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toward other governments that reward religious freedom and discourage religious tyranny and persecution.

Funding for this action will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

Moderator Hood reminded the Synod of the time constraints and that any unfinished business at the end of Synod will go to the Executive Council.

5. RESOLUTION "DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE ALLIANCE OF BAPTISTS AND THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST"

The Moderator called on Ms. Frances Carreon (MO), Chair of Committee Five, for recommended actions.

Ms. Carreon directed the delegates to page 132 in the Program/Worship and Business book for the Resolution "Dialogue Between the Alliance of Baptists and the United Church of Christ." She thanked the members of Committee Five for their work, especially those individuals who provided personal witness to their work with the Alliance of Baptists. Ms. Carreon shared the positive feeling of the Committee and moved its receipt and adoption of the recommended actions.

Discussion followed.

Rev. Yoshikuni Kanda (SC) expressed his pleasure to support this resolution with passion. He explained that recently delegates from their partner church in Okinawa Japan were in Austin and he approached their immediate neighbor church to hold a global worship service on Sunday morning. However, the church said "No" because of their fear regarding the huge military bases there. He approached a nearby University Baptist Church and they said "Yes" immediately. There was a great worship service with the Okinawa pastor preaching and the joint choir singing. This Baptist church was removed from the Southern Baptist Convention two years ago because the church ordained a gay member as a Deacon.

Rev. Timothy C. Downs (SE) spoke with enthusiasm on behalf of this resolution. The kinds of issues that have separated these churches from the Southern Baptists are the kinds of issues that are important to us in the United Church of Christ: inclusion of women in ministry and inclusion of gay, lesbian and transgendered peoples. He stated that the Alliance of Baptists preaches a gospel that reconciles, frees and unites. He urged support and welcomes a dialogue with sisters and brothers in Christ who have been very

important to us in the South and with whom we share a great deal.

Rev. Dorothy Gager (SE) stated that as a resident of Nashville, the home of the Southern Baptist National Offices, she has known many life-long Baptists who are deeply committed to the idea of a church with congregational based polity which invites its members to think for themselves about matters of scripture and social justice. She reported that these people have found themselves excluded from teaching positions in church-related seminaries and from pulpits in their denomination; their pain is palpable. Our predecessors in the faith did a great injustice to their predecessors in the faith and we now have the opportunity to right that wrong. She urged support of the resolution.

There being no further discussion, Moderator Hood called for the vote.

99-GS-37 VOTED: The Twenty-second General Synod receives the report "Dialogue Between the Alliance of Baptists and the United Church of Christ" and adopts the recommended action.

DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE ALLIANCE OF BAPTISTS AND THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WHEREAS, the Alliance of Baptists has been a faithful witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ;

WHEREAS, a two-year consultation process between leaders of the Alliance and the United Church of Christ has revealed significant shared theological convictions as well as potential opportunities for mutual support in common mission; and

WHEREAS, this consultation has identified important issues requiring further exploration;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ authorizes a formal dialogue between the United Church of Christ and the Alliance of Baptists;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the United Church of Christ, in consultation with the Council for Ecumenism, name a dialogue team to meet with counterparts from the Alliance of Baptists to explore a possible future ecumenical relationship between the two bodies; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the President be requested to report the recommendations of this

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dialogue to the Twenty-third General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

Funding for this action will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

The Moderator invited Rev. Stan Haste, Executive Director of the Alliance of Baptists, to address the Synod. Mr. Haste's remarks are as follows: "On behalf of the Alliance of Baptists, its affiliated congregations and individual members I thank you for the courtesy of making these brief remarks to General Synod Twenty-two of the United Church of Christ. You are a generous and gracious people who for three years have engaged our small group of progressive, Baptist Christians in preliminary conversation about possible mutual interests in partnership and ministry. Thanks to the work of a joint consultation team created by the Executive Council and our Board of Directors we have come to the point of recommending this formal dialogue you have just approved and was approved by our annual membership in March. This two-year process will give us the chance to consider at a still deeper level what it is the Spirit is saying to our churches as we seek joint prospects for the future. Although none of us knows, none of us has set out to determine the outcome of this conversation. What is clear is that the Spirit is ever moving the whole church of Jesus Christ to become, in the words of your inspired and inspiring motto, God's united and uniting people. Please permit me one other observation. I feel it is particularly appropriate that you have taken this action in Providence where the founder of the Baptist movement, Roger Williams, found his refuge as did other lovers of freedom and religious dissenters such as the Quaker sister, Ann Hutchinson. Their freedom cry was for what they called 'soul liberty,' the foundational theological principle of all true Baptists then and now. How wonderful, how magnanimous that here in their city we, the Alliance of Baptists, have come to find in you truly soul sisters and brothers. We gave thanks to God and to the United Church of Christ."

The delegates responded to Rev. Haste with prolonged applause and a standing ovation. Moderator Hood thanked Rev. Haste for his words.

6. RESOLUTION "PARTNERSHIP IN MISSION AND MINISTRY BETWEEN THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN AMERICAN SAMOA AND THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST"

Ms. Carreon directed the delegates to page 191 of the Program/Worship and Business Book the text of the

Resolution "Partnership in Mission and Ministry Between the Congregational Church in American Samoa and the United Church of Christ." She shared some of the discussion of the Committee and moved the adoption of the resolution.

The Committee allowed the resolution to speak for itself. There being no discussion the Moderator called for the vote.

99-GS-38 VOTED: The Twenty-second General Synod adopts the Resolution "Partnership in Mission and Ministry Between the Congregational Church in American Samoa and the United Church of Christ."

PARTNERSHIP IN MISSION AND MINISTRY BETWEEN THE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN AMERICAN SAMOA AND THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WHEREAS, the Twenty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ "declared its intention to work toward partnership with the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa;"

WHEREAS, the General Synod recognized that there has been a growing relationship between members of the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa and the United Church of Christ, both in the Pacific and in North America;

WHEREAS, since 1984 the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa has expressed its desire to be in closer relationship to the United Church of Christ;

WHEREAS, in 1996 the General Assembly of the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa adopted a resolution approving a relationship with the United Church of Christ as mutual partners in God's mission;

WHEREAS, representatives of the two churches have met in 1997 and 1998 to discuss the nature of a proposed partnership and to develop a theological foundation for the partnership; and

WHEREAS, pastors of Samoan congregations that are local churches of the United Church of Christ have been consulted in this process;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the following statement, approved by representatives of both churches at a consultation in Hawaii, November 23, 1998, and titled "Partnership in