

injustice as they face these issues and will take action on the issues. The issues include working for the rights and well-being of 100,000 stateless people who were unlawfully deported from the Dominican Republic to Haiti; advocating for the end of the economic blockade against Cuba that hinders Cuba's ability to provide basic needs for its citizens; supporting the Peace Accords in Colombia, which are both crucial and confusing; and giving voice to the ways climate change is altering Caribbean life with rising sea levels, coastal erosion, and drying rivers.

An invitation was extended to join in walking in solidarity with global partners for the next year and a half of the Caribbean Initiative. Global Ministries will offer advocacy, study, and worship materials to engage with congregation. Bible studies will allow a fresh look at God's love for humanity and creation in the context of the Caribbean. Videos will transport congregations to the places that testify about the abundance of life in the midst of despair and sorrow.

Special giving opportunities will enhance the work and ministry in the Caribbean. A children's curriculum will encourage children to seek the "Fruits of the Spirit" while learning about the experiences of children in the Caribbean. Through the initiative, both the UCC and Disciples will have the opportunity to embrace the spirit of solidarity in presence and accompaniment.

8. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Edith Guffy (KO) – Expressed concern about the Purpose, Mission, Vision Statement in that General Synod did not have a voice in its adoption.

9. AFFIRMING THE COALITION OF IMMOKALEE WORKERS' BOYCOTT OF WENDY'S.

Moderator Artt called on Jeff Roeger (OHIO) to bring a Motion regarding Affirming the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' Boycott of Wendy's.

Jeff Roeger on behalf of Committee 13 asked that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopt the Motion regarding Affirming the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' Boycott of Wendy's. Jeff Roeger then spoke to the Motion.

Discussion:

John Vertigan (FL) Spoke in Favor

Jeffrey Tuper-Giles (Vermont) Spoke in Favor

William Wildman (MASS) Calling for people to support Foster Care Adoption

Kent Saladi (CONN) Spoke in Favor

Paul Fogle (UCCDM) Calling that we keep in mind the people this would affect.

Marilyn Pagan Banks (ILL) Spoke in Favor

Felix Villanueva (C NE S) Support the workers, but is concerned of naming the enemy

Ethan Drutchas (MICH) Spoke in Favor

JT Hills (IK) Spoke in Favor

17-GS-29 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to adopt the resolution Affirming the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' Boycott of Wendy's.
86%; 10%; 4%

**AFFIRMING THE COALITION OF IMMOKALEE WORKERS' BOYCOTT OF
WENDY'S**
A Resolution of Witness

Text of the Motion

Whereas, farmworkers are among the most oppressed workers in the United States;

Whereas, the United Church of Christ has long supported farmworkers' struggle for justice;

Whereas, in 1973, General Synod IX suspended most of its work for 24 hours while nearly 100 pilgrims travelled from St. Louis to California's Coachella Valley to stand with farmworkers threatened with violence;

Whereas, in 2001, when the Coalition of Immokalee Workers called for a boycott of Taco Bell (the company that would eventually become the first to sign on to the Fair Food Program), GS XXIII endorsed the boycott and the United Church of Christ became the first denomination (of many, eventually) to support it;

Whereas, in 2005, GS XXV passed a resolution that celebrated Taco Bell's entry into the Fair Food Program (then called the Fair Food Alliance) and encouraged the United Church of Christ to "*support the CIW in its efforts to extend this new model of corporate social responsibility throughout the fast food industry*" (italics added);

Whereas, in 2009, when GS XXVII met in Tampa, many United Church of Christ members devoted a portion of their lunch break to march to a nearby Publix grocery store to encourage that supermarket chain to join the Fair Food Program;

Whereas, two years ago a letter calling on Wendy's to join the Fair Food Program, signed by nearly two-dozen faith leaders including the United Church of Christ's General Minister and President Rev. Geoffrey Black, was presented to Wendy's Board of Directors at the 2014 shareholder meeting;

Whereas, numerous United Church of Christ congregations and members have marched, hosted marchers, participated in rallies and other events, sent letters and postcards, held workshops, and acted in a variety of ways to support the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and pressure Wendy's to join the Fair Food Program;

Whereas, 10 years of activities and efforts to encourage Wendy's to join the Fair Food Program have been unsuccessful;

Whereas, a boycott is a major undertaking and not to be embarked upon without great care, it is now a necessary next step given the failure of the great many efforts made over the last ten years to encourage Wendy's to join the Fair Food Program;

Whereas, the UCC Florida Conference at their Spring Gathering (April 29-30, 2016) endorsed the boycott of Wendy's as did the Central Atlantic Conference at their Annual Meeting in June 2016; and

Whereas, the United Church of Christ Board of Directors endorsed the boycott in May 2016.

Therefore. Be it Resolved That the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ endorses the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' boycott of Wendy's and calls on all settings of the United Church of Christ to become informed about farm workers' lives and working conditions and to honor the CIW boycott.

Funding:

The 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.

10. THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S - NOT OURS TO WRECK – IMPERATIVES FOR A NEW MORAL ERA.

Moderator Artt introduced Marilyn Kendrix (CONN) to speak on the resolution entitled Motion on The Earth is the Lord's Not Ours to Wreck – Imperatives for a New Moral Era.

Marilyn Kendrix brought a Motion on the Earth is the Lord's Not Ours to Wreck – Imperatives for a New Moral Era. Marilyn Kendrix indicated that the changes were made to make the witness stronger.

Discussion:

Jim Antal (MASS) Spoke in Favor
Felix Villanueva (CA NV, S) Spoke in Favor
John Lof (IOWA) Spoke in Favor
Pam Arifian (CONN) Spoke in Favor
Phil Poter, (CA NV N) Spoke in Favor
Cassandra Grandos (NY) Call the Question.
Silas Stockey (ILL) Second

17-GS-30 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to 97%; 3%; 1% end discussion on the motion.

17-GS-31 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to 97%; 3%; 1% adopt the resolution entitled The Earth is the Lord's – Not Ours to Wreck Imperatives for a New Moral Era