

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 100th 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;

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ reiterates its abhorrence when peoples and communities are made victims of violence, particularly when based on race, ethnicity, creed, or any other aspect of identity. Taken to the ultimate manifestation, such victimization constitutes genocide, a crime that should be prevented, halted, recognized, and acknowledged, in order to protect the communities, and offer recognition of the injustice it represents.

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.

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9. RESOLUTION URGING SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT PRACTICES

Ms. Artt called on Ms. Crystal McCormick (IA), chair of the committee, to present the resolution. Ms. McCormick moved that the Thirtieth General Synod approve the resolution as amended. Thereafter, Ms. McCormick also spoke to the resolution on behalf of the committee.

Discussion:

Mr. Michael Downs (Chief Executive Office of the Pension Board) spoke in favor of the resolution.

Ms. Sheldon Culver (IS), Member of the Pension Board of the United Church of Christ spoke in favor of the resolution.

Mr. Patrick Cage (MASS) brought an amendment to the floor, seconded by Mr. Mark Pullman (MASS).

Amendment: Replace “shareholder advocacy” with “socially responsible investing practices” in paragraph identified as lines 1130-1139.

10. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. Chris Davis (Coalition for LGBT Concerns) Reminder to not assume gender identity when calling on individuals at the microphones.

Mr. Don Hart (UCF) spoke in favor of the amendment.

Mr. Graylan Hagler (MRSEJ) Asked for clarification and then spoke against the amendment.

Ms. Dawn Garrett Larson (NH) spoke in favor of the amendment.

(Name not provided) spoke against the amendment.

Mr. Tim White (MASS) spoke in favor of the amendment.