

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)

A RESOLUTION ON ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND
THE IGLESIA EVANGELICA UNIDA DE PUERTO RICO
A Prudential Resolution

Text of the Resolution

Whereas, the gospel of Jesus Christ unites the followers of Christ in a single community of faith and compels us to make our unity visible so “that the world may believe...” John 17:21;

Whereas, the United Church of Christ and the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico are both united and uniting churches with multiple denominational streams which identify them and shape their Christian self-understanding;

Whereas, the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico and the United Church of Christ have common commitment to the visible unity of the church of Jesus Christ and to the one ecumenical movement;

Whereas, the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico and the United Church of Christ have common Congregational and Reformed heritage and sit in common witness to mission, worship, theological conversation and commitment to justice;

Whereas, the United Church of Christ and the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico have engaged in dialogue and have identified similarities and differences that can commonly strengthen who they are and their witness in North America as united and uniting churches;

Whereas, the United Church of Christ and the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico were one church for fifteen years, sharing ministry to the world together and united in Christ’s love;

Therefore, be it resolved the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ recognizes the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico as an ecumenical partner;

Be it further resolved that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ commits to forming an ecumenical partnership committee with the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico;

Be it finally resolved that the ecumenical partnership committee brings back to the Thirty-Third General Synod recommendations for further steps and activities to bring the two communions to the closest possible relationship while remaining independent churches.

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.

12. REAFFIRMING THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST’S COMMITMENT TO INTERRELIGIOUS RELATIONS AND DEPLORING RELIGIOUS BIGOTRY

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 Reaffirming the United Church of Christ’s Commitment to Interreligious Relations and Deploring Religious Bigotry. Clare Twomey also spoke to the resolution.

Discussion:

One person spoke in favor.

19-GS-37 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the resolution Reaffirming the United Church of Christ’s Commitment to Interreligious Relations and Deploring Religious Bigotry.

(Vote: 655 Yes; 3 No; 10 Abstentions – 668 electronic submissions registered)

REAFFIRMING THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST’S COMMITMENT TO INTERRELIGIOUS RELATIONS, AND DEPLORING RELIGIOUS BIGOTRY

Resolution of Witness

Text of the Resolution

Whereas, the world is pluralistic, including and perhaps especially, with regard to religious diversity; and

Whereas, the United Church of Christ is a Christian community open to God’s new things (Isaiah 43:19); and

Whereas, the opportunities for engagement with people of many faiths are bountiful and represent possibilities for genuine encounter with people who are created in God’s image and who share a spiritual and ritual quest as people of faith, seeking the divine; and

Whereas, the world and the United States specifically witnessed an increased frequency of rhetorical and physical violence toward and between people of different faith communities in the past several months; and

Whereas, the United Church of Christ identifies as a Just Peace Church (General Synod 15; 1985; reaffirmed at GS 30; 2015); and