

Be it further resolved that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages all settings of the United Church of Christ to seek ways to understand the needs of, to provide aid and assistance to, and to work in partnership with these churches and institutions by framing local initiatives that advance the purposes for which they were founded;

Be it further resolved that the national setting of the United Church of Christ provide, with appropriate representation and input from each setting, both the human and capital resources necessary to coordinate, prioritize and promote this initiative;

Be it finally resolved that all members and settings of the United Church of Christ be encouraged to continue our historic anti-racism work by joining and/or partnering with Ministers for Racial, Social, and Economic Justice as they speak out against and seek to remedy racially motivated hatred, violence and actions, and systemic injustices such as gerrymandering, voter disenfranchisement, police brutality, and regressive public policies when and where they occur.

Funding

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.

6. ON BECOMING AN IMMIGRANT WELCOMING CHURCH.

Moderator Artt invited Cheryl Lindsay (OHIO) to the podium to present the Resolution On Becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Church.

Cheryl Lindsay introduced the resolution, noted the changes and made a motion on behalf of Committee #7 that the resolution, as amended, On Becoming An Immigrant Welcoming Church be adopted by the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ. Cheryl Lindsay also spoke to the resolution.

Discussion:

Beth Donaldson (MINN) Spoke in favor of the motion.

Bryn Smallwood-Garcia (CONN) Spoke in favor.

Paul Lance (MICH) Spoke in favor.

Sue Joiner (SW) Spoke in favor.

Kerri Parker (WIS) Spoke in favor.

Tara Wilkins (CCP) Spoke in favor.

Felix Villanueva (SC NV) Spoke in favor.

Marc Stewart (MONT, NO, WY) Spoke in favor.

17-GS-10 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopted the resolution as amended On Becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Church.

ON BECOMING AN IMMIGRANT WELCOMING CHURCH
A Resolution of Witness

TEXT OF THE MOTION

Whereas the International Association for Refugees has stated, "The world is in the midst of a long-term refugee crisis;" and

Whereas thousands of refugees and migrants come from throughout the world to the United States seeking safety, security, freedom, and opportunity; and

Whereas our immigrant brothers and sisters continue to suffer as they fear raids, deportation, and seeing their families torn apart; and

Whereas migrants bring us as offerings their stories and experiences, dreams and hopes, energy and skills; and

Whereas our new neighbors experience difficulties adjusting to life in a new country; difficulties such as language barriers, culture shock, a sense of loss and isolation; and

Whereas the welcome and support immigrants receive helps in the building of safe communities and future prosperity; and

Whereas the United Church of Christ (UCC) declares "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcomed here;"

Whereas the twenty-ninth General Synod passed a compassionate immigration resolution that included encouraging "congregations to further engage in education work on immigration from a faith perspective, participating in border delegations and working toward making your congregation an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation;"

Therefore be it resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ in Baltimore, Maryland in 2017 declares itself an Immigrant Welcoming Denomination;

Be it further resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages the development of U.S. policy dedicated to facilitating the respectful welcome and inclusion of all immigrants;

Be it further resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages the National Setting, Conferences and Associations to call on their members to become active Immigrant Welcoming Congregations and proclaim themselves to be so;

Be it finally resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ asks the National Setting to provide resources such as, "Becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation - The Journey is Made by Walking," to assist congregations in this process.

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 of other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

7. **A CALL FOR THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO ADVOCATE FOR THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN LIVING UNDER ISRAELI MILITARY OCCUPATION.**

Moderator Artt indicated that one of the highlights of this Synod is a renewed emphasis on the youth program and the ways in which our young people have been more intentionally engaged with the work of the General Synod. In that regard, the General Synod Program and Planning Committee made the decision to allow young people to take a few moments to present a “youth perspective” on the issues as a part of the deliberations. Without objection, Moderator Artt respectfully requested that the General Synod suspend the standing rules to allow the body to hear a three-minute presentation from the Youth as Synod as they prepare to debate and take action upon the current motion.

17-GS-11 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to set aside the standing rule to allow the youth to speak to the resolution.

Moderator Artt invited Leslie Schenk (WISC) to the podium to present the Resolution: A call for the United Church of Christ to Advocate for the Rights of Children Living under Israeli Military Occupation.

Leslie Schenk spoke on the Resolution, thanked the youth who also participated, indicated that three amendments were made and made a Motion on behalf of Committee 2, that the Thirty-first General Synod approve A Call for the United Church of Christ to Advocate for the Rights of Children Living under Israeli Military Occupation as amended by Committee.

Discussion:

Alex Cumbe (CAC) Spoke in Favor.

Ben Mercie (CAC) Spoke in Favor.

Lucy Adkins (CAC) Spoke in Favor.

Catherine Alder (CCP) Spoke in Favor.

Marisa Brown Ludwig (MASS) Spoke in Favor.

Kim Whistler Vasko (ILL) Spoke in Favor.

Dave Yoshida (CONN) Spoke in Favor.

Lorrin Shepard (FLA) Spoke in Favor.

Amelia Nugent (MASS) Spoke to the fact the information is dated

Allie Perry (CONN) Spoke in favor.