

Assistant Moderator Sandman indicated we would begin this plenary with the second Speak Out!

Kearstin Bailey, South Central Conference (Volunteer Program)
Rev. Charing Wei-Jen Chen, Illinois Conference (Queer of God)
Paul Fogle, Penn Central Conference (Dying with Dignity)
Emma Brewer-Wallin, UCC Board Member (Behavioral Covenant – Exhibit Hall)
Chad Abbott, Conference Minister, Indiana Kentucky Conf. (DACA)
Brooks Berndt, UCC Minister, Environmental Justice (Green New Deal)

Assistant Moderator Sandman thanked the participants provided information for Speak Outs! for tomorrow's plenary.

3. STATE OF THE CHURCH

Moderator Lowes invited the General Minister and President to bring the “State of the Church address.

John Dorhauer spoke on the State of the Church.

Assistant Moderator Sandman thanked John for his challenging yet hope-filled words.

4. BREAK

5. A RESOLUTION TO ADVOCATE AND ACT TO CHANGE THE CASH BAIL BOND SYSTEM TO ELIMINATE RACIAL AND SOCIAL INJUSTICES INHERENT IN THE PRESENT SYSTEM

Assistant Moderator Sandmen asked Moderator Lowes to open with prayer prior to beginning with committee reports.

The next item of business is a resolution entitled A Resolution to Advocate and Act to Change the Cash Bail Bond System to Eliminate Racial and Social Injustices in the Present System, submitted by the Southern Conference. Moderator Sandman called on Maria Brace of the Penn Northeast Conference to present the recommended action.

Moderator Sandman then called on Tyler Ung, a delegate from the Southeast Conference, to make the motion. Tyler Ung moved on behalf of Committee Two that the Thirty-third General Synod adopt the Resolution to Advocate and Act to Change the Cash Bail Bond System to Eliminate Racial and Social Injustices Inherent in the Present System, as amended. Maria Brace spoke to the motion.

Discussion:

Tanya Sadagopan (Wisconsin Conference) spoke in favor
Charlotte Frantz (Minnesota Conference) spoke in favor
Maddie Furman (Southern Conference) questioned the role of the church in this matter

Motion to Amend

Andrew Roblyer (South Central Conference) moved to amend the resolution to change

“encourage” to “strongly urges” in line 163.
Motion was seconded by Dixie Laube, (Iowa Conference).

Moderator called for discussion on the motion to amend.

No additional discussion.

Proposed Amendment:

That the Thirty-Third General Synod of the United Church of Christ ~~encourages~~ **strongly urges** the reform of the bail bond systems within individual states and the United States in order to eliminate the racial and social injustices in the present cash bail bond systems,

Vote on Amendment

21-GS-15 VOTED:

MOTION CARRIED (Vote: 494 Yes; 54 No; 13 Abstain)

No further discussion.

Vote on Main Motion

21-GS-16 VOTED: The Thirty-third General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to adopt the resolution, A Resolution to Advocate and Act to Change the Cash Bail Bond System to Eliminate Racial and Social Injustices Inherent in the Present System, as amended.

MOTION CARRIED (Vote: 551 Yes; 10 No; 3 Abstain)

A RESOLUTION TO ADVOCATE AND ACT TO CHANGE THE CASH BAIL BOND SYSTEM TO ELIMINATE RACIAL AND SOCIAL INJUSTICES INHERENT IN THE PRESENT SYSTEM
A Resolution of Witness

TEXT OF THE MOTION

WHEREAS the U.S. has the highest rate of incarceration in the world, and African Americans, Latinos, Latinas, and indigenous peoples are disproportionately incarcerated in the United States;

WHEREAS since 2000, the vast majority of the jail population increase was caused by the detention of individuals prior to trial (pretrial) of which 60 to 70% were classified nonviolent minimum-security;

WHEREAS cash bail bonding is an over 2-billion-dollar industry;

WHEREAS the inability to make cash bail extracts an untold human cost on the accused due to their loss of employment, housing and, often times, family support;

WHEREAS there are proven instances of inadequate health care for incarcerated persons, death

and injury suffered by incarcerated persons ;

WHEREAS at least 70% of inmates in local jails are not convicted of any crime;

WHEREAS persons who cannot make bail are poor and four times more likely to receive jail time with sentences three times longer than those who do make bail;

WHEREAS bail set for people of color exceeds that for whites by 35% and Latinos by 19%;

WHEREAS three out of four criminal cases in state trial courts are for misdemeanors that, if proved, would result in fines and/or less than a year in jail;

WHEREAS political contributions made by the Bail Industry in between 2002 and 2016 exceeded \$5,000,000;

WHEREAS money-based systems release nearly half of the most dangerous defendants with little to no meaningful supervision;

WHEREAS the US is the only nation besides the Philippines to have a legal commercial bail bond industry;

WHEREAS corporate and/or systemic structures, or individuals which derive profit from the imprisonment of human beings serve to perpetuate the legacy of slavery, oppression and heartless greed which the United Church of Christ has long sought to expose and correct;

WHEREAS we are admonished as followers of Christ to “Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured;" (Hebrews 13:3)

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- a. That the Thirty-Third General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages the reform of the bail bond systems within individual states and the United States in order to eliminate the racial and social injustices in the present cash bail bond systems;
- b. That the Thirty-Third General Synod of the United Church of Christ strongly urges the individual states and the United States to institute alternatives to cash bail bond systems;
- c. That the Thirty-Third General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon all settings of the church to raise their consciousness of the theological, social, racial, ethnic and economic inequities which make possible the existence of the unfair and unjust bail bond systems;
- d. That, to accomplish these goals, the Thirty-Third General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon all settings of the church to seek partnerships with other

organizations also working toward the goals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Thirty-Third General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the U.S. Congress and state legislatures to reform the cash bail bond systems to be more just and humane.

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.

6. A COMMITMENT TO GENDER SAFETY AND EQUITY IN MINISTRY SETTINGS

This resolution was submitted by the Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ. Assistant Moderator Sandman called on the Committee Four Chair, Cheryl Lindsey of the Heartland Conference, to speak to the committee's recommendations. Gary Barraco, a delegate from Penn Northeast Conference and member of Committee Four, moved that the Thirty-third General Synod adopt the resolution A Commitment to Gender Safety and Equity in Ministry and recommended approval, as amended. Cheryl spoke to the motion.

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

21-GS-17 VOTED: The Thirty-third General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to adopt the resolution A Commitment to Gender Safety and Equity in Ministry.

MOTION CARRIED (Vote: 544 Yes; 12 No; 3 Abstain)

**A COMMITMENT TO GENDER SAFETY & EQUITY IN MINISTRY SETTINGS
A Resolution of Witness**

TEXT OF THE MOTION

WHEREAS The General Synod of the United Church of Christ has taken a firm, unyielding stance for the human rights and safety of women, refuses to condone any form of violence against vulnerable people, and strongly encourages clergy and laity to support survivors of sexual violence; and

WHEREAS The majority of women, both cisgender and transgender, whether they identify as women or as non-binary, are objectified and subjected to the violence and degradation of sexual assault and unwanted sexual advance; and

WHEREAS Sexual harassment and gender discrimination, including attacking, undermining