. Louie Blue Coat (CAIM) extended an invitation to groups to partner with CAIM in keeping the stories of Native Americans alive. He also acknowledged Mr. Norm Jackson’s leadership role as the first Native American Moderator of the South Dakota conference.
9. Kelli Parrish Lucas (CA NV, S) spoke on behalf of the UCC Disability Ministry’s program “Widening The Welcome.” She invited delegates to use the resources available through the Mental Health Network on line at uccdm.org.
10. Libby Tigner (CA NV, S) expressed thanks and appreciation to all the national staff who are the unsung heroes who work at 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH.

Mr. Holeman thanked the participants and Mr. Dick Sparrow for his work at the SpeakOut! Coordinator.

3. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. Holeman acknowledged Ms. Twila Rhodes (FLA) who celebrated the fact that forty-three persons met for the organizational meeting of the Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries over lunch.

4. MINORITY REPORT ON THE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN ALL CHURCH OFFERING FOR SUPPORTING THE EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES OF MEMBERS IN DISCERNMENT PREPARING FOR AUTHORIZED MINISTRY OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST.

Mr. Holeman reported the vote in affirmation of Committee 5’s resolution passed with a sixty-five percent vote. According to the By-laws and Standing Rules, a minority resolution is allowed.

The Minority Resolution is the exclusive subject of those who voted against the resolution. Debate is reserved to those who are eligible to vote. Passage will require a majority of those who voted “no.” If the minority resolution passes, it will be attached to the main resolution.

Mr. Joshua Simon (WIS) moved the adoption of the following Minority Resolution:

Many who opposed the resolution from Committee 5 did so because they desired a stronger response to the problem of seminarian debt, including a special offering. We call on all expressions of the United Church of Christ to faithfully engage this issue.

Mr. Simon then spoke to the resolution.

Discussion:

Mr. Miguel Friaz (ILL) expressed opposition to the Minority Resolution indicating there were other ways to leadership, not necessarily through seminary.

Ms. Alison Morales (CA NV,S) shared that serving on the search committee of a small church allowed her to encounter a number of clergy candidates who cannot afford to accept a call to a small church because they have to make their decision based on finances.

Ms. Lynda Bigler (LCM) indicated the previous amendments to the original resolution were not necessary. One does not need to have an MDiv degree in order to be a minister anymore.

Ms. Carole Barner (MOMS) shared that not all have the capacity to attend seminary. When mission is highlighted, the money will follow. Please pray for the Collegium and for all members in discernment to make theological education a priority in all forms.

Mr. Adrian Maxey (KO) called the question and the motion was seconded.

13-GS-54 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to close debate.

13-GS-55 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod adopts the minority resolution:

5. RESOLUTION AGAINST BULLYING AND DISCRIMINATION

Assistant Moderator Holeman called upon Ms. Kathy Rahorst, Chairperson of Committee 3, to present the recommended actions from that committee.

Ms. Rahorst moved that the Twenty-ninth General Synod adopt the Resolution Against Bullying and Discrimination.

Discussion:

Mr. Charles Wildman (MASS) expressed appreciation to the Central Atlantic Conference for originating the resolution. He would like to see a broader discussion of bullying in terms of the connection between churches and lay leaders where pastors have been driven out.

Ms. Kelli Parrish Lucas (JWM) spoke from a personal perspective as a victim in the workplace and even in seminary. Prayerfully consider what it means for us as a church here.

Ms. Colleen Samson (SOC) reported that much attention has been given to the bullying of children. This behavior is not acceptable anywhere, especially in our churches. We say everyone is welcome, but persist in behaviors that are not welcoming. It must stop in all forms.

Mr. Tim Gormley (ME) moved to amend that the items listed in Lines 1070 to 1072 be listed in alphabetical order. The motion was seconded.

A motion was made to close debate on the amendment.

13-GS-56 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod voted to close debate on the amendment.