

8. CALLING FOR THE UNITED STATES TO PULL “BACK FROM THE BRINK” AND PREVENT NUCLEAR WAR.

Moderator Williams called on the Rev. Rose Wright-Scott of the Southern Conference to present the recommended actions from Committee #10.

Rev. Rose Wright-Scott moved, on behalf of Committee #10, to recommend that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopt the resolution as amended calling for the United States to pull “Back From the Brink” and Prevent Nuclear War. Rev. Scott spoke to the resolution.

Discussion:

One spoke in favor of the resolution.

19-GS-33 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the resolution Calling for the United States to pull “Back From the Brink” and Prevent Nuclear War.

(Vote: 650 Yes; 22 No; 7 Abstentions – 679 electronic submissions registered)

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE UNITED STATES TO PULL “BACK FROM THE BRINK” AND PREVENT NUCLEAR WAR
A Resolution of Witness

Text of the Resolution

Whereas, in our scriptures we read that “where there is no vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18); and

Whereas, in 2018 the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists moved the Doomsday Clock ahead by 30 seconds — to 11:58 p.m. A symbolic gesture suggesting that civilization is two minutes away from destruction; and

Whereas, the Twelfth General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed a pronouncement “Reversing the Arms Race”; and

Whereas, the Fifteenth General Synod passed a pronouncement declaring the United Church of Christ a “Just Peace Church” that declared opposition to all weapons of mass destruction, calling for the immediate cessation of testing, production, and deployment of such arsenals; and

Whereas, 95 percent of the world’s nuclear weapons are in the hands of the United State and Russia and the rest are held by seven other countries: China, France, Israel, India, North Korea, Pakistan, and the United Kingdom; and

Whereas, since the height of the Cold War, the United States and Russia have dismantled more than 70,000 nuclear warheads, but 14,485 of these weapons still exist and pose an intolerable risk to human survival; and

Whereas, former U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry has said, “the risk of a nuclear catastrophe today is greater than it was during the Cold War — and yet our public is blissfully unaware of the new nuclear dangers they face;” and

Whereas, the use of even a tiny fraction of these weapons would cause worldwide climate disruption and global famine; and

Whereas, a large-scale nuclear war would kill hundreds of millions of people directly and cause unimaginable environmental damage and catastrophic climate disruption; and

Whereas, as the effects of climate change place increased stress on communities around the world and intensify the likelihood of conflict, the danger of nuclear war will grow; and

Whereas, despite assurances that these arsenals exist solely to guarantee that they are never used, there have been many occasions when nuclear armed states have prepared to use these weapons, and war has been averted only at the last minute; and

Whereas, the planned expenditure of more than \$1 trillion to enhance our nuclear arsenal will not only increase the risk of nuclear disaster but fuel a global arms race and divert crucial resources needed to assure the well-being of the American people and people all over the world; and

Whereas, there is an alternative to this march to nuclear war: in July 2017, 122 nations called for the elimination of all nuclear weapons by adopting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Whereas, in 2018 the U.S. has expressed its intent to exit the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, a critical agreement to curtail nuclear weapons; and

Whereas, living into the United Church of Christ’ current mission statement to “Build a just world for all” will necessitate the elimination of nuclear weapons;

Therefore be it resolved that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ reaffirms its vision of a nuclear-weapon-free world and endorses the “Back from the Brink: The Call to Prevent Nuclear War” campaign, calling upon policymakers to take measures to prevent nuclear war by:

- renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first;
- ending any president’s sole, unchecked authority to launch a nuclear attack;
- taking US nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert;
- cancelling the plan to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons; and
- actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.

Be it further resolved that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on the U.S. President and Congress to take necessary steps to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and make nuclear disarmament the centerpiece of our national security policy;

And be it further resolved that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges the National setting, conferences, associations, and local churches to advocate for policy makers to support the aforementioned resolutions.

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. DESIGNATING THE MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AS A HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED GROUP

Moderator Williams called on the Rev. Michael Vollbrecht of the Kansas Oklahoma Conference to present the recommended actions from Committee #7.

Rev. Michael Vollbrecht moved, on behalf of Committee #7, to recommend that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopt the resolution as revised Designating the Mental Health Network of the United Church of Christ as a Historically Underrepresented Group.

Discussion:

Eight people spoke in favor of the resolution.

19-GS-34 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the resolution Designating the Mental Health Network of the United Church of Christ as a Historically Underrepresented Group.

(Vote: 658 Yes; 18 No; 3 Abstentions – 679 electronic submissions registered)

The Business Committee of the Thirty-second General Synod has recommended this proposed resolution be sent to a Committee of the General Synod.

DESIGNATING THE MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AS A HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED GROUP
A Prudential Resolution

Text of the Resolution

Whereas, the Twenty-second General Synod adopted the “Calling the People of God to Justice for Persons with Serious Mental Illnesses (Brain Disorders)” and the Thirtieth General Synod adopted the “Developing Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged (WISE) Congregations