

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

1. Jerusalem remain a plural and diverse city both religiously and politically and that no party has the right to change the status of Jerusalem unilaterally;
2. the building of new Israeli settlements in Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza cease;
3. Palestinians be permitted to move freely between Gaza, Jerusalem and the West Bank, for jobs, housing, and all services of community and religious life;
4. all governing authorities agree to honor human and civil rights as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations; and
5. all forms of violence and killing cease.

Subject to the availability of funds.

8. RESOLUTION "COMPASSIONATE RESPONSE TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE"

Moderator Dean called on the Rev. Kekapa P. K. Lee (HI), Chair of Committee Seven, for the introduction of two Resolutions from the Committee.

Mr. Lee thanked the Committee for their work and began by explaining that one of the Resolutions assigned to Committee Seven was entitled "Harm Reduction." He said the Committee changed the title to "Compassionate Response to Substance Abuse." Mr. Lee explained the work of the Committee on this Resolution and called on the Rev. Nancy H. Nyberg (ILL), a member of the Committee, to speak to the motion.

John Bathkee and Dianna Niemann-Harris (MO) spoke in support of the Resolution.

The Rev Scott R. Johnson (OHIO) offered a friendly amendment to replace, throughout the document, the word "drugs" with the words "alcohol and other drugs."

This was accepted as a friendly amendment.

The Rev. Dorothy Gager (SE) offered a friendly amendment: in the "THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED," add "to advocate for adequate treatment resources available to all." as a final point.

This was accepted as a friendly amendment and Moderator Dean called for the vote.

97-GS-53 VOTED: The Twenty-first General Synod adopts the resolution "A Compassionate Response To Substance Abuse."

RESOLUTION "COMPASSIONATE RESPONSE TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE"

WHEREAS, we are called to "loose the bonds of injustice" (Isaiah 58:6), to be "removers of the yoke amongst us, and "satisfiers of the needs of the afflicted" (Isaiah 58:9,10); for then the Lord will guide us and we will be "repairers of the

breech" and "restorers of streets to live in" (Isaiah 58:11,12);

WHEREAS, our Teacher and Savior Jesus Christ has commanded us to "love our neighbors as ourselves" (Matthew 22:39); and

WHEREAS, our human family in cities, schools, prisons and homes, especially the poor, the children, and people of color, are coming to great harm, both through destructive alcohol and other drug abuse and through the costly war against alcohol and other drugs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirms that it is important to address the devastating impact of alcohol and other drug abuse in our society, and challenges our church and society to:

- confront the root causes of abuse and dependency;
- advocate a spiritual and theological approach to address these issues;
- encourage a healing movement in the United Church of Christ at all settings: local churches, associations, conferences, and national;
- support public policies that expand education, prevention, and treatment, in our prisons and in the wider community;
- seek to reduce the punitive and harmful effects of various societal responses to substance abuse and abusers, including a reduction in the use of incarceration for minor offenses and an increase in the use of additional alternatives to incarceration; and advocate for adequate treatment resources available to all.

Subject to the availability of funds.

9. RESOLUTION "PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX"

Moderator Dean asked Mr. Lee to continue with the report of Committee Seven.

Mr. Lee introduced the final Resolution of the General Synod entitled, "Prison Industrial Complex." Mr. Lee said there was strong support for this Resolution in the Committee and that the Committee celebrated that the church was responding both to the needs of victims and their families as well as to prisoners and their families. Mr Lee reviewed changes made by the Committee.

Moderator Dean asked Mr. Lee if he wished to speak to the motion. Mr. Lee again called on Ms. Nyberg who spoke on behalf of the Committee in support of the Resolution.

The Rev. Heather C. Wickes (OHIO) and the Rev. William C. Schraer (IK) spoke in support of the Resolution.

The Rev. Alfred C. Krass (PSE) said he was concerned that some might see an imbalance in the Resolution toward a support of prisoners rather than equal support for victims. He said that there were places in the Resolution that spoke to support for victims. Mr. Krass offered a friendly amendment to include the word "restitution" after the words "alternative