

8. RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL STAFF

Assistant Moderator Williams invited all of the national staff to begin making their way to the stage and thanked the staff saying: “During the last several days, we have had the opportunity to hear from and thank the members of the Collegium; we have seen other members of the national staff in the exhibit hall, at registration, the General Synod office, during workshops and committees and sponsored meals. But we haven’t had the opportunity to say a formal thank you

for all the work they do on behalf of us all. Many staff have been right here in this convention center with us all week, but there are also many others whose work does not normally bring them to Synod. In addition to the staff in Cleveland, we also have staff in North Carolina, Washington, DC, and New York City, and we value the work all of these folks do on our behalf in the national setting of the church.

Please join together in a formal expression of appreciation to all of them for the work that they do that helps support the work of our local churches, Associations, Conferences, and the General Synod in so many ways.”

9. TOWARD DISABILITY JUSTICE: A CALL TO THE CHURCH AND CHURCHES

Assistant Moderator Williams called on Maria Brace (PNE) to bring the motion on behalf of committee 12, a resolution Toward Disability Justice: A Call to the Church and Churches to Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

Maria Brace spoke on behalf of Committee 12 and indicated that there were changes made and reflected in the posted resolution. Maria Brace asked General Synod to adopt the motion Toward Disability Justice: A Call to the Church and Churches and also spoke to the resolution and its amendments.

Discussion:

Matthew Emery (CONN) Spoke in favor

Robert Hempel (ILL) Spoke in favor

Terri McNamara (PSE) Spoke in favor

Felix Villanueva (CA Nev, S) Call the Question

Sebastian Lytwynec Seconded

17-GS-43 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to 97%; 3% 0% end discussion on the motion.

Assistant Moderator Williams indicated the delegates would now vote on the original resolution Toward Disability Justice: A Call to the Church and Churches.

17-GS-44 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to adopt the resolution Toward Disability Justice: A Call to the Church and Churches. 98%; 1%; 1%

TOWARD DISABILITY JUSTICE: A CALL TO THE CHURCH AND CHURCHES
Resolution of Witness

Text of the Motion:

Whereas, the United Church of Christ General Synod Twenty-Five has called upon all settings of the UCC to be “Accessible to All” (GS resolution Called to Wholeness in Christ, 2005);

And, Whereas, the UCC Collegium of officers has already publicly supported a call for the United States of America to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities;

Therefore, be it Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod calls the United Church of Christ in all its settings to commit to disability justice;

Let it Be Further Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ advocates for the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and calls upon all other settings of the United Church of Christ to do the same;

Let it Be Further Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages the national setting to monitor legislation and court decisions that involve the Americans with Disabilities Act and other legislation that impacts persons with disabilities and use this information to invite other settings of the Church to serve as a prophetic witness to the inclusion of all persons in society;

Let it Be Further Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges all settings of the UCC to be a prophetic voice for wage equality and against the injustice of the subminimum wage for persons with disabilities;

Let it Be Further Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls for the continued right of persons with disabilities to receive a free and appropriate public education;

Let it Be Further Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on all United Church of Christ outdoor ministry settings to include persons with disabilities in mainstreamed age appropriate programs and welcome persons with disabilities in all outdoor ministry settings;

Let it Be Further Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges all UCC settings to be advocates for affordable and equal health care insurance without prejudice to preexisting conditions inclusive of mental health;

Let it Be Further Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on all settings of the UCC to actively advocate in support of Medicaid funding to ensure independence and lifelines for persons with disabilities;

Let it Be Further Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ invites all UCC settings to develop awareness of health disparities experienced by persons with disabilities who may not be offered or made eligible for organ transplant, or other life sustaining treatment, because they live with disabilities;

Let it Be Further Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges the national setting, and all other UCC settings, to develop an active response to the intersectionality of race and disability in relation to police brutality and death by police force, and further calls upon local congregations and seminaries to be sources of education about disability/mental health awareness and places where police can interact and gain experience with persons with disabilities in safe non-threatening settings;

Let it Be Finally Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages UCC Disaster Ministries to include the need for disaster preparedness among persons with disabilities in their disaster response plans and that disaster ministry teams in all settings of the Church engage persons with disabilities to develop emergency preparedness plans.

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 UCC Collegium of officers in consultation with the UCCDM Board of Directors, and other appropriate ministries will determine the implementing body.

10. **A MORE JUST ECONOMY: \$15 MINIMUM WAGE, LIVING WAGES AND JOB CREATION.**

Assistant Moderator Williams called on Robert Thompson (SOC) to bring the resolution A More Just Economy: \$15 Minimum Wage, Living Wages and Job Creation before General Synod.

Robert Thompson moved the adoption of the resolution A More Just Economy: \$15 Minimum Wage, Living Wages and Job Creation after indicating the changes that had been made and then spoke to the motion.

Assistant Moderator Williams indicated that this 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-45 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to allow the youth to speak without objection.