

Assistant Moderator Ms. Dale Bonds invited all national staff members to join her on the stage. She then invited everyone to formally express their appreciation to the staff, including those who work with the Pension Boards and the United Church Funds. The delegates and visitors responded with a standing ovation.

7. SUSPENSION OF THE ORDER OF THE DAY

Mr. Adrian Maxey (KO) requested that the Order of the Day be suspended until the resolutions are completed.

Ms. Marilyn Pagan-Banks (EC) and Mr. Dwayne Royster (EC) requested to speak to the decision of the Supreme Court regarding Voter Rights.

Section 4 and 4b of the 1965 Voter Rights Act has just been struck down by the Supreme Court. The Court stated the rationale of the provision was needed at that time, but not now. Texas is creating some of the most stringent voter identification laws in our nation. Some of the most marginalized voters in Texas are being excluded. This represents an unjust policy and reverts to laws of the Jim Crow era. There were those who died so that the Voting Rights Act in 1965 would be passed. Historically our denomination has stood as leaders calling for God's vision and justice. It was requested by the Council of Racial Ethnic Ministries that we:

1. Call upon the Collegium to issue a press release naming the sinister nature of the vote
2. Request Justice and Witness Ministries to call upon Congress
3. Request that Justice and Witness Ministries partner with national faith-based movements, including the NAACP and the Lawyers Committee on Civil Rights to resist this decision.

Delegates were asked to stand or raise their hands as an expression of solidarity.

Ms. Pagan-Banks reminded everyone of Micah 6: 8 – What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

The Twenty-ninth General Synod affirms by acclamation the request from the Council of Racial Ethnic Ministries.

8. RESOLUTION ADVOCATING FOR FUNDING TO CONSTRUCT QUALITY AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Assistant Moderator Bonds called on Ms. Sharon Davis (ILL), Chairperson of Committee 7, to present the actions from that committee.

Ms. Davis moved that the Twenty-ninth General Synod adopt the resolution Advocating for Funding to construct Quality Affordable Housing.

13-GS-61 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod adopts the resolution Advocating for Funding to Construct Quality Affordable Housing.

**ADVOCATING FOR FUNDING TO CONSTRUCT
QUALITY AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

WHEREAS, the senior population in the United States will double by 2030; and

WHEREAS, senior homelessness is projected to grow 33% by 2020 and 50% by 2050; and

WHEREAS, Section 202 provides quality affordable housing to just over 300,000 extremely low-income seniors throughout the US; and

WHEREAS, not one dollar was provided for new developments in 2012 and the 2013 funding is being debated; and

WHEREAS, there are over ten persons on waiting lists nationally for every housing unit which becomes available; and

WHEREAS, there is currently a gap of 5 ½ million units of quality, affordable housing for families; and

WHEREAS, the low-income housing tax credits help to address that gap; and

WHEREAS, the low-income housing tax credit program may come up for negotiation; and

WHEREAS, quality affordable housing for seniors, families and persons living with disabilities is very beneficial to our nation, creates significant savings in other parts of our federal and state budgets, and addresses the Biblical mandate to provide for “the least of these;”

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon all United Church of Christ conferences, congregations, members and friends, along with the Covenanted and Associated Ministries of the church’s National Setting, to express to the federal Administration and to members of the United States Congress support for:

- restoration of ongoing and robust funding for new construction of quality affordable housing under HUD Section 202 and Section 811; and,
- for the continuation and strengthening of the low-income housing tax credit program.

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.