

8. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. Jacob Garner (CONN) objected to consideration of the resolution, stating that standing rules give authority to object when the text of a resolution brings into question the Christian faith. Ruled out of order by Moderator, but advised to bring his objection at an “Against” microphone.

Discussion:

Ms. Diana Madoshi (CA NV, N) spoke in favor of the resolution.

Mr. David Pattee (OHIO) spoke against the resolution.

Ms. Catherine Howe (NH) spoke in favor of the resolution.

Mr. David Yolida (CT) spoke against the resolution.

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

Mr. Paul Clay (CA NV, S) Called the Question, and it was seconded.

15-GS-53 VOTED: The Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to terminate debate. Motion Carried. Debate Closed. Voting in favor of terminating debate.

15-GS-54 VOTED: The Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to reject the resolution as amended. It was a resolution of witness and required a 2/3 vote. (310 for, 296 against; 28 abstentions). Motion failed.

9. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Ms. Jaramillo said a word of thanks for the 2,936 signatures regarding Racism in Baseball to the Cleveland Baseball Team. Celebrate Supreme Court Decision related to the affordable care act. Thank the US Court for looking beyond politics.

10. REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO FULL EQUALITY FOR PERSONS OF ANY SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY OF GENDER EXPRESSION.

Mr. Holeman called on Ms. Ruth Bradshaw (KO), Chair of the committee to present the recommended action of the committee to the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ. Ms. Bradshaw indicated that the committee was requesting permission to offer a substitute resolution to the body in order to capture the intent and meaning of the original resolution, and that it required a change in the name of the resolution.

Mr. Holeman indicated introducing a substitute resolution and a name change required a vote of acceptance by the body. He then asked for discussion or debate and there was none.

15-GS-55 VOTED: The Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to accept the substitute resolution entitled Reaffirming our Commitment to Full Equality for Persons of any Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity or Gender Expression to replace the original resolution entitled Our Commitment to Full Equality for LGBT Persons.

Ms. Bradshaw spoke to the resolution and called on the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ to adopt the resolution as substituted and amended by Committee.

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

Mr. Bob Thompson (SOC) spoke against the resolution.

Mr. Jacob Gardner (CONN) spoke in favor of the resolution.

Mr. Chris Davies (COALITION) spoke in favor of the resolution.

Ms. Katherine Howe (NH) Call the Question and it was seconded.

15-GS-55 VOTED. The Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to terminate debate. Motion Carried. Debate Closed. Voting in Favor of termination of debate.

15-GS-56 VOTED. The Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted in favor of the motion as substituted and amended by committee calling Reaffirming our Commitment to Full Equality for Persons of any Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity or Gender Expression.

REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO FULL EQUALITY FOR PERSONS OF ANY SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY OF GENDER EXPRESSION.

WHEREAS, General Synod and other settings of the United Church of Christ have repeatedly advocated for the equal rights and dignity of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons (LGBT) in the United States and abroad, and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ, in partnership with other churches and faith traditions, has played a key role in the passage of laws protecting the basic civil rights of protecting persons of any sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, including the right to marry, and

WHEREAS, a new political movement is advocating in many states for legislation that aims to establish broad "religious exemptions" from existing or future laws protecting the equal rights of persons of any sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression , and

WHEREAS, these laws could allow restaurant owners to refuse service to customers of any sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, landlords to refuse leases to tenants of any sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression , and other forms of discrimination against persons of any sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ reaffirms its commitment to the full legal protection of the civil rights of all persons regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity and expression,

CALLS upon congregations and all settings of the United Church of Christ to advocate for enactment of local, state and federal laws protecting persons of any sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression against discrimination in public accommodations, housing and employment,

CALLS upon congregations and all settings of the United Church of Christ to advocate on the basis of faith against legislation or executive actions that aim to establish a broad “religious exemption” to existing or future laws protecting the equal rights of persons of any sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression , and

REAFFIRMS the historic commitment of this church to religious freedom, to the right of all churches and faith communities to maintain and advocate for their own beliefs and practices, and to respectful dialogue within the United Church of Christ and with other faith communities on issues concerning human sexuality, human dignity and marriage.

FUNDING

Funding for the implementation of this 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.

11. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. Don Hart (Business Committee) requested the body to celebrate the beginning of ministry of the new Executive of CHHSM, Mr. Michael Readinger, and new Executive of the Pension Board, Mr. Brian Bodager, welcoming them as leaders of the Church.

12. RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL STAFF

Mr. Holeman called the order of the day so the national staff could be recognized.

Mr. Holeman invited all national staff members to join him on the stage. He then invited everyone to formally express their appreciation to the staff, including those who work with the Pension Boards and the United Church Funds. The delegates and visitors responded with a standing ovation.

Mr. Black thanked staff on behalf of the Collegium.

13. TRANSITION FROM FOSSIL FUELS TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Mr. Holeman called on Mr. Aaron Roberts (KO) Chairperson of the committee to present the recommended action of the committee to the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ. Mr. Roberts presented the resolution as amended by the committee and recommended that the body adopt the resolution as amended. Mr. Roberts also spoke to the resolution.

Discussion:

Mr. David Shanks (IS) spoke against the resolution.

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

Mr. Bill Lochstet (PC) spoke in favor of the resolution.