

Mr. Bob Thompson (SOC) Called the Question and it was seconded.

15-GS-43 VOTED: The Thirtieth General Synod voted to end debate on the Motion.

15-GS-44 VOTED: The Thirtieth General Synod denied the Motion on the Constitution and Bylaws proposals pertaining to Governance. (2/3 vote required: Yes-401; No-249; Abstain-23)

13. ADOPTION OF UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BYLAWS RELATING TO THE INVESTMENT AND ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Holeman called upon Mr. Wilson to introduce the Second Motion Mr. Wilson moved the adoption of the United Church of Christ Bylaws relating to the Investment and Endowment Committee. Mr. Wilson deferred to Ms. Walker to speak to the Motion.

Ms. Walker spoke to the specific changes indicating that this amendment concerns the manner in which the Board sets the draw rate from the unrestricted funds in the endowment.

15-GS-45 VOTED: The Thirtieth General Synod voted in favor of the Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws regarding Investment and Endowment.

14. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE.

Mr. Black introduced the representatives of the United Church of Canada.

15. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Ms. Kelly Gallagher (CONN) requested the Board to consider arrangements to fill the Justice and Witness Ministries Executive Minister position and requested communication of the plans to the general body.

16. RESOLUTION A CALL FOR THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO TAKE ACTIONS TOWARD A JUST PEACE IN THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

Mr. Holeman called on Mr. Richard Edom, Chairperson of committee, to present the recommended action of that committee. Mr. Edom moved that the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ take actions toward a Just Peace in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. He, thereafter, spoke to the resolution.

Discussion:

Mr. John Dekenbeck (CAC) spoke in favor of the resolution.

Ms. Joann Marketto (PNE) spoke against the resolution.

17. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. Jacob Gardner (CONN) offered a prayer.

Mr. Graylan Hagler (MRSEJ) spoke in favor of the resolution.
Ms. Dawn Berry (NH) spoke against the resolution.

Ms. Debby Spearman (SE) moved an amendment as follows:

“COMMENDS United Church of Christ leadership for continuing to dialogue with major Jewish organizations and call for United Church of Christ-wide participation in a rigorous dialogue among the three Abrahamic faiths at all levels – in particular between local congregations that will be resourced with materials from the Wider Church Global Ministries Middle East and Europe office that will identify ways in which groups of congregations in different faiths can work in concert to promote sacred reconciliation among all people who are affected by the conflict in the Middle East and to influence public policies in ways that will promote peace and social justice for Palestinians and Israelis and end violence in all its forms” Seconded by Lorrin Shepherd (FLA)

Discussion on Amendment:

Ms. Marisa Brown Ludwig (MASS) spoke against the amendment.

Ms. Diane Dulin (CPC) spoke in favor of the amendment.

15-GS-46 VOTED: The Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to approve the amendment to the the Motion.

Discussion continued on the main motion:

Mr. Matt Deal (PW) made an amendment which was addressed by Mr. Eden who indicated the fullness of the proposed amendment represents material changes to the Resolution and, therefore, Mr. Holeman ruled the amendment out of order.

Discussion resumed on the original resolution:

Ms. Jeneen Kubala (OHIO) spoke against the motion.

Mr. Richard Waddell (ME) asked a question regarding voting on a previous amendment. There was a majority vote, so why was it defeated?

Mr. Holeman asked for a viewing of the vote tally again: 310 for; 271 against; and 87 abstained. Mr. Holeman indicated he stands corrected and the amendment passed.

Mr. Rick Pleva (IOWA) commented on abstentions. Do they count as yes? Mr. Holeman indicated that the answer to that question is No.

Mr. Holeman then called for discussion to continue on the Motion as amended.

Ms. Robin Bacon Huffman (CAC) spoke in favor of the resolution.

Mr. Mark Pohlman (MASS) spoke against the resolution.

Mr. Ryan Dowell Baum (IOWA) spoke in favor of the resolution.

Silas Tockey (IL) Called the Question and it was seconded.

15-GS-47 VOTED The Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to end debate on the amended motion.

18. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. Jim Antal (MASS) pointed out that it applies to everyone in every town, city and congregation in the United Church of Christ. If it passes, he is encouraging and urging everyone to make the personal commitment to stay in relationship with others of diverse faiths in and around your towns.

15-GS-48 VOTED: The Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ approved the resolution calling for a call for the United Church of Christ to take Actions toward a Just Peace in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.

A CALL FOR THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO TAKE ACTIONS TOWARD A JUST PEACE IN THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

WHEREAS, in 1985 the 15th General Synod of the United Church of Christ committed itself to be a Just Peace Church;

WHEREAS, historically the United Church of Christ has affirmed Israel's right to exist within secure and internationally recognized boundaries (GS 16[1987] and GS 18[1991]) and asserted the rights of Palestinians to enjoy sovereignty in an independent, contiguous, and viable state of their own, within secure and recognized boundaries (GS 16 [1987], GS 17[1989], and GS 18[1991]);

WHEREAS, past General Synods have identified the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land and its human rights abuses committed therein to be a major source of conflict and have called for the end of the construction and expansion of settlements (GS 18 [1991] and GS 21[1997]);

WHEREAS, the various expressions of the United Church of Christ have a long history of effectively using boycotts against products and policies (lettuce, grapes, infant formula, apartheid, etc.) to address injustices;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ is deeply committed to interfaith relationships and General Synods have confessed to the sin of anti-Semitism and proclaimed its renunciation (GS 23 [2001]) and have denounced actions against Islam or Muslims based on ignorance or fear (GS 28 [2011]);

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has historically stressed the importance of living out a Covenantal theology, whereby diverse autonomous organizations covenant to collaborate for the common good, and that through such Covenantal relationships the United Church of Christ has partnered globally with those most impacted by the continuing conflict between Palestinians and Israel;

WHEREAS, as demonstrated through ongoing dialogue and partnerships, the United Church of Christ values and nurtures its relationships with Jewish groups in the U.S. and Israel who seek justice, equality, and freedom for both peoples, including groups with differing perspectives on the conflict;

WHEREAS, Palestinians in the West Bank have lived since 1967 under Israeli military occupation that subjects them to many human rights abuses, including: loss of their land for the purpose of building Israeli settlements; limited access to their land and to each other on account of the route of the Separation Wall on occupied Palestinian territories; systematic displacement into small, non-contiguous geographic enclaves separated by barriers and checkpoints; gross inequality in the amount of water allocated to them; severe and arbitrary travel restrictions; limited access to holy sites; segregated roads; demolition of their homes; destruction of their crops by settlers and the Israeli army; and arbitrary arrest, even of children;

WHEREAS, the Israeli government has once again subjected Palestinians in Gaza to military attacks using deadly force beyond that necessary for Israel's acknowledged need for self-defense and thereby beyond that measure of proportionate response permitted by historically Christian just war theory, has destroyed Gaza's infrastructure and economy, and has imposed: severe limits on personal entry and on the entry of products essential to Gazans' well-being; fishing limits in violation of international law and the Oslo accords; and strict control of electronic communications, as well as of air and sea space;

WHEREAS, Israel has annexed Palestinian East Jerusalem and separated it from the West Bank and Gaza and continues to appropriate Palestinian properties there for Jewish settlements and to deny building permits to Palestinians, as well as to revoke the residency rights of many of its Palestinian citizens there;

WHEREAS, Israel refuses to end, but rather has sought to solidify, its occupation of territory conquered in the 1967 War, leading to numerous illegal actions and human rights abuses by the Israeli government and military in defiance of United Nations resolutions, and refuses to respect the 4th Geneva Convention as called for by the International Court of Justice in its opinion concerning the Separation Wall in the occupied Palestinian territories;

WHEREAS, our Palestinian Christian partners, seeking an alternative to violence born of hopelessness and despair, have authored Kairos Palestine 2009 - 'A Moment of Truth': A Word of Faith, Hope, and Love from the Heart of Palestinian Suffering as a call and summons to their global partners to engage in non-violent measures that will pressure Israel to end the Occupation;

WHEREAS, the resolution "Concerning the Use of Economic Leverage in Promoting Peace in the Middle East," passed by the General Synod in 2005, calls upon "the Covenanted Ministries, Pension Boards, United Church Foundation, local churches and members to use economic leverage, including, but not limited to: advocating the reallocation of US foreign aid so that the militarization of the Middle East is constrained; making positive contributions to groups and

partners committed to the non-violent resolution of the conflict; challenging the practices of corporations that gain from the continuation of the conflict; and divesting from those companies that refuse to change their practice of gain from the perpetuation of violence, including the Occupation”;

WHEREAS, despite years of corporate engagement and the submission of shareholder resolutions from United Church Funds and other religious and secular groups, few companies have withdrawn any of their operations that support the Occupation;

WHEREAS, many agencies, institutions, universities, and Christian denominations around the world are severing financial ties to companies or institutions that help sustain the Israeli occupation and now, notably, have been joined by various Jewish groups in the U.S., such as Jewish Voice for Peace and American Jews for a Just Peace-Boston, as well as Israeli groups, such as the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions and Coalition of Women for Peace, that support using boycott and divestment strategies; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ’s efforts to end the Occupation through economic leverage and advocacy for the protection of human rights of all Palestinians and Israelis are not aimed at isolating Israel or any other party but reflect the belief that engagement and communication among all affected by the current tragic situation in the Middle East are in the deepest interests of both Palestinians and Israelis;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

CALLS upon United Church of Christ churches and church members to study the Kairos Palestine document and take heed of its call for non-violent measures pressuring Israel to end the Occupation, in solidarity with the Palestinian people;

CALLS upon the United Church of Christ Board, the Pension Boards - United Church of Christ, Inc., United Church Funds, conferences, local churches, members, and other related United Church of Christ entities to divest any holdings in the following companies that have been found to profit from the occupation of the Palestinian territories by the state of Israel: Caterpillar Inc., Motorola Solutions, Hewlett-Packard Development Company LP or its successors, G4S, and Veolia Environment plus its subsidiaries;

CALLS upon the United Church of Christ Board to establish an advisory group composed of representatives from the stakeholders in this issue, with the specific assignment of developing and publishing standards by which faith-driven investment, divestment, and re-investment decisions can be made in the future;

CALLS upon all national entities of the church to boycott goods identified as produced in or using the facilities of illegal settlements located in the occupied Palestinian territories, including, but not limited to, Ahava skin care products, SodaStream products, and Hadiklaim dates; and upon church members to join boycotts of such goods in their local communities;

CALLS upon the United Church of Christ Officers of the Church and church members to persist in the request to Congress, previously made by a number of religious leaders, to ensure that U.S. aid to Israel violates neither the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act, which prohibits assistance to any country that engages in a consistent pattern of human rights violations, nor the U.S. Arms Export Control Act, which limits the use of U.S. weapons to “internal security” or “legitimate self-defense”;

COMMENDS United Church of Christ leadership for continuing to dialogue with major Jewish organizations and call for United Church of Christ-wide participation in a rigorous dialogue among the three Abrahamic faiths at all levels - in particular between local congregations – that will be resourced with materials from the Wider Church Global Ministries Middle East and Europe office that will identify ways in which groups of congregations of different faiths can work in concert to promote sacred reconciliation among all people who are affected by the conflict in the Middle East and to influence public policies in ways that will promote peace and social justice for Palestinians and Israelis and end violence in all its forms;

CALLS upon the United Church of Christ Board to monitor the implementation of this resolution by all United Church of Christ national entities and to ensure that those who manage the United Church Board’s own invested funds and who provide United Church Board employee health and pension benefits are in compliance with the resolution; and

ASKS the General Minister and President to provide an annual report to the whole church on the implementation of this resolution, including a summary of interfaith dialogue at various levels, along with examples of interfaith, congregation-to-congregation peace efforts.

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.

19. CALLING ON THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO RECOGNIZE THE ACTIONS OF ISRAEL AGAINST THE PALESTINIANS AS APARTHEID.

Mr. Holeman called upon Mr. Bill Lyons (MI) to present the recommended action by the committee. Mr. Lyons indicated that the committee significantly expanded the text of the resolution while preserving the original intent and spirit in which it was submitted. On behalf of the committee, Mr. Lyons moved that the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopt the resolution calling on the United Church of Christ to recognize the actions of Israel against the Palestinians as apartheid, as amended. Ms. Lyons then spoke the the resolution.