

Ms. Artt thanked the Committee Process Team, Mr. Roy Mosley (NCNC), Mr. Dennis Frische-Mouri (IK), Ms. Susan Townsley (CONN), and team leader Mr. David Anderson (PNW). She then asked the Committee Chairs to stand and be recognized and thanked all of them for their hard work and diligence.

## **7. RESOLUTION ON FULL COMMUNION RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

Ms. Artt invited Mr. Wilson to the podium to present the Resolution on Full Communion with the United Church of Canada. Mr. Wilson deferred to Ms. Thompson, UCC Ecumenical Officer, to speak to the resolution.

Discussion:

Mr. David Greenhaw (President Eden Seminary) spoke in favor.

Mr. Mike Denton, Conference Minister (PNW) spoke in favor.

Ms. Bernice Powell Jackson (FLA) spoke in favor.

Mr. David Beebe (MOMS) spoke in favor.

Question from the floor: Ms. Brenda James (SOC) How would this resolution be staffed and how would it impact the budget?

Answer: Ms. Thompson indicated that at the present time there would be no staff sharing and it, therefore, would not affect the budget.

**15-GS-14 VOTED:** The Thirtieth General Synod adopts the resolution on Full Communion Relationship Between the United Church of Christ and the United Church of Canada.

### ***RESOLUTION ON FULL COMMUNION RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA***

*WHEREAS, the gospel of Jesus Christ unites Christ's followers in a single community of faith and compels us to make our unity visible so "that the world may believe..." John 17:21, cf. Eph. 4:4-6, 1 Cor. 12:12-26);*

*WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ (USA) and the United Church of Canada entered into formal ecumenical partnership in 2013, with action of the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ and action by the General Council of the United Church of Canada, with the commitment to continued ecumenical engagement and interaction to promote common witness;*

*WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ and the United Church of Canada have common ecumenical partners, vision of the Church, and commitment to social justice, the inclusion of all persons, and to a diverse theological expression;*

*WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ and the United Church of Canada in our local churches, Conferences, and in national and international settings are witnessing significant signs of the movement of the Holy Spirit toward unity;*

*WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ and the United Church of Canada entered into a year of common discernment to seek God's will and direction for ways to live as the one body of Christ;*

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, meeting in Cleveland, Ohio (26-30 June 2015) and the 42nd General Council of the United Church of Canada meeting in Corner Brook, Newfoundland (8-15 August 2015) make the following mutual declarations:*

*The Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ acknowledges and celebrates before God that the United Church of Canada is an authentic, faithful part of the one, universal body of Christ.*

*The Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ declares and celebrates that a relationship of full communion now exists between the United Church of Canada and the United Church of Christ (USA), by which we mean that both churches will pursue with intention ways of expressing the unity of the Church. This includes mutual commitment to recognizing ordained ministers of each partner church are truly ministers of word and sacrament, and ways of manifesting the common mission of witness and service.*

*The Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ (USA) commits itself to work, with God's help and together with its partner churches, to effect greater unity in the whole church of Jesus Christ.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ (USA) encourages study of biblical, theological, and practical implications of full communion with the United Church of Canada and authorizes the General Minister and President to work collaboratively with the General Secretary of the United Church of Canada to appoint members of a United Church Partnership Committee to give guidance to this process.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a United Church Partnership Committee be established to give leadership to living into the possibilities of this full communion relationship through shared mission and ministry.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Thirtieth General Synod receive the final report of the joint full communion working group, including the possibilities presented for common life and witness together.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the full communion partnership between the United Church of Canada and the United Church of Christ commence with the signing of the common agreement by the two Heads of Communion at a joint service of celebration that will include opportunities for local congregations and conferences across the two churches to celebrate in meaningful ways.*

**FUNDING**

*Funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected ministries and the funds available.*

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

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

## **8. COMMEMORATING 100 YEARS SINCE THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE**

Ms. Artt called on Ms. Bonds, Vice Chair of the Business Committee, to present the resolution. Following her presentation Ms. Bonds moved that the Thirtieth General Synod approve the resolution. She called on Mr. Moos, Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries, to speak to the resolution.

Discussion:

Ron Patterson (Business Committee) spoke in favor of the resolution.

**15-GS-15 VOTED:** The Thirtieth General Synod adopted the resolution Commemorating 100 Years Since the Armenian Genocide.

### ***RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING 100 YEARS SINCE THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE***

*WHEREAS, 2015 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in Anatolia (modern-day Turkey) in the Ottoman Empire, during which 1.5 million Armenians were killed and more than 1 million displaced between 1915 and 1923;*

*WHEREAS, surviving Armenians and their descendants who are still impacted by memory and consequences of the events, and many others, continue to seek recognition of the Genocide by Turkey, the US, and other governments of the world as a form of affirmation, of acknowledgement of truth, and of historical justice, asserting that time alone is not a remedy;*

*WHEREAS, missionaries of our church witnessed, documented, and advocated for an end to the massacres with local and international officials, and the United Church of Christ continues to maintain close relationships with Armenians ecumenically and globally, most particularly with the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East and the Armenian Missionary Association of America—relationships that have had mutual impact among Armenians and among members of our church;*

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ marks the occasion of the centennial commemoration of the Armenian Genocide with lament for the lives that were lost, and for the lack of recognition by governments of the world, most notably Turkey and the US, of the historical event of the Genocide;*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ gives thanks for the faithful witness and presence of the Armenian Christian community, and offers prayers for its continued strength particularly as it is affected by the ongoing crisis in Syria, where many Genocide survivors resettled;*