

Be it finally resolved, that all settings of the United Church of Christ be encouraged to educate clergy and laity on how to support survivors of rape and sexual violence including trauma-informed care, and to advocate on behalf of those not yet ready to speak openly so that the voices of survivors do not speak alone.

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

11. JESUS SAID, “FOLLOW ME”

Moderator Williams called on Rev. Edward Livingston of the Penn SE Conference to present the recommended actions from Committee #14.

Rev. Livingston, on behalf of Committee #14, moved that the Thirty-second General Synod adopt the resolution Jesus Said “Follow Me” as amended by Committee. Rev. Livingston spoke to the resolution.

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

19-GS-20 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the resolution Jesus Said “Follow Me.”

(VOTE: 641 Yes; 34 No; 42 Abstentions – 717 electronic submissions registered)

JESUS SAID, “FOLLOW ME.”

A Resolution of Witness

Text of the Resolution

Whereas, as the United Church of Christ we are a unity of multiple voices, each essential, each congregation autonomous, uncoerced, and with its own integrity;

Whereas, as the United Church of Christ in these perilous times, we must heed Dr. Martin Luther King’s directive to the church to be the “conscience of the state,”

Whereas, as the United Church of Christ, we have been blessed by God’s extravagant welcome, and have sought to be agents of that graciousness,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon congregations to engage in reflection and conversation on what it means to follow Jesus in the diversity of our practices, with the intent of learning from one another and encouraging one another in faithful witness and extravagant welcome;

Be it further resolved that the Thirty-second General Synod calls upon congregations to have these conversations within, between, and among Local Churches, focusing on the significance of Jesus' call, "Follow me" in this era, and the ways in which each congregation responds to that call;

Be it further resolved that the Thirty-second General Synod calls upon Conferences and Associations to provide settings for the conversations within, between, and among Local Churches, and requests Conferences and Associations to distribute conversation guides to Local Churches and Authorized Ministers;

Be it finally resolved that the Thirty-second General Synod requests the implementing body for this resolution to develop a conversation guide and a system for receiving, compiling, and distributing the reports from the conversations on Jesus said, "Follow me."

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

12. CORNERSTONE FUND

Moderator Williams called on Maria Coyne, President and CEO of the United Church of Christ Cornerstone Fund.

Maria Coyne reported on the Cornerstone Fund.

13. UCCEVERYWHERE

Moderator Williams recognized Cynthia Bailie and Chris Gabriel.

Cynthia Bailie and Chris Gabriel reported on UCCEverywhere.

14. 2019 ANTIONETTE BROWN AWARD

Moderator Williams called on Rev. Elizabeth Dilley and Rev. Dr. Sheila Guillaume to present the 2019 Antoinette Brown Awards.

Rev. Dilley and Rev. Dr. Guillaume recognized as recipients of the 2019 Antoinette Brown Award Rev. Liddy Barlow, Rev. Eileen Norrington, and Rev. Marti Baumer. The institutional award was presented to WomanPreach! Inc.

15. FROM THE GROUND UP

Moderator Williams called upon Cheryl Joseph Williams to report on From the Ground Up.