

- reform of the corporate income tax to 1) boost revenue, 2) close loopholes and stop the use of tax havens, and 3) end incentives that encourage corporations to move jobs offshore;
- a tax system that is progressive, fair, neutral, adequate, and redistributive; and,
- we call upon national staff to explore effectiveness and implications of carbon taxes.

FUNDING

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

IMPLEMENTATION

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.

10. RESOLUTION FOR A CALL TO RESPOND TO VIOLENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN HONDURAS RESULTING FROM ILLEGAL DRUGS TRAFFICKING IN THE UNITED STATES

Ms. Bonds called upon Ms. Hannah Snyder-Samuelsan, Chairperson of Committee 12, to present the recommended actions from that committee.

Ms. Snyder-Samuelsan moved that the Twenty-ninth General Synod adopt the resolution for A Call to Respond to Violence and Human Rights Violations in Honduras Resulting from Illegal Drugs Trafficking in the United States.

Discussion:

Ms. Marcia Charles (EC) spoke as one of the primary writers of the resolution. She has taken work teams to Honduras, where people have no shoes and no food. Schools are fenced to keep children safe. She urged delegates to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Honduras who have not been forgotten by God.

Mr. James Gottwald (PNE) expressed concern with the resolution. Having worked for fifteen years in Guatemala, he has seen gang violence, but his concern is that the resolution focuses on drug trafficking and not education.

Ms. Susie Craig (ME) spoke in support of the resolution saying that we enjoy freedom of speech while our Honduran brothers and sisters do not. When they do speak, they put themselves in jeopardy.

Mr. Drew McLaren (WCM) moved to amend Line 1417, adding “and drug policy.” The motion was seconded and Mr. McLaren spoke to his amendment.

Mr. Tyler Connoley (WCM) stated we need to look at more than foreign policy. We need to address the war on drugs.

Caroline Dean (CAC) called the question and the motion was seconded.

13-GS-63 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to close debate on the amendment.

13-GS-64 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to adopt the amendment to add “and drug policy” to Line 1417.

William Peltz (CONN) asked what this amendment means as far as interaction with Hondurans. Lloyd Snyder (CA NV, N) worked on the streets in California as a probation officer and has seen extreme use of drugs and their effects. He has been to Honduras and Guatemala. We can’t blame them, but must blame the consumers north of the border. We must stand with them and accept that the buyers are driving this trade.

Samuel Conde (FLA) called the question on the original motion and the motion was seconded.

13-GS-65 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to close debate on the resolution.

13-GS-66 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to adopt the resolution for A Call to Respond to Violence and Human Rights Violations in Honduras Resulting from Illegal Drugs Trafficking in the United States.

**A CALL TO RESPOND TO VIOLENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN
HONDURAS RESULTING FROM ILLEGAL DRUG TRAFFICKING AND
DRUG POLICY IN THE UNITED STATES**

WHEREAS, Honduras has experienced a rise in gang violence - it now has the highest homicide rate per capita in the world with 6,200 killings, or 82.1 murders per 100,000 inhabitants in 2010 alone (UN report, 10/2011); and

WHEREAS, this gang violence is directly connected to the trafficking of illegal drugs that are eventually sold here in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the pastors and churches and people of faith in Honduras are unable to speak out against the gangs and the illegal drug trade without the risk of retaliation that threatens their personal safety; and

WHEREAS, we in this country have the freedom to speak out against the drug-related violence that threatens the quality of life of the people in Honduras; and

WHEREAS, we have the responsibility to discourage complacency by raising the awareness of the struggles that others face;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod, gathering in Long Beach, California, calls upon this gathering, the United Church of Christ, its congregations, and wider church settings to raise awareness and engage in educational activities on how the sale and consumption of illegal drugs in this country result in violence and exacerbates human rights violations that threaten not only the quality of life, but life itself, for our sisters and brothers in Honduras; and

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that since pastors in Honduras cannot speak out against the gangs and the violence without risk to their personal safety, the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges pastors in churches throughout the United Church of Christ to speak out from their pulpits to give voice to the Hondurans' plight; and

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon Wider Church Ministries and Justice and Witness Ministries to serve as a resource of information and an active support network, and to provide primary and secondary levels of intervention for advocacy regarding the on-going struggle of our Honduran brothers and sisters; and

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon our ecumenical partners to advocate for peace and justice and human rights in Honduras; and

LET IT BE RESOLVED, the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages the churches of the United Church of Christ, in a spirit of solidarity, to hold the people of Honduras and our global partners in prayer; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages the United Church of Christ in its various settings to call on our nation's governmental leaders to reassess and recreate our U.S. foreign policy and drug policy to address this situation of human rights violations, illegal drug trafficking, and violence that impacts the quality of life in Honduras.

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.

11. RESOLUTION ON MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL COAL MINING IN APPALACHIA

Assistant Moderator Bonds called on Ms. Carolyn Keilig, Chairperson of Committee 4, to present the recommended actions from that committee.

Ms. Keilig moved that the Twenty-ninth General Synod adopt the resolution on Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining in Appalachia.

Discussion:

Mr. Samuel Conte (FLA) shared his personal experience of being from the area. His grandmother is buried on the side of a mountain and he has witnessed mountaintop mining.