

10. ON ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY TRAINING FOR AUTHORIZED MINISTERS.

Moderator Elect Williams called on David Bahr (RM) to introduce the next resolution entitled On Establishing Procedures for Cultural Diversity Training for Authorized Ministers. David Bahr thanked Committee 9 for its hard work on the resolution and indicated that they had made some minor change and reviewed them before making a motion that the resolution be adopted as amended and then spoke further to it.

Discussion:

Margaret Phillips (MOMS) Spoke in Favor

David Greenhaw (MOMS) Spoke Against

Beverly Lewis (CAC) Spoke in Favor

Margaret Phillips (OMS) Spoke in Favor

Andrew Greenhaw (SC) Spoke Against

Diane Johnson (NO CA NV) Amendment

Lines 9-11 to read: “upon all the judicatory and educational settings of the denomination to include the study and training in key principles and best practices of cultural diversity, inclusion and equity as well as anti-racism, unconscious bias and anti-white supremacy trainings”; and lines 17-18 “requirement, study and training”.

Brian Murray (CAC) Support amendment.

Margaret Phillips (MOMS) Spoke in Favor

17-GS-24 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to amend the resolution On Establishing Procedures for Cultural Diversity Training for Authorized Ministers as stated above.
92%; 6%; 2%

Devon Thomas (VT) Spoke in favor of original motion

Leadra Burch all (CAC) Amendment. Line 17. “as a witness by July, 2019”

Helen Hinkson (CAC) Seconded

No discussion on the Amendment

Vote on Amendment:

17-GS-25 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to amend the resolution On Establishing Procedures for Cultural Diversity Training for Authorized Ministers as stated above.
57.76%; 35.64%;
5.51%

John Kendall (Ill) Called the Question

Jeff Palmer (MINN) Seconded

17-GS-26 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to Call the Question.
92%; 6%; 2%

Assistant Moderator Williams indicated the vote on the original Motion as amended would take place.

17-GS-27 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to adopt the resolution, as amended, On Establishing Procedures for Cultural Diversity Training for Authorized Ministers as stated above.

**ON ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY TRAINING
FOR AUTHORIZED MINISTERS**

A Resolution of Witness

Text of the Motion:

Whereas, in the year 1993, The Nineteenth General Synod adopted the "Statement of Christian Conviction of the Proposed Pronouncement Calling the United Church of Christ to be a Multiracial and Multicultural Church"; and

Whereas, by adopting the above statement the church called itself in all settings to be a true multiracial and multicultural church, "confessing and acting out its faith in the one sovereign God who through Jesus Christ binds in covenant faithful people of all races, ethnicities and cultures and to rejoice in these diversities as gifts to the human family in the variety of God's grace" and

Whereas, by the year 2045, the majority of United States citizens will be multicultural and multiracial with African, Asian, Latino, Pacific Islander and Native American roots demanding greater need for understanding and acceptance among all who claim through the Holy Spirit to belong to the Body of Christ; and

Whereas, in this year 2017, many United Church of Christ churches have been unable to fulfill the commitment made at the 19th General Synod and continue to reflect 'the most segregated hour of the week' leaving African Americans, Asian Americans, European Americans, Latino Americans, Native Americans, and Pacific Islander Americans in primarily African, Asian, European, Latino, Native, and Pacific Islander United Church of Christ churches isolated by their own ethnicity, unable to understand, reach out or support those in other ethnic communities affected by the widespread incidents of racial violence and injustice spreading across our country and rendering many of us impotent in the process of dismantling institutional racism, a task to which we are called as members of the body of Christ; and

Whereas, as people of faith and witnesses of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Galilee we are called to be a coalition of Easter people bound together by our support of one another, showing up for each other where there is injustice and celebrating together where there is joy, for "If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it, if one member is honored, all the members share its joy"; and

Whereas, the realization of Jesus' prayer, "that they may all be one," is impossible without self-reflection, serious study, and by engaging in safe, meaningful, substantive and bold

conversations on the brokenness and divisiveness created within the body of Christ by the realities of institutional racism, and by the lack of understanding and the failure to nurture and lift up our cultural differences and gifts; and

Whereas, there is considerable evidence that when people actually begin to share their own preconceptions, misunderstandings and fears about cultural diversity/sensitivity and institutional racism in discussions groups, boundaries and walls are dismantled and healing occurs; and

Whereas, the UCC's Local Church Ministries and the UCC's Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization team (MESA) published in April 2009 a revised list of "The Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers of the United Church of Christ" and named in the marks of "Personal and Professional formation for Ministry" (Section 3) Item 14c "to accept and promote diversity, to inspire others to do so, and to minister in a multicultural and multiracial, open and affirming, just peace, accessible to all, united and uniting church" and "to encourage ongoing conversation regarding issues of ministry in the 21st century"; and

Whereas, the United Church of Christ and many seminaries, Conferences, Associations and local churches currently have curriculum resources available to facilitate the study of cultural diversity/sensitivity and institutional racism including a new curriculum, "White Privilege – Let's Talk," published by the United Church of Christ's Justice and Witness Ministries; and

Whereas, the authorized minister called upon to serve in each United Church of Christ ministry setting is the primary leader, teacher, and facilitator of such study and conversation,

Therefore be it resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon all the judicatory and educational settings of the denomination to include the study and training in key principles and best practices of cultural diversity, inclusion and equity as well as anti-racism, unconscious bias and anti-white supremacy trainings in clergy preparation, continuing education, and as an ongoing requirement for maintaining standing for all persons engaged in authorized ministry within and on behalf of the United Church of Christ;

Be it finally resolved that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests the United Church of Christ's Justice and Witness Ministries, the UCC's Local Church Ministries and the UCC's Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization team (MESA) cooperate by collecting best practices to support the implementation of such requirement, study and training as a witness by July, 2019.

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.