

16. the Board of Directors of the UCC to send a copy of this resolution to the UCC's Center for Analytics, Research and Data (CARD) and to the UCC's Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization team (MESA).

**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.

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

**5. ON RECOGNIZING AND STUDYING GUN VIOLENCE AS A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.**

Moderator Artt indicated the next resolution was another one of the resolutions that the youth would be addressing and asked the delegates to allow the youth to speak without objection.

**17-GS-35 VOTED:** The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to allow the youth to speak without objection.

Moderator Artt called on Marilyn Kendrix (CONN) to bring the motion.

Marilyn Kendrix indicated that the committee had made some changes and referred to the changes. Marilyn Kendrix asked the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ

to consider the Motion on Recognizing and Studying Gun Violence as a Public Health Emergency. After thanking the committee Marilyn Kendrix then spoke to the Motion.

Moderator Artt recognized the following youth speaking in favor on behalf of the Motion.

Abby Martinelli (CAC); Reed Young (MASS); Hannah Eastman (CAC); Norah Duncan (OHIO); Trevor Weekly (CAC); and Kevin Lightman (SOC) – It is crucial for the delegates to focus on this resolution because, as all of the youth indicated, it affects their lives and the only way we can improve our world is to focus on the issues that plague our society.

**6. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE**

Cassandra Granado (NY) and Gary Gossel (NY) Expressed dismay at the graphics displayed during the presentation and viewed them as racial and in very poor taste.

Moderator Artt indicated that while it was unfortunate and unintentional, and even though they were not seen by the moderator apologized for the display. Moderator Artt called for discussion on the motion.

Discussion:

David King (MASS) Spoke in favor

7. **POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE**

Nathan Hart (PW) Has been involved in ALICE training and students are never involved or subjected to the types of training exercises mentioned earlier by the youth.

Paul Fogle (UCCDM) Spoke in favor  
Michael Readinger (UCCB, CHSSM) Spoke in favor  
Hannah Robinson (MICH) Spoke in favor

Ray Jordan (SC) Called the Question  
Jameson Baxter (PNE) Seconded

Moderator Artt asked the General Synod of the United Church of Christ to vote on the decision to end discussion on the motion

**17-GS-36 VOTED:** The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to end discussion on the motion.  
86%; 13%; 1%

Moderator Artt indicated the delegates would now vote on the original resolution as amended.

**17-GS-37 VOTED:** The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to adopt the resolution On Recognizing and Studying Gun Violence as a Public Health Emergency.  
97%; 3%; 0%

**ON RECOGNIZING AND STUDYING GUN VIOLENCE**  
**AS A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**  
**A Resolution of Witness**

**Text of the Motion:**

**Whereas**, in 1996 at the urging of the National Rifle Association, the Congress of the United States has prevented federal money from being spent on researching gun violence and has actively restricted the nation’s principal public health agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from looking into why the United States has five times the rate of gun deaths per year than most European countries; and

**Whereas**, in October 2015 a group of 110 U.S. Representatives, led by U.S. Rep. David Price (D-N.C.), called on House of Representatives leaders “to reject short-sighted and unnecessary riders that freeze gun violence research,” and that the United States response to the increasing gun-violence, while debated, “should be informed by sound scientific evidence;” and

**Whereas**, in June 2016 the American Medical Association adopted a position that the United States is facing a ‘public health crisis in gun violence’ that requires a comprehensive public health response and solution and will actively lobby Congress to overturn the restrictions on the CDC; and

**Whereas**, the CDC has successfully led on research related to many non-medical public health emergencies — such as automobile safety, safeguards related to children’s toys, and tobacco

education — that has resulted in significantly reduced rates of senseless death and injury; and Whereas, the United Church of Christ as reaffirmed many times its longstanding commitments to both social justice and public health,

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges the recognition of gun violence as a public health emergency with gun deaths (including homicide, suicide, and unintentional shootings) estimated to have reached 35,000 by the end of 2016;

**Be it further resolved** that the Thirty-first General Synod encourages the Congress of the United States to allocate federal funding for scientific research of gun violence by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health and to openly debate methods to improve gun safety, training and storage to reduce gun deaths;

**Be it finally resolved** that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges members and other settings of the United Church of Christ to actively speak out against restrictive legislation that seeks to silence or stifle the scientific and medical community from providing sound methods to save and improve the lives of all of God's people.

**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.

**8. RESOLUTION OF WITNESS IN SUPPORT OF ADULT SURVIVORS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.**

Moderator Artt called on Sarah Frische-Mouri Hannigan, (IK) to introduce the Resolution of Witness in Support of Adult Survivors of Child Abuse and Neglect.

Sarah Frische-Mouri Hannigan introduced the resolution and indicated that there were three substantive changes, which were reviewed with the delegates. Sarah Frische-Louri Hannigan then asked the delegates to approve the motion and also spoke to the motion.

Discussion:

Allison Betts (SC) Spoke in Favor  
Nathaniel Mulder (PNW) Spoke in Favor  
Brody Huwer (SD) Spoke in Favor  
Colie Bettivia (WISC) In Support of Resolution

Gabriel McKelvey (WISC) Called the Question  
Kevin Mundell (WISC) Seconded