

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in order to bring to life God's vision for the world, a choice to invest in a socially responsible manner should not stand alone, but should be complemented by those other acts of witness that speak truth to power, using the ways and means available to each individual or organization to demand justice by sharing efforts, policies, results, and experiences of social justice witness through socially responsible investing and through regular reporting and presentations at future General Synods as an important overall witness of the UCC to advocate for justice, peace, human rights, and the environmental well-being of the planet.

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

11. CELEBRATION OF THE MINISTRY OF LINDA JARAMILLO

Ms. Artt called on Mr. Wilson for a special presentation.

Mr. Wilson asked the General Synod to pause to honor one of our national officers who will be ending her ministry with us to embark on a well-deserved retirement. Ms. Linda Jaramillo, Executive Minister for Justice and Witness Ministries, will step down in September from the position she has held since 2005.

As the first Latina to serve as an Officer of the United Church of Christ, Ms. Jaramillo has been a steadfast and tireless advocate for justice, peace, and the rights of all people everywhere. She is a former president and vice-president of the Council for Hispanic Ministries, co-convenor of the Council of Racial and Ethnic Ministries, and a UCC delegate to the World Council of Churches Assembly in Zimbabwe. She is a former Assistant Moderator of the General Synod, the Twenty-third in Kansas City. Her contributions as an Executive Minister will be missed.

A video in honor of Ms. Jaramillo was shown, followed by a standing ovation of the General Synod body and a word of thanks and gratitude from Ms. Jaramillo.

12. MUSIC/STRETCH BREAK

13. RESOLUTION TO CHANGE THE RACIALLY DEMEANING NAME, MASCOT, AND IMAGERY OF THE WASHINGTON NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE TEAM

Ms. Artt invited Ms. Andrea Davis (SW), committee chair, to present the resolution. Ms. Davis moved that the Thirtieth General Synod approved the resolution as amended by the committee. Thereafter, Ms. Davis also spoke to the resolution on behalf of the committee.

Discussion:

Mr. John Deckenback (CAC) spoke in favor of the resolution, asking the body to say no to racially demeaning names in mascots and imagery.

Mr. Lloyd Schneider (NCNC) spoke in favor of the resolution.

Ms. Emily Heath (NH) spoke in favor of the resolution.

Mr. John Palowski (IS) spoke against the resolution, saying the resolution doesn't go far enough.

Mr. Bradley Thomas (CAC) spoke in favor of the resolution.

Ms. Marjorie Deaner (PW) spoke against the resolution.

Brave Flying Woman (SD) gave a passionate and emotional plea to vote in favor of the resolution.

15-GS-19 VOTED: The Thirtieth General Synod adopts the Resolution to Change the Racially Demeaning Name, Mascot, and Imagery of the Washington National Football League Team.

RESOLUTION TO CHANGE THE RACIALLY DEMEANING NAME, MASCOT, AND IMAGERY OF THE WASHINGTON NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE TEAM

WHEREAS, all human beings are created in the image of God (Genesis 1: 27);

WHEREAS, Jesus calls us to love one another as he has loved us (John 15: 12-17);

WHEREAS, Paul admonishes us to work for peace and mutual up building (Romans 14: 18-19);

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ is committed to the elimination of all forms of discrimination;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ adopted at General Synod 18 (1991) a resolution condemning negative stereotyping of Native Americans;

WHEREAS, the use of racist imagery is an affront to basic human rights, undermines basic human dignity, and has a negative impact upon self-image, self-awareness, and self-esteem;

WHEREAS, the use of racist language and stereotypes continues to exploit and degrade Native American culture;

WHEREAS, the abuse of Native American symbols, such as the headdress and sacred pipe, for entertainment and profit is insensitive, insulting, and an affront to Native American spirituality and is, therefore, unacceptable;

WHEREAS, not only many professional, semi-professional, amateur, collegiate, and high and grade school sports teams throughout the United States but also (and particularly egregiously) the highly visible professional football team located in our nation's capital still employs racially derogatory and demeaning symbols, mascots, and names;

WHEREAS, the Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines "redskin" as a "usually offensive" term to describe American Indians and this term, when used in reference to Native American cultures and people, has a history of use as a pejorative and insulting name ;

WHEREAS, the term “redskins” would not properly be used by a person when addressing a Native American and should not be used to market a professional sports team;

WHEREAS, the use of the term “Redskins” for the team mascot and nickname of the Washington National Football League team is offensive and hurtful to many Native Americans and causes direct harmful effects to the public health and wellbeing of the Native American population ; and

WHEREAS, every major Native American organization, along with hundreds of clergy, churches, civil rights organizations, media outlets, sports writers and journalists, authors and elected officials (including the President of the United States), has voiced support for changing the team name;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the National Football League’s Washington franchise to change its team name and to refrain from the use of any images, mascots, or behaviors that are or could be properly deemed harmful or demeaning to Native American cultures or peoples;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ will communicate in writing this resolution to the owner of the Washington National Football League team, Daniel Snyder, and to the NFL Commissioner, Roger Goodell, and to the NFL Players Association, DeMaurice Smith, Executive Director;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ will communicate this resolution to the various conferences, affiliated and associated ministries, and instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ, and will proclaim it to the wider public through social and other media;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges individual churches and members of the United Church of Christ to communicate their concerns regarding this matter to both the Washington National Football League team and the National Football League by writing to:

*Daniel Snyder
Owner
Redsk*ns Park
21300 Redsk*ns Park Drive
Ashburn VA 20147-6100
703-726-7000*

*Roger Goodell
Commissioner
National Football League
280 Park Avenue 15th Floor
New York, NY 10017
212-450-2000*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges individual churches and members of the United Church of Christ to join a boycott of games played by the Washington National Football League team and not wear, display, or purchase any items with the Washington National Football League team logo until the name changes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ supports the Oneida Indian Nation’s “Change the Mascot” campaign and will contact its staff to determine the best means of support and solidarity; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon other sports teams to eradicate the use of names, images, mascots, and behaviors that are or could be properly deemed harmful or demeaning to Native American cultures or people.

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

14. PRUDENTIAL RESOLUTION OF THE JUST PEACE MOVEMENT

Ms. Artt called on Ms. Sheila Guiluamme, Mr. Mike Neuroth and Ms. Susan Thistlethwaite to offer a reflection and video on the Just Peace movement.

Ms. Artt called on Ms. Bonds to introduce the resolution which is coming directly to plenary with a recommendation that it be adopted. Ms. Bonds moved the adoption of the Resolution marking the Thirtieth Anniversary of Recommitting Ourselves to a Just Peace Church.

Discussion:

Mr. Paul Chip Jahn (IK) spoke in favor of the resolution.

Mr. Jim Antal (MASS) spoke in favor of the resolution.

Ms. Yvonne Delk (SOC) spoke in favor of the resolution.

Mr. David Greenhaw (Eden Seminary) spoke in favor of the resolution.

15-GS-20 VOTED: The Thirtieth General Synod votes to adopt the resolution marking the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Just Peace Pronouncement by recommitting ourselves to be a Just Peace Church.

***RESOLUTION MARKING THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
JUST PEACE PRONOUNCEMENT BY RECOMMITTING OURSELVES TO BE
A JUST PEACE CHURCH***

WHEREAS, scripture calls us to seek God's shalom and participate in the reconciling mission of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

WHEREAS, at its Fifteenth General Synod in Ames, Iowa the General Synod adopted the pronouncement "Affirming the United Church of Christ as a Just Peace Church," and called on its local churches, conferences and national bodies to "organize their common life so as to make a difference in the achieving of a Just Peace and the ending of the institution of war."

WHEREAS, in the thirty years since the adoption of the Just Peace pronouncement, we have seen protracted violent conflicts, intractable systemic injustices, and crippling cultural prejudices resolved using just peacemaking practices.