

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

for Mental Health,” and

Whereas, since 1993 the UCC Mental Health Network (once known as the UCC Mental Illness Network), has faithfully served all expressions of the UCC, promoting mental health and the Welcome, Inclusion, Support, and Engagement (WISE) for the millions of individuals and their families living with mental health challenges, brain disorders, and substance use disorders into the Body of Christ, the Church, and the larger society through education, resources, support, programs, five conferences with the UCC Disabilities Ministries, and through its own WISE Congregation for Mental Health Conferences, and

Whereas, the importance of the UCC Mental Health Network’s work has been recognized by the United Church of Christ Justice and Local Church Ministries through a newly created position in the national setting for a Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice that liaises equally with the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries and the United Church of Christ Mental Health Network, and

Whereas, the UCC Mental Health Network's work furthers inclusion and access to all people within the United Church of Christ and the larger society in ways similar to United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries, a recognized Historically Underrepresented Group of the United Church of Christ, but the Mental Health Network and those it serves do not have a voice or a vote at the General Synod, and

Whereas, the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries has voted to support this request.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ recognizes that one in four people across the world experience some variety of a mental health challenge or brain disorder during their lifetime, and one out of 25 people live with a severe mental health illness in the United States. Stigma within the Church and the larger society has muted their voices and their experiences, rendering them historically underrepresented in the United Church of Christ.

Let it be resolved that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ recognizes the United Church of Christ Mental Health Network as a Historically Underrepresented Group of the United Church of Christ and directs the United Church of Christ Board to take the necessary actions to incorporate the Mental Health Network into the Historically Underrepresented Groups listings and access.

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.

10. THE COLECTIVO DE UCC LATINX MINISTRIES REQUESTS TO BE