

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

RECOGNIZED 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 amended by Committee entitled The Colectivo De UCC Latinx Ministries Requests to be Recognized as a Historically Underrepresented Group. Michael Vollbreck also spoke to the resolution.

Discussion

Five people spoke in favor of the resolution.

19-GS-35 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the resolution The Colectivo De UCC Latinx Ministries Requests to be Recognized as a Historically Underrepresented Group.

(Vote: 652 Yes; 6 No; 1 Abstentions – 659 electronic submissions registered)

THE COLECTIVO DE UCC LATINX MINISTRIES REQUESTS TO BE RECOGNIZED AS A HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED GROUP **A Prudential Resolution**

Text of the Resolution

Whereas, it has been documented and affirmed that the Latinx community in the United States is not a homogenous group of people, but is comprised of twenty different cultures linked by a common language, bound by a history of oppression and diaspora, and connected by a powerful and undeterred faith in God;

Whereas, racial discrimination against Latinx communities is rampant throughout the United States, yet discussions of White Privilege within the UCC are focused on the racial duality of black and white, without mention of the marginalization of the Latinx community;

Whereas, it has been documented and affirmed that Latinx population in the UCC is disproportionately underrepresented at the association and conference settings within the wider church;

Whereas, in 2015 the Executive Committee of the Council for Hispanic Ministries voted unanimously to suspend its Bylaws and governing structure and replace it with a UCC Latin@/Hispanic Transition Team to study and report on the status and needs of the Latinx community in the UCC;

Whereas, the Transition Team recommends that a new nationally based body be formed within the UCC to focus on a covenanted common mission in ministry with Latinx communities;

Whereas, the Latinx community in the UCC is anxious to claim its place within the body of Christ and be mutually accountable for the future, seeking to be members, not a mission, of the United Church of Christ.

Therefore, let it be resolved that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls for the establishment of the Colectivo de UCC Latinx Ministries, a leadership body in covenant with the UCC, with membership comprised of UCC congregations, associations, and conferences; and non-voting associate members including ecumenical and interfaith partners and community-based organizations who share and endorse the goals and values of the Colectivo and covenant to strengthen and support the mission and ministry of Latinx people within the UCC.

Be it further resolved that at the request of the Council for Hispanic Ministries, the Colectivo de UCC Latinx Ministries takes the place of the Council for Hispanic Ministries in the UCC Bylaws, Article VI Self-Determining Groups.

Be it further resolved that the Colectivo de UCC Latinx Ministries is recognized as a Historically Underrepresented Group and a member of the Council of Racial and Ethnic Ministries (COREM).

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.

11. A RESOLUTION ON ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UCC AND THE IGLESIA EVANGELICA UNIDA DE PUERTO RICO

Moderator Williams called on Clare Twomey of the Rocky Mountain Conference to present the recommended actions from Committee #2.

Clare Twomey moved, on behalf of Committee #2, to recommend that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopt the resolution as amended by Committee entitled A Resolution on Ecumenical Relationship Between the UCC and the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico. Clare Twomey also spoke to the resolution.

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

19-GS-36 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the resolution entitled A Resolution on Ecumenical Relationship Between the United Church of Christ and the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico.

(Vote: 615 Yes; 15 No; 17 Abstentions – 647 electronic submissions registered)