

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

Whereas, General Synods of the United Church of Christ have been attentive to matters of interreligious relations in the past, notably in the resolution, “Relationship between the UCC and the Jewish Community” (GS 16; 1987), and the resolution, “The relationship between the United Church of Christ and the Muslim community” (GS 17; 1989); and

Whereas, General Synods of United Church of Christ have “condemn[ed] anti-Semitism in all its forms” (GS 14; 1983); “confess[ed] the sin of anti-Semitism and renounce[d] it” (GS 23; 2001); and “express[ed] clear support for neighbors in the Muslim community...who feel the impact of anti-Islamic rhetoric and actions” (GS 28; 2011); and

Whereas, the Officers of the United Church of Christ have consistently offered a public witness denouncing incidents of violence targeting communities identified by their faiths, including a “Statement on the Vilification of Muslims” (Dec. 9, 2015) and “An open letter to our Jewish colleagues and friends” (Jan. 20, 2017); and

Whereas, the Twenty-second General Synod of the UCC commended for study and response the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA document “Interfaith Relations and the Churches” (GS 22; 1999), and the Twenty-fifth General Synod adopted “A Study Resource on Interreligious Relations for the United Church of Christ” (GS 25; 2005); and

Whereas, a special committee of the UCC’s Council for Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations has recently completed a statement entitled, “A Just World for All: Engaging with All God’s Creation” and calling the UCC to live inter-religiously,” which asserts that “God shows no partiality,” and is motivated by the UCC’s Core Values of Extravagant Welcome, Continuing Testament, and Changing Lives, and challenges us to expand our understanding of Jesus’ prayer, “That they may all be one;”

Be it therefore resolved that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

Receives the interfaith statement “A Just World for All: Engaging with All God’s Creation” for use in UCC engagement with world religions and spiritualities;

Renews its conviction that God has called us to affirm new ways in which Christ is reconciling the world;

Reaffirms with love and certainty, our commitment to interreligious relations with any and all communities of faith;

Calls upon National leadership, Conferences, Associations, local churches, and members to continue to study about and engage in interreligious dialogue and relationships, institutionally and personally, drawing on the experience of our ecumenical and global partners;

Deplores and denounces any and all acts of violence and hatred, be they in thought, word, or deed, directed at individuals and communities, particularly when based on religious identity; and to offer a public witness of support and solidarity when such acts are perpetrated; and

Commends settings and members of the United Church of Christ to read, study, and act upon the document, “A Just World for All: Engaging with All God’s Creation” and calling the UCC to live inter-religiously.

Funding:

The funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

Implementation:

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13. RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL STAFF

Moderator Williams recognized the staff of the National Setting of the United Church of Christ.

14. MUSIC/STRETCH BREAK

15. REPORT ON MEMBERS IN DISCERNMENT FINANCIAL SUPPORT TASK FORCE

Moderator Williams called on the Rev. Carrie Call, Chair of the Members in Discernment Financial Support Task Force, to report on activities of the Task Force. Rev. Call reported that Task Force mandate has been changed to Financial Health in Ministry Task Force, has been enlarged, and will be working with covenant partners to address the larger issues of MID financial health and clergy financial health.

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Assistant Moderator Lowes made the following announcements:

- Turn in your clickers.
- The Exhibit Hall is open until noon.
- The Wisconsin Conference thanks the General Synod for donations.

17. RECESS

Moderator Williams declared the Seventh Plenary of the Thirty-second General Synod to be complete and indicated we would be in recess until 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 25, 2019

Eighth Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER

Moderator Williams called the Eighth Plenary of the Thirty-second General Synod to order at 8:00 a.m.

2. SPEAK OUT

3. UPDATE ON UCC MARCH ON I.C.E. OFFICE

Noel Anderson provided an update on the march to the ICE office, and invited Lisa Hart of the Wisconsin Conference, Martin Juache of the New Sanctuary Movement in Milwaukee, and Linda Jaramillo of the National Immigration Collaborative of the United Church of Christ and the Central Pacific Conference to participate.