

Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ time to acknowledge the Collegium of Officers.

**4. CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT (UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA)**

Moderator Artt indicated that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ would be considering a number of proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ. Geoff Brace, Chair of the Governance Committee of the Board, was called to the stage to present the first of those amendments, the one related to full communion with the United Church of Canada.

Geoff Brace introduced and spoke to the motion. Geoff Brace then moved the adoption of the proposed Amendments to the United Church of Christ Constitution and Bylaws relating to the full communion agreement with the United Church of Canada. Geoff Brace indicated the changes are found in the document entitled UC Canada Proposed Amendments, which was provided pursuant to Article XIII of the United Church of Christ Constitution via the General Synod Website.

Discussion.

There was no Discussion

**17-GS-16 VOTED:** The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopted the proposed Amendments to the United Church of Christ Constitution and Bylaws relating to the full communion agreement with the United Church of Canada.

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT (UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA)**

(See document entitled UC Canada Proposed Amendments on UCC Website)

**13. RESOLUTION DECLARING THE WORK OF THE PATTERN OF GIVING IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST COMPLETE AND ON PROPOSING A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR COVENANTAL GIVING AND IMPLEMENTING FUNDRAISING BEST PRACTICES**

Moderator Artt called on Persephone Hall (CAL) to make a motion on the Resolution Declaring the Work of the Pattern of Giving in the United Church of Christ Complete and on Proposing a New Framework for Covenant Giving and Implementing Fundraising Best Practices.

Persephone Hall read the report of the committee, indicated the changes that were made in the resolution and then moved on behalf of committee 5 for the adoption of the motion. Persephone Hall also took time to speak to the motion.

Discussion:

Derek McCuller (MRSEJ) Asked clarification question to address the impact that the change could have on conferences that have less of a funding base. Committee indicated it is providing a more fluid way for the funds to flow.

Hal Chorpenning (RM) Voting in favor, but opposed talk about God-centered fund raising, not donor-centered funding.

**17-GS-17 VOTED:** The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted in favor of the Resolution Declaring the Work of the Pattern of Giving in the United Church of Christ Complete, and on Proposing a New Framework for Covenantal Giving and Implementing Fundraising Best Practices.

**RESOLUTION DECLARING THE WORK OF THE PATTERN OF GIVING  
IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST COMPLETE  
AND ON PROPOSING A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR COVENANTAL GIVING  
AND IMPLEMENTING FUNDRAISING BEST PRACTICES**  
**A Prudential Resolution**

**Text of the Motion:**

**Whereas** the Pattern of Giving no longer serves the needs of the United Church of Christ, makes no provision for use of technologies that are commonly available today, and in some instances, prevents the implementation of philanthropic best practices that have developed over the last 30 years, and

**Whereas** a donor-centered approach to fundraising is more in keeping with the best practices of philanthropy today, and the institutionally-centered approach on which our current system relies is a barrier to increasing generosity and to developing new and thriving ministries across the United Church of Christ, and

**Whereas** the shared ministry among all settings of the United Church of Christ is built on covenantal relationships and must provide for and encourage cooperation, collaboration, and flexibility among all covenant partners in the responsible practice of fundraising and philanthropy, and

**Whereas** the Eighth General Synod affirmed giving practices that were shared with the church in 1971 in the publication of the Pattern of Giving in the United Church of Christ, and

**Whereas** the Fourteenth General Synod adopted changes in the earlier work of General Synods, published in the new Pattern of Giving, United Church of Christ 1984 Edition, and

**Whereas** understandings and patterns of giving have continued to evolve;

**Therefore, be it resolved** that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ gives thanks to past General Synods for their work that resulted in the publication of the editions of the Pattern of Giving, United Church of Christ, celebrates the effective witness and guidance contained in these documents, and declares the Pattern of Giving no longer in effect.

**Be it further resolved** that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages all ministry settings of the United Church of Christ to establish coordinated and

comprehensive development programs using best practices that: are sensitive to the needs of all settings of the church; are responsive to changing patterns and practices of generosity across the church and within the culture in which the church lives; are consistent with norms, expectations, and policies of a donor-centered approach to fundraising and philanthropy; and empower congregations and individual donors to donate directly to the mission priorities that are most compelling to them.

**Be it further resolved** that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ directs the national setting to provide resources to coordinate this effort and build capacity for raising funds in all settings of the church, in covenant, collaboration, and partnership with Conferences and congregations.

**Be it further resolved** that Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages that Our Church's Wider Mission—Basic Support continue to be directed from congregations to Conferences.

**Be it further resolved** that Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ invites Conferences to commit to an OCWM sharing formula no less than the average rate of giving for the previous three years, on a rolling basis.

**Be it further resolved** that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ invites the Conferences to reevaluate the sharing formula within five years, in conversation with the national setting.

**Be it further resolved** that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages that the four Special Mission Offerings continue to support the mission of the church, and requests that a cost-benefit analysis be completed for each offering to enable a decision regarding their future implementation.

**Be it finally resolved** that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests that the national setting conduct a marketing analysis of the names "Our Church's Wider

Mission," "Our Church's Wider Mission – Basic Support," and "Our Church's Wider Mission – Special Support," in light of the multiple understanding and various uses of these across the church.

### **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. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION**

Damaris Whittaker reflected on the work that took place.