

Retiring Conference Ministers:

Mr. Douglas Anders – South Central Conference
Ms. Sheldon Culver – Illinois South Conference

New Conference Ministers:

Mr. David Ackermann – Penn West Conference
Mr. Franz Rigert – Wisconsin Conference
Ms. Diane Weible – California, Nevada Northern Conference
Mr. William Worley – Pennsylvania Southeast Conference

New Conference Ministers serving in other Conferences:

Mr. John Vertigan – Florida Conference (Indiana-Kentucky Conference)

Conference Ministers who have been elected who will begin later this year:

Ms. Deborah Blood – Maine Conference
Mr. Gordon Rankin – South Dakota Conference

Interim/Acting/Designated Conference Ministers:

Ms. Sue Artt – Rocky Mountain Conference
Ms. June Boutwell – Southeast Conference
Mr. Allen Fluent – Missouri Mid-South Conference
Mr. Phil Hart – Consulting Conference Minister, Indiana Kentucky Conference
Mr. Ken Heasley - Penn Central Conference (not present)
Ms. Barbara Libby – Rhode Island Conference
Ms. Ann Humble – South Central Conference

The new and retiring conference ministers were recognized with applause.

11. PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION ENTITLED A JUST AND COMPASSIONATE RESPONSE IN THE WAKE OF THE SHOOTINGS AT EMMANUEL AME CHURCH IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA.

Mr. Holeman introduced the resolution coming directly to the General Synod and called upon Mr. Wilson, Chair of the Business Committee to present the resolution.

Mr. Wilson asked the body to make a change in the Resolution on Line 23. The change was to change the founding date of the church from 1691 to 1681. Mr. Wilson spoke to the pain and sorrow as a result of the June 17, 2015 murder of nine people at the Emmanuel AME church and moved that the body adopt the resolution as corrected. He then called on Mr. Jeremy Rutledge to speak to the resolution. Mr. Rutledge asked those gathered to hold in prayer the people of Charleston, South Carolina, and to pass the resolution and in doing so to honor the Charleston nine and speak out against white privilege.

15-GS-34 VOTED: The Thirtieth General Synod voted to adopt the Resolution entitled A Just and Compassionate Response in the Wake of the Shootings at Emmanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina.

**A JUST AND COMPASSIONATE RESPONSE IN THE WAKE OF THE
SHOOTINGS AT EMANUEL A.M.E. CHURCH IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA**

WHEREAS, nine sisters and brothers in Christ were slain while in a Bible study at Emanuel A.M.E. Church in Charleston, South Carolina on June 17, 2015, and

WHEREAS, there exists a relationship in ministry among churches in Charleston, South Carolina that seeks to address issues of poverty and injustice including Circular Congregational Church and the Charleston Area Justice Ministry which engages in research, educates the public, and publically addresses the root causes of, and solutions to, poverty and injustice in their communities and seeks to transform the systems that cause suffering by holding local officials accountable for resolving these inequities and injustices, and

WHEREAS, the members of the Southeast Conference have sought to reach out to faith leaders in Charleston and South Carolina by presence in worship, standing in vigil, and offering prayers and solace to UCC members who lost family members in the shooting, and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has historically sought to address issues of gun violence, racism, and justice as evidenced by the resolutions “Violence in our Society and World” and “Guns and Violence” adopted by General Synod 20, “Resolution Calling on the United Church of Christ to Renew the Battle Against Racism in All of Its Guises” adopted by General Synod 24, and the pastoral letter from the Collegium in 2013 which addressed gun violence and another pastoral letter from the Collegium in 2015 on racism, “A New Awakening,” and

WHEREAS, the Confederate flag has been, and continues to be a divisive and controversial symbol of violence, discrimination, oppression, hatred and racism, and that the United Church of Christ has responded to symbols of racial oppression such as the symbolic logo of the Washington football team and the symbolic caricature of the Cleveland baseball team from the stance that justice is a theological issue, not a political issue, and that symbols that are indicative of racial oppression should be resisted;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ reach out in Christian love to communicate to the members of Emanuel A.M.E Church our deep sympathy for their loss and the shattering of safe space in their house of worship and to assure other houses of faith in Charleston that we stand in witness to their faith and courage and pray as the psalmist does that “Violence shall no more be heard in your land, devastation or destruction within your borders; you shall call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise. (Psalm 60:18)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Collegium take appropriate actions to comfort and provide support for members and pastors of the United Church of Christ who lost family on June 17, 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ stands in solidarity with South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley, the more than thirty South Carolina State Legislators, the South Carolina NAACP, South Carolina Christian Action Council, and other residents of the State of South Carolina in their call to have the Confederate flag removed from the grounds of the South Carolina State House.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages pastors and congregations to renew their efforts to address issues of racism and violence in their communities and to promote fruitful relationships with other communities of faith in their cities and towns, especially through spiritual reflection in order to better understand the roots of violence and racism in our culture, consider the resources of our faith in ending such racism and violence, and taking action in our local communities and with ecumenical and interfaith partners to address the needs of the community to restore human dignity, meet the needs of healthy and wholesome life, and show the love of God to all the world.

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.

12. DISMANTLING DISCRIMINATORY SYSTEMS OF MASS INCARCERATION IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. Holman called upon Mr. Bob Thompson (SOC) to introduce the resolution. Mr. Thompson introduced the resolution and moved that General Synod adopt the resolution as submitted with changes from the committee. Mr. Thompson also spoke to the resolution.

Discussion:

Mr. Eric Moehler (MOMS) submitted the following amendment, which was seconded:

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls for the cessation of all lock-up quotas, specifically the 34,000 immigrant detention bed quota, and the cessation of all detention facility contracts specifying a payment based on a guaranteed minimum number of detainees.”

Ms. Rebecca Glenn (SW) spoke in favor of the amendment.

(Unknown name and conference) spoke against the amendment.

Mr. Samuel Conde, (FL) Spoke in favor of the amendment

Mr. Tom Shipley (CONN) asked for clarification from the presenter of the amendment.

Mr. Thompson (SOC) indicated that his role was not to advocate or opposed the amendment but that the amendment belongs to the floor.

Mr. David Beebe (MOMS) spoke in favor of the amendment.

Mr. Irvin Milton (SOC) spoke against the amendment.

Mr. Louis Mitchell (MASS) spoke in favor of the amendment.

Ms. Diana Modoshi (NC NV, N) spoke against the amendment.

Mr. Eric Moeller (MOMS) spoke in favor of the amendment.

Mr. Paul Clay (CA NV, S) called the question and it was seconded.