

**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.

Four Youth from the Central Atlantic Conference shared their discussions about the resolution and spoke in favor of the resolution.

Discussion:

Cassandra Granada (NY) Spoke in Favor

**11. POINT OF CLARIFICATION**

Thomas Mitchell (SE) It is it the intent of the committee to tie minimum wage increase to the cost of living. Answer: The committee was intentional about not being specific about the details in order for the minimum wage to be continually addressed.

Mary Kay Schueneman (VT) Spoke against

Marilyn Kendrix (CONN) Spoke in favor

Emily Rees (OHIO) Spoke against

Silas Tockey (ILL) Spoke in favor

Timothy White (MASS) Spoke in favor

George Miller (FL) Spoke against

John Legary (ILL) Spoke in favor

Scott Meyer (IOWA) Spoke Against

2.Laura Fitzpatrick Nager (CONN) Spoke in Favor

Peggy Ludlow (MINN) Call the Question

Mark Kuether (MINN) Second

**17-GS-46 VOTED:** The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to 83%; 26%; 4% end discussion on the motion.

Assistant Moderator Williams indicated the delegates would now vote on the original resolution A More Just Economy: \$15 Minimum Wage, Living Wages and Job Creation.

**17-GS-47 VOTED:** The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to 75%; 22%; 3% adopt the resolution A More Just Economy: \$15 Minimum Wages and Job Creation.

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

**A Resolution of Witness**

**Text of the Motion:**

**Whereas**, scripture calls God’s people care “for the widow, the orphan, and the alien living among you” (Deuteronomy 24:17-21); and

**Whereas**, Scripture declares that “God is a God of Justice” (Isaiah 30:18) and we believe that God's grace and judgment are active in all life; and

**Whereas**, we believe that God requires us to act for and with justice, mercy, and humility before God (Micah 6:8); and

**Whereas**, Jesus called disciples to “care for the least” among them (Matthew 25:31–46) and;

**Whereas**, the United States, like all nations, is blessed with an abundance of God’s resources, more than enough for all;

**Whereas**, the United States is an extremely wealthy country;

**Whereas**, God’s resources are not being equitably shared;

**Whereas**, God’s call to love our neighbors compels us to work for an economy where all jobs pay a living wage and everyone who wants a job has one;

**Whereas**, the federal minimum wage is set at \$7.25 an hour, unchanged since 2009, and the tipped minimum wage is \$2.13 an hour;

**Whereas**, our neighbors who work in low-wage jobs would welcome our support for their struggles for fair wages and better working conditions;

**Whereas**, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources 2015 guidelines for a family of four living in poverty is a household income of \$24,250; and

**Whereas**, wages of \$15 per hour for a 40-hour workweek constitute an annual wage of \$32,000 which only begins to address the economic injustice of minimum annual wages that are below federal poverty guidelines; and

**Whereas**, we believe every worker’s right to form and join a labor union must be protected;

**Whereas**, our international trade and investment laws must be fair;

**Whereas**, millions of people want and need a job but cannot find one; and

**Whereas**, in 2005 General Synod XXV approved a resolution “For the Common Good” calling all settings of the United Church of Christ to “do justice and promote the common good by working actively to ensure full employment, dignity on the job, living wages, and sufficient income for everyone;” and

**Whereas**, General Synods have repeatedly called for full employment including in 1977 with the affirmation of “the God-given right of all persons to useful and remunerative work” and called on “federal, state, and local governments together with industry, business, labor and the unemployed to formulate and implement policies and programs to achieve full employment;”

**Therefore, be it Resolved that,** We the delegates to the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ seeks a just economy where all job pay a living wage and everyone who wants a job has one, and

**Call** on each member church of the United Church of Christ to examine its compensation of part-time and full-time staff to assure that each is paid at least \$15/hour or plan to reach, if possible, that minimum compensation by 2019;

**Call** on all settings of the United Church of Christ to support workers' efforts for better wages and working conditions and to participate in community efforts that seek to repair America's economic and social divisions and build a moral economy; and

**Call** on all settings of the United Church of Christ to advocate among local, state, and federal policy makers:

-to raise the minimum wage to \$15/hour as soon as possible and ensure the minimum wage continues to rise so that all jobs pay a living wage,

- to strengthen the right of workers to form and join labor unions, to protect this right more vigorously, and to increase penalties for violations,

-to enact fair international trade and investment agreements that protect workers, consumers, small firms, the environment, democratic process, and national sovereignty in the USA and in our trading-partner nations, and

-to create jobs and address society's unmet needs, such as repairing and replacing crumbling infrastructure and providing affordable childcare and early childhood education.

calls on all settings of the United Church of Christ to advocate with Congress, and as appropriate, with state legislators and policymakers in other localities to ensure living wages for all workers by:

- raising the minimum wage, eliminating the separate tipped minimum wage and ensuring the minimum wage continues to rise each year so that all jobs pay a living wage;
- strengthening the right of workers to form and join labor unions, protecting these rights more vigorously, and increasing penalties for violations; and
- enacting fair international trade and investment agreements that will protect workers, consumers, small firms, the environment, democratic processes, and national sovereignty in the U.S. and in our trading-partner nations.

**Be it further resolved** the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on all settings of the United Church of Christ to support workers' efforts for better wages and working conditions and to participate in community efforts that seek to repair our economic and social divisions and build a moral economy;

**Be it further resolved** that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ, recognizing that everyone who wants a job should have one, calls on all settings of the United Church of Christ to advocate with Congress and policymakers at all levels to create jobs and address our society's unmet needs by, for example, repairing and replacing our crumbling infrastructure and providing affordable childcare and early-childhood education.

### **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:**

Assistant Moderator Williams invited Damaris Whittaker to give a final Theological Reflection.

Damaris Whittaker indicated that there has been lots of action, lots of conversation, but now it is time to get out of the “coop” to be faithful to the things decided at General Synod.

### **13. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Assistant Moderator Williams called on Lee Foley for the announcements

Lee Foley greeted the Church and made the following announcements:

1. Exhibit Hall Will Close at noon.
2. Youth Will be leaving at noon
3. Bags are being donated to Africa
4. Return at 1:30, delegates will sit at the bar of the house. The clickers will be collected.
5. Return delegate signs to head ushers

### **14. RECESS**

Assistant Moderator Williams declared the seventh plenary in recess at 10:09 a.m., and indicated that the eighth plenary would begin at 1:30 p.m.

**Tuesday Afternoon, July 4, 2017**

**Eighth Plenary Session**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Moderator Artt called the Final Plenary of the Thirty-first General Synod to order at 2:00 p.m and invited the delegates to participate in the final speakout.

### **2. SPEAKOUTS!**

Moderator Artt called upon the following SpeakOut Participants:

Ken Evitts (NEB) Scott Jones (NEB) Spoke on Open and Affirming

Ellen Rohan Ball (MASS) and Amelia Nugent (MASS)

Charron Stoddart (CONN) During Gun Violence the delegates failed a young person

Jim O'Brian (CAC) Remind us that we are in an addictive society

Mark Longhurst (MASS) and Matt Carriker (MASS) Create space for contemplative worship at Synod