

Be it resolved that the UCC Board in consultation with the Council of Conference Ministers consider an effective implementation plan for this listening campaign, to be reported to and by General Synod 33.

**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.

**8. CALLING UPON THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD TO BRING BYLAWS REVISIONS THAT INCLUDE NON-BINARY GENDER LANGUAGE**

Assistant Moderator Lowes called on Sarah Frische-Mouri Hannigan of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference to present the recommended action from Committee 12.

Sarah Frische-Mouri Hannigan moved that the Thirty-second General Synod adopt the Resolution Calling Upon the United Church of Christ Board to bring Bylaws Revisions that Include Non-Binary Gender Language as amended by Committee. Sarah Frische-Mouri Hannigan spoke to the motion.

Discussion:

One person spoke in favor.

**19-GS-25 VOTED:** The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the resolution Calling Upon the United Church of Christ Board to Bring Bylaws Revisions that Include Non-binary Gender Language.

(Vote: 636 yes; 51 No; 14 Abstentions – 693 electronic submissions registered)

**RESOLUTION CALLING UPON THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD TO BRING BYLAWS REVISIONS THAT INCLUDE NON-BINARY GENDER LANGUAGE**  
**A Resolution of Witness**

**Text of the Resolution**

Whereas, God has brought forth human beings as creatures who are male, female, sometimes dramatically or subtly a complex mix of male and female in their bodies and/or psyches, and sometimes who psychologically experience both and female identification and/or neither male nor female identification; and

Whereas, human cultures have created a broad diversity of roles for men and women, and have sometimes created roles for people named as neither man nor woman often revered and respected

roles; and

Whereas, rules of appearance in the Bible, such as in Deuteronomy 22:5, are certainly among the rules criticized by Jesus as focused on outward conformity rather than inward integrity grounded in the acceptance of God's love; and

Whereas, there are numerous biblical affirmations of the goodness of creation and the love of God for all people, including Genesis 1, Psalm 139, John 1: 1-5, and Acts 10: 34-43; and

Whereas, Galatians 3: 26-29 calls on those who are baptized to put on Christ like a garment and to look past human divisions to become one person in Christ; and

Whereas, people with diverse understandings of their own gender beyond male and female are currently offering valuable ministry within the United Church of Christ, both as lay people and as clergy; and

Whereas, Christian people whose gender identity is something other than cis gender have sometimes experienced rejection and non-acceptance within some expressions of the United Church of Christ and in other expressions of Christ's Church, and are in need of a welcoming Christian community where they are valued as Christian people, and

Whereas, many settings of the United Church of Christ have little understanding of persons who gender identity is something other than cis gender; of how to meet their needs and make them feel welcome, of how to integrate their gifts and capacities for ministry into the life of the church and of how to integrate them into liturgy and expressions of worship.

Therefore, be it resolved, that all congregations of the United Church of Christ are encouraged to welcome people of all gender identities and expressions into membership, ministry, leadership, and full participation; and

Be it further resolved, that all settings of the United Church of Christ are encouraged to learn about the realities of gender experience and expression; and

Be it further resolved, that all settings of the United Church of Christ carefully consider the use of language relating to gender in all publications, curricula, and documents; and

Be it finally resolved, that the United Church of Christ Board bring bylaws revisions to the 2021 General Synod that include gender expansive language and welcome persons of all gender identities and expressions into service as General Synod Delegates and as members of the United Church of Christ Board.

**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.

**9. SOUTHERN ASIA INITIATIVE**

Assistant Moderator Lowes welcomed Rev. Dr. James Moos, Associate General Minister for Global Engagement and Operations and the Co-Executive of Global Ministries, and Dr. Darshan Ambalavanar, Director of Diaconal Ministries, Church of American Ceylon Mission, Sri Lanka, to introduce the Southern Asia Initiative.

**10. REV. DR. JAMES MOOS RECOGNITION**

Assistant Moderator Lowes introduced a video and expressed thanks to Rev. Dr. James Moos for his commitment to the church, to building relationship, to leading impactful ministries and we celebrate and give thanks for his ministry.

**11. RECESS**

Assistant Moderator Lowes declared the Fifth Plenary of the Thirty-second General Synod to be complete.

**Monday, June 24, 2019  
Sixth Plenary Session**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND SPONSOR RECOGNITION**

Assistant Moderator Lowes called the Sixth Plenary of the Thirty-second General Synod to order at 7:00 p.m.

Assistant Moderator Lowes indicated it was time to hear from a major partner and major financial sponsor, the Cornerstone Fund. Assistant Moderator Lowes thanked the Cornerstone Fund.

**2. SPEAK OUT**

**3. DISCERNING, ARTICULATING AND RESOURCING THE NATURE, PURPOSE, COMPOSITION, COVENANTAL AUTONOMY AND DEFINITION OF THE 'BASIC UNIT OF LIFE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST' FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY.**

Assistant Moderator Lowes called on Rev. Elliott Munn of the Connecticut Conference to present the recommended action from Committee #11.

On behalf of Committee #11, Rev. Elliott Munn moved that the Thirty-second General Synod adopt the Resolution Discerning, Articulating, and Resourcing the Nature, Purpose, Composition, Covenantal Autonomy and Definition of 'the basic unit of life and organization of the United Church of Christ' for the Twenty-first Century and Rev. Munn spoke to the motion.