

respectively.

19-GS-21 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the National Basic Support Allocation base of \$4.79 million and \$4.76 million respectively for the budget years 2020 and 2021.

(VOTE: 582 Yes; 5 No; 39 Abstentions – 626 electronic submissions registered)

Bob Freiberg then moved, on behalf of the United Church of Christ Board, that the General Synod delegate the determination of the percentage allocation for Our Church's Wider Mission National Basic Support for the 2020-2021 biennium to the United Church of Christ Board.

19-GS-22 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ delegates the determination of the percentage allocation for Our Church Wider Mission National Basic Support for the 2020 and 2021 biennium to the United Church of Christ Board.

(VOTE: 567 Yes; 14 No; 42 Abstentions – 633 electronic submissions registered)

4. DENOUNCING ACTS OF VIOLENCE, HATRED AND RACISM CARRIED OUT IN THE NAME OF NEO-NAZI AND WHITE SUPREMIST IDEOLOGIES

Assistant Moderator Lowes called on Rev. Philomena Hare of the Massachusetts Conference to present the recommended action from Committee #6.

Rev. Philomena Hare moved on behalf of Committee #6 that the Thirty-second General Synod adopt the resolution Denouncing Acts of Violence, Hatred and Racism Carried Out in the Name of Neo-Nazi and White Supremist Ideologies as amended by Committee. Rev. Hare spoke to the resolution.

Assistant Moderator Lowes indicated that the General Synod Program and Planning Committee made the decision to allow young people to take a few moments to present a youth perspective on the issues as a part of the deliberations and the resolution before the house is one of the resolutions to which the youth have decided to speak.

Assistant Moderator Lowes, without objection, respectfully requested that the General Synod suspend the Standing Rules to allow the body to hear a three-minute presentation from the Youth at Synod as they prepare to debate and take action upon the current motion.

All of the youth spoke in favor of the resolution.

Assistant Moderator Lowes opened up the resolution for general discussion.

There was no other discussion.

19-GS-23 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the resolution Denouncing Acts of Violence, Hatred and Racism Carried

Out in the Name of Neo-Nazi and White Supremist Ideologies.

(Vote: 673 Yes; 2 No; 4 Abstentions – 679 electronic submissions registered)

**DENOUNCING ACTS OF VIOLENCE, HATRED, AND RACISM CARRIED OUT IN
THE NAME OF NEO-NAZI AND WHITE SUPREMACIST IDEOLOGIES**

A Resolution of Witness

Text of the Resolution

Whereas, scripture offers important teachings such as:

- God’s call and commandment to love God with all of one’s being (Deut. 6:5), and to love one’s neighbor as one’s self (Matthew 22:37-40)
- God’s call through the prophets to “act justly and love mercy” (Micah 6:8)
- God’s call through Jesus “to do unto others . . .” (Matthew 7:12), to see the despised and oppressed as children of God, as in the story of Jesus’ encounter with the Samaritan woman (John 4:4-30), and in the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37)
- God’s vision of the church as a people “drawn from every nation, all tribes, peoples, and languages” (Revelations 7:9); and

Whereas, the church has understood itself to be called by God to speak and act on behalf of the outcast and oppressed in many times and cultures; and

Whereas, since 2016, we have witnessed significant increases in the incidents of hate speech, hate crimes, assault, and harassment, directed at many minority peoples including immigrants, Native Americans, Muslims, Jews, LGBTQ people and more; and

Whereas, we recognize that all persons have a constitutional right to free speech, nonetheless the open display of Nazi and white supremacist regalia (swastika and Confederate flags), the overt hateful and racist behavior in the white nationalist “Unite the Right” demonstration (Charlottesville VA, Aug. 12th, 2017), and the increasingly frequent expression of hateful, extremist views in many forms of media is both profoundly disturbing to us and diametrically opposed to our mandate from God; and

Whereas, on September 12th, 2017, both Houses of the United States Congress unanimously passed a joint resolution condemning white nationalists, white supremacists, the Ku Klux Klan neo-Nazis, and other hate groups.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the congregations of the United Church of Christ to denounce all forms and expressions of white supremacist hatred as displayed by neo-Nazi groups, the Ku Klux Klan, and others; and

Be it further resolved, that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ exhorts all congregations of the United Church of Christ to speak and act in solidarity with all who are the targets of hate speech and actions; and

Be it further resolved, that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges all members, congregations, and ministry settings of the UCC to engage in reflection, learning, self-examination, and repentance for the ways in which white supremacy has influenced, and continues to influence, our personal, interpersonal, institutional, and cultural lives; and to seek out opportunities for transformative dialogue and relationship with people of diverse backgrounds and perspectives, including both targets and supporters of white supremacist rhetoric and action, with special attention to assisting congregants of white and/or European descent to acknowledge their responsibility to use their privilege to disrupt bigotry rooted in whiteness; and

Be it finally resolved, that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages each congregation of the United Church of Christ to join with other communities of faith to proclaim our shared commitment to Racial Justice.

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

7. ESTABLISHING AN ACTION TEAM TO CONDUCT A LISTENING CAMPAIGN AND BRING RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE FUTURE OF CHRISTIAN WITNESS AT GENERAL SYNOD.

Assistant Moderator called on David Bahr of the Connecticut Conference to present the recommended action from Committee #4.

David Bahr moved on behalf of Committee #4 that the Thirty-second General Synod adopt the resolution Establishing an Action Team to Conduct a Listening Campaign and Bring Recommendations on the Future of Christian Witness at General Synod as amended by committee, and David Bahr spoke to the Motion.

Discussion:

Three spoke in favor.

19-GS-24 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the resolution Establishing an Action Team to Conduct a Listening Campaign and Bring Recommendations on the Future of Christian Witness at General Synod.

(Vote: 372 yes; 228 No; 93 Abstentions – 693 electronic submissions registered)