

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.

**13-GS-67 VOTED:** The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to adopt the resolution on Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining in Appalachia.

**MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL COAL MINING IN APPALACHIA**

WHEREAS, mountaintop removal coal mining destroys God's creation by blowing up mountains and burying streams throughout Appalachia; and

WHEREAS, mountaintop removal coal mining harms Appalachian communities; and

WHEREAS, mountaintop removal coal mining causes the displacement of entire Appalachian communities and their culture; and

WHEREAS, as people of faith, we look to the scriptures for guidance for the choices we make in our lives; and

WHEREAS, we understand scriptures compel us to act on our faith grounded in wonder, reverence, love, and respect for all of God's creation; and

WHEREAS, we are called to spiritual and lifestyle transformation based on justice and reverence for all of God's creatures and creation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ express its opposition to mountaintop removal coal mining and its support for clean, renewable sources of energy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests Justice and Witness Ministries to share these concerns about mountaintop removal coal mining by presenting a copy of this resolution to all appropriate federal and state agencies, congressional committees and elected officials;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges the legislative and executive branches of the federal government to pass legislation and enforce environmental safeguards to end the devastating practice of mountaintop removal coal mining;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon Justice and Witness Ministries, to provide associations, conferences, and congregations with information and timely direction for needed action that can help end mountaintop removal coal mining;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages United Church of Christ congregations and all other settings of the church to identify their sources of electricity and, if sourced from mountaintop removal coal mining, encourages them to change to renewable sources of energy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages United Church of Christ congregations to educate themselves and their communities about the effects of mountaintop removal coal mining and economic options available to Appalachian communities, by intentionally engaging in advocacy and action against mountaintop removal coal mining and for continued care of creation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ advocates for renewable energy and sustainable sources of income to replace mountaintop removal coal mining in Appalachia in order to create jobs and boost local economies and encourages United Church of Christ congregations to do likewise.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ asks the leadership of the United Church of Christ to continue efforts to end mountaintop removal coal mining and engage leaders of other religious traditions and relevant organizations to implement efforts to stop mountaintop removal coal mining.

### **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.

### **12. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE**

Mr. Marvin Morgan (Past Moderator) acknowledged the applause and recognition of national staff, however, he reflected that there is an absence of black male clergy. Dr. Charles Cobb was quoted as reminding us there is a tendency to do the right thing when pushed, but as soon as we stop pushing and crying out, the retrenchment begins.

### **13. INVITATION TO THE THIRTIETH GENERAL SYNOD**

Ms. Bonds invited Mr. Phil Hart, incoming Conference Minister of the Ohio Conference, for an invitation to the Thirtieth General Synod in 2015.

Mr. Hart expressed appreciation for the hospitality of our hosts, the California Nevada Southern Conference. He invited the United Church of Christ to Cleveland, Ohio in 2015, the birthplace of both Rock 'n Roll and Superman, as well as the birthplace of the United Church of Christ in 1957.

### **14. THANKS AND RECOGNITION OF THE LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE**

Ms. Bonds called on Associate General Minister Mr. W. Mark Clark for a word of thanks to our Local Arrangements Committee and volunteers from the California Nevada Southern Conference. Four hundred fifty-three volunteers participated and every single congregation in the conference was visited and asked to support this General Synod.