

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

8. TA1: CT, RI, and MASS CONFERENCE MERGER

Moderator Williams indicated that the next item of business was a resolution coming directly to the floor of General Synod. The resolution was submitted by three southern New England Conferences to merge into a single Conference.

Per the United Church of Christ Constitution Article IX, paragraph 52 “the boundaries of any new Conference or any adjustment of boundaries between Conferences, shall be determined by the Conferences concerned with the approval of the General Synod.” Accordingly, the role of the General Synod in this instance is to approve or reject the proposal of the Conferences concerned without further amendment to the resolution.

Yvette Wynn, Vice Chair of the Business Committee, moved that the Thirty-second General Synod adopt the resolution and yielded her time to speak to the motion to Jocelyn Gardner Spencer of the Connecticut Conference, Linda Mesler of the Massachusetts Conference, and Marilyn Kendrix of the Rhode Island Conference.

Discussion:

Five people spoke in favor; two people spoke against.

19-GS-17 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the resolution TA1 Motion to General Synod 32, 2019.

(VOTE: 601 Yes; 90 No; 24 Abstentions – 715 electronic submissions registered)

TA1 MOTION TO GENERAL SYNOD 32, 2019

A Prudential Resolution

Text of the Resolution

Whereas, in a 2014 study of the health and vitality of its conferences, the United Church of Christ found that Conferences need and desire to work collaboratively; and

Whereas, in June 2017, the Annual Meetings of the Rhode Island Conference of the United Church of Christ, the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ, and the Connecticut Conference each voted to approve a resolution calling for the creation of a new Conference of the United Church of Christ in Southern New England; and

Whereas, the three said Conferences have each spent the year between their 2017 and 2018 Annual Meetings discerning a call to join together as one single new Conference of the United Church of Christ in Southern New England; and

Whereas, the Boards of Directors of the three said Conferences each voted unanimously to recommend to their 2018 Annual Meetings a common vision statement, a covenant agreement among the three Conferences, and articles of incorporation and bylaws for the proposed new Conference; and

Whereas, the three said Conferences voted nearly unanimously at each of their 2018 Annual Meetings to approve the proposed common vision, covenant, articles, and bylaws; and

Whereas, the three said Conferences voted nearly unanimously at each of their 2018 Annual Meetings to elect a new united Board of Directors to take office upon the formation of the new Conference organization; and

Whereas, the Reverend John Dorhauer, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, declared that the proposed union of the three said Conferences into a new Southern New England Conference would signal to the wider church "...that we can accomplish more together than apart, that we live in an interdependent world in which we all need each other...";

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Thirty-second General Synod does hereby recognize a new Conference in Southern New England and vicinity (provisionally called the "TA1 Conference of the United Church of Christ"), created with geographic boundaries encompassing those previously of the Rhode Island Conference, the Massachusetts Conference, and the Connecticut Conference, effective January 1, 2020; and

Be it further resolved that, the Thirty-second General Synod does hereby approve the termination of the standing of the Rhode Island Conference, the Massachusetts Conference, and the Connecticut Conference with the General Synod, effective January 1, 2020, and concurrently grants the new TA1 Conference of the United Church of Christ standing as a Conference of the United Church of Christ, including all the powers, privileges, and responsibilities, of a Conference of the United Church of Christ; and

Be it further resolved that the Thirty-second General Synod acknowledges that, effective January 1, 2020, each Association of the said three shall automatically become an Association of the new TA1 Conference of the United Church of Christ, as determined by the new TA1 Conference.

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Implementation:

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