

**MINUTES
OF THE
THIRTY-SECOND GENERAL SYNOD
OF THE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN
JUNE 21-JUNE 25, 2019**

**VALERIE SMITH, ADMINISTRATOR
THE THIRTY-SECOND GENERAL SYNOD**

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**MINUTES
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OF THE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
“SHINE”**

**MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN
JUNE 21 – JUNE 25, 2019**

**Friday, June 21, 2019
First Plenary Session**

1. GENERAL SYNOD CALL TO ORDER

Moderator Norman Williams called the first business session of the Thirty-second General Synod to order at 3:50 p.m. and welcomed delegates, visitors, and guests.

2. WELCOME FROM THE HOST CONFERENCE

Moderator Williams welcomed Wisconsin Conference Minister, Rev. Franz Rigert.

Rev. Rigert welcomed the delegates, guests, and friends to General Synod.

Moderator Williams took a moment of Moderator Privilege to recognize the extraordinary work of the Local Arrangements Committee.

3. INTRODUCTION OF GENERAL SYNOD LEADERSHIP

Moderator Williams introduced the Assistant Moderator Rev. Penny Lowes.

Moderator Williams also introduced the Parliamentarian, the Honorable Denise Page Hood, Federal District Judge, Stage Parliamentarian; Corey Larson, Agenda Coordinator; Valerie Smith, General Synod Administrator; David Anderson, head of the Committee Process Team, Rev. James Olson, Floor Parliamentarian, and Rev. Gary Schulte, Floor Secretary and Speak Out Coordinator.

Moderator Williams indicated that the Agenda Committee consists of the General Synod Administrator; the Moderator and Vice-Moderator; the Parliamentarians; the Chair of the Subcommittee on Disposition, Carla Gregg Kearns; the Agenda Coordinator; and David Anderson.

4. REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Moderator Williams called on La-Vette LaBoy of the Connecticut Conference, chair of the General Synod Credentials Committee.

Delegate LaBoy reported that the Delegation-As-A-Whole is in compliance with UCC Bylaw

195, which pertains to makeup of conference delegations at General Synod, as a result of the following: (1) The Delegation-As-A-Whole is comprised of at least 50% lay persons. (2) The Delegation-As-A-Whole reflects UCC's commitment to affirmative action with representation from different racial and ethnic backgrounds. (3) The Delegation-As-A-Whole is reflective of gender equality. (4) The Delegation-As-A-Whole is comprised of approximately 20% youth and young adults.

Delegate LaBoy declared that the Thirty-second General Synod is in compliance according to the report of the Credentials Committee.

Moderator Williams declared that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ was in compliance. The Report of the Credentials Committee was adopted without objection.

5. QUORUM DECLARED

Moderator Williams indicated that the Registrar of General Synod Shameerah Lemon reports 800 Total Delegates (Associate and Voting), 129 Youth, 1,705 Guests and others for a total of 2,634 registered for the meeting. In compliance with the Constitution of the United Church of Christ and Bylaws paragraphs 189, 190, 191 and 192, Moderator Williams declared a quorum present.

6. INTRODUCTION OF MICROPHONE PROCEDURES AND ELECTRONIC VOTING

Moderator Williams covered a few housekeeping items regarding the microphones, introduced the youth stewards from the Wisconsin Conference, and introduced Assistant Moderator Rev. Penny Lowes to explain the electronic voting.

7. ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD AGENDA

Moderator Williams called on Frank Bolden, Central Atlantic Conference and Chair of the United Church of Christ Board to move several procedural motions.

Frank Bolden, on behalf of the Business Committee, moved that the Thirty-second General Synod adopt the Agenda and authorize the Agenda Committee to make any necessary adjustments.

19-GS-01 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the General Synod agenda and authorizes the Agenda Committee to make any necessary adjustments.

(Vote: 97% Yes; 1% No; 2% Abstentions – 641 electronic submissions registered)¹

8. INITIAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

¹ Votes were initially reported in percentages; the reports were changed to numbers in the Third Plenary to avoid reporting the abstentions as part of the percentage of the total vote, in accordance with General Synod Standing Rule XXI.A.

Frank Bolden gave the report of the United Church of Christ Board, summarizing the work of the board and citing accomplishments and challenges, and expressing gratitude to those who have served. He thanked individuals for exemplary service and thanked the directors whose terms are expiring this year.

9. GRANTING VOICE WITHOUT VOTE TO RESOURCE PERSONS

Frank Bolden, on behalf of the Business Committee, moved that the following individuals be granted voice without vote at the appropriate times during the General Synod:

Anderson, David Coordinator, Committee Process Team
Avison, Jean - Chair, Nominating Committee
Baillie, Cindy - Presenter
Blair, Michael - Introducer of AGM Nominee
Blood, Deb - Presenter
Call, Carolyn - Presenter
Champion, Sandy - Theological Reflector
Daniel, Barbara Kershner - Youth Director
Coyne, Maria - Presenter
Daniel, Ginny Brown - Presenter
Davies, Chris - Presenter – New Church Welcome
Desmond, Matthew - Keynote Speaker
Dilley, Elizabeth - Presenter
Evans, Jack - Theological Reflector
Gabriel, Chris - Presenter
Gardner-Spencer, Jocelyn - “Together as One – A New Conference in the UCC”
Graham, Cleo - “Together as One – A New Conference in the UCC”
Guffey, Edith - Presenter
Guillaume, Sheila - Presenter
Hackenberg, Rachel - Presenter
Hood, Denise Page - Parliamentarian
Katzakis, Nick Chief - Financial Officer
Kendrix, Marilyn - “Together as One – A New Conference in the UCC”
Kimmel, Heather - General Counsel
LaBoy, La-Vette - Chair, Credentials Committee
Lemon, Shameerah - General Synod Registrar
Larson, Corey - Agenda Coordinator
Movement Makers Honorees
Munro, Frances - “Together as One – A New Conference in the UCC”
Olson, James - Parliamentarian
Remick, Don - “Together as One – A New Conference in the UCC”
Richardson, Tia - Theological Reflector
Rigert, Franz - Presenter
Sanderson, Corey - “Together as One – A New Conference in the UCC”
Schulte, Gary - Speak Out! Coordinator, Floor Secretary
Sigmund, David - Presenter
Siladi, Kent - “Together as One – A New Conference in the UCC”

Smith, Valerie - Synod Administrator
Thompson, Karen Georgia - Presenter/Nominee – Associate General Minister
VanAken, Troy - Introducer of Keynote
Whitcher, Jenny - Introducer of GMP nominee
Williams, Cheryl Joseph - Presenter
Youth@Synod Representatives

19-GS-02 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ grants those on the above list voice without vote.

(Vote: 94% Yes; 3% No; 3% Abstentions – 638 electronic submissions registered)

10. INTRODUCTION OF THE SLATE FOR THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chair Bolden moved the following slate of candidates for election to the General Synod Nominating Committee on behalf of the Business Committee: June Boutwell, Faith Burgess, Paul Fogle, Carol Reynolds and Marvin Silver.

19-GS-03 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ elects the slate of candidates to the General Synod Nominating Committee.

The vote was a unanimous voice vote.

11. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Moderator Williams called on Jean Avison, Chair of the General Synod Nominating Committee, to bring the Report of the Nominating Committee.

Jean Avison reported that the following candidates were being nominated for election to the United Church of Christ Board: Jeanette Zaragoza DeLeon, Kearstin Bailey, Eleanor (Elly) Chong, Hannah Cranbury, Shernell J. Edney Stilley, Derrick Elliott, Julia Gaughan, Eric Jackson, D’Angelo Smith, Kylie Steever, and Lewis Zeidner.

Chair Avison also reported Penny Lowes is nominated as Moderator and Robert Sandman as Assistant Moderator.

12. COMMITTEE ON DISPOSITION REPORT/EMPOWERING BUSINESS COMMITTEE TO MAKE REFERRALS OF NEW BUSINESS FOR ACTION.

Moderator Williams called on Carla Gregg-Kearns, Chair of the Sub-Committee on Disposition.

Carla Gregg-Kearns reported a total of 23 proposed resolutions have been received and the committee recommends designating 10 of them as “Prudential Resolutions,” each requiring a majority vote, and 13 as “Resolutions of Witness,” each requiring a two-thirds vote. Nineteen of the resolutions are recommended for referral to committees of the General Synod, directly to a plenary session, and none to implementing or other bodies and none directly to the Board of Directors for action. For the record, it is noted that no pronouncements or proposals for action were submitted to this General Synod.

Carla Gregg-Kearns indicated if further resolutions are introduced as new business, the Committee on Disposition will review them and formulate recommendations. On behalf of the Committee on Disposition, Carla Gregg-Kearns recommended that the Business Committee be delegated the task of assigning final disposition of any new business.

Carla Gregg-Kearns presented the motion as follows: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopt the Reports of the Committee on Disposition and delegates to the Business Committee the referral of new business submitted during the first plenary General Synod.

19-GS-04 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the Report of the Committee on Disposition and delegates any new business to the Business Committee.

(Vote: 96% Yes; 1% No; 3% Abstentions – 641 electronic submissions registered)

12. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BUSINESS (BY TITLE ONLY)

Moderator Williams reported that there is no new business to be referred to the Business Committee for recommended action.

13. INTRODUCTION OF THEOLOGICAL REFLECTOR

Moderator Williams introduced the first theological reflector.

The first artist is Ms. Tia Richardson, an integrative community artist, who describes herself as a “teacher, healer, and practitioner.” Named Milwaukee’s 2018 Artist of the Year by Milwaukee’s Art Board, Tia’s primary work is collaborative murals and bookmaking with young people and adults as a tool to build empathy and awareness. Since 2007, she has worked in partnership with organizations and schools across all sectors, serving communities with differing levels of need. In 2015, she was one of three artists-in-residence for Milwaukee Water Commons and gave a talk for the TEDx UW-Milwaukee Salon series “Our City/Our Canvas” on using community art to leverage cooperation with the tremendous capacity we have as a living organism.

Tia will continue to paint during evening plenary and throughout tomorrow. At the close of the plenary Tia will offer her thoughts on what she painted and why. Two other Artist Theological Reflectors will be sharing their inspirations at this General Synod.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Assistant Moderator Penny Lowes led the General Synod in the prayer of discernment.

15. RECESS

Moderator Williams declared the Thirty-second General Synod to be in recess.

Friday, June 22, 2019
Second Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER

Moderator Williams called the Second Plenary Session to order at 7:45 p.m.

2. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Request for prayers for those who are being deported by ICE in border towns.

3. PRESENTATION OF LEIS FROM THE HAWAII CONFERENCE.

4. WORD FROM THE COUNCIL FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE MINISTRIES (CHHSM), GENERAL SYNOD SPONSOR

Michael Readinger, President and CEO of CHHSM, shared some of the work of CHHSM and invited General Synod attendees to stop by the CHHSM booth in the Exhibit Hall.

5. INTRODUCTION OF HONORED GUESTS

Assistant Moderator Lowes welcomed the following former officers, former executives of instrumentalities, and former moderators of the United Church of Christ:

- Rev. Paul Sherry, President, and his wife Mary Sherry
- Rev. Geoffrey Black, General Minister and President, and his wife Patricia Williams-Black
- Rev. Doris Powell, Treasurer
- Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte, Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries
- Edith Guffey, Associate General Minister
- Rev. Bernice Powell Jackson, Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries
- Rev. Linda Jaramillo, Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries
- Rev. Dale Bishop, Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries
- Rev. John Kruger, Moderator of the Fifteenth General Synod
- The Honorable Denise Page Hood, Moderator of the Twenty-second General Synod
- Rev. Merlyn Lawrence Moderator of the Twenty-sixth General Synod, and her husband Oliver Lawrence
- Rev. Marvin Morgan, Moderator of the Twenty-seventh General Synod, and his wife Mae Morgan
- Rev. Libby Tigner, Moderator of the Twenty-ninth General Synod
- The Honorable Brian Holeman, Moderator of the Thirtieth General Synod
- Rev. Sue Artt, Moderator of the Thirty-first General Synod
- Rev. Art Cribbs, Executive of the Office of Communication
- Rev. Yvonne Delk, Executive of the Office for Church in Society
- Rev. Mary Susan Gast, Executive of the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society
- Rev. Loey Powell, Executive of the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society

Moderator Williams declared, with the acclamation of the delegates, that the honored guests be granted voice in the Thirty-second General Synod.

6. INTRODUCTION OF ECUMENICAL GUESTS

Moderator Williams called upon the Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, Minister for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, to introduce the Ecumenical Delegates and Partners.

Rev. Thompson introduced to the General Synod these individuals representing ecumenical partners who take the time to be with us in prayer, deliberation, community building and celebration of Christian unity. Some are here with us as delegates, and present on the floor, others as representatives of their denominations.

- Rev. Terri Hord Owens, General Minister and President, and the Rev. Paul S. Tch , President for the Council on Christian Unity and Ecumenical Officer, from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ);
- Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, Stated Clerk from the Presbyterian Church (USA);
- Rev. Robin Suydam, an ordained elder at Six Mile Run Reformed Church in Franklin Park, NJ from the Reformed Church in America;
- Ms. Kathryn Lohre, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop and Executive for Ecumenical & Inter-Religious Relations from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America;
- Ms. Nora Sanders, General Secretary, Rev. Michael Blair, Director for Church in Mission, and Ms. Diane Bosman from the United Church of Canada;
- Rev. Aundrea Alexander, Associate General Secretary from the National Council of Churches;
- Mr. Doug Chial, Income Monitoring and Development from the World Council of Churches;
- Rev. Carlos Malav , Executive Director from Christian Churches Together;
- Ms. Angela Martins, Co-Convenor for the regional expression the Caribbean and North American Area Council and a member of the United Church of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands from the World Communion of Reformed Church;
- Rev. Elder Faaeteete Saifoloi from the Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa; and
- Rev. Nicole Diroff, the former Associate Director of Interfaith Philadelphia, recipient of our Pathways Interfaith Award.

Moderator Williams declared, with the acclamation of the delegates, that the honored guests be granted voice in the Thirty-second General Synod.

7. INTRODUCTION OF OVERSEAS GUESTS

Moderator Williams called on Rev. Dr. James Moos, Associate General Minister of the UCC's Wider Church Ministries and Co-executive of Global Ministries to introduce and welcome overseas guests and missionaries.

Rev. Dr. James Moos introduced the following:

From Africa

- The Rev. Dr. Kennedy Gondongwe, Principal at the United Theological College in Zimbabwe
- The Rev. Christiane Ikete, Director of the Women's Department of the Community of Disciples of Christ in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Dr. Alcides Onesimo Nunda, Director of Social Services and Programs of the Evangelical Congregational Church of Angola

From East Asia and the Pacific

- Dr. Fedelinda Tawagon, President of the Dansalan College Foundation in the Philippines
- Bishop Emergencio Padillo, Bishop of Middle Luzon Jurisdiction of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines;
- Lauro Millan, National Treasurer of the UCCP
- Liberty Murillo, Director of the Dumaguete Kalauman Center for Development, a Global Ministries Child and Elder Sponsorship program partner in the Philippines

From Europe

- Rev. Nigel Uden, Moderator of the United Reformed Church in the UK

From Latin America and the Caribbean

- Juan Rosario, representing Amaneser 2025, from Puerto Rico
- Dr. Carlos Correa, Executive Director of Centro Romero, a recognized ministry of the Southern California/Nevada Conference which operates at the San Ysidro/Tijuana Border and a U.S. ally of Global Ministries' Latin America and Caribbean office

From the Middle East

- The Rev. Dr. Andrea Zaki, President of the Protestant Churches of Egypt and General Director of the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services

From Southern Asia

- Rev. Asir Ebenezer, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in India;
- Dr. Darshan Ambalavanar, Director of Diaconal Ministries, Church of American Ceylon Mission, Sri Lanka; and
- Ms. Ferderika Tadu Hungu, Chairperson of the Rumah Harappan (House of Hope), the anti-human trafficking unit of the Evangelical Protestant Church of Timor, in Kupang, Indonesia.

Rev. Dr. James Moos requested the Moderator grant the overseas guests voice without vote.

Moderator Williams declared, with the acclamation of the delegates, that the honored guests be granted voice in the Thirty-second General Synod.

Rev. Dr. Moos invited Rev. Dr. Kennedy Gondongwe, Principal at the United Theological College in Zimbabwe, to bring greetings on behalf of the overseas guests.

8. PRESENTATION OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES CO-WORKERS

Rev. Dr. Moos introduced co-workers appointed by Global Ministries who serve at the invitation of partners:

- Phyllis Byrd, serving with the Organization of African Instituted Churches, in Kenya
- Jeanette Salley, who completed her service with the Moravian Church in Nicaragua and will be serving with the Theological Education by Extension in Zambia
- Kearstin Bailey, who completed her service with the Reformed Church in Hungary and with Perichoresis, a ministry of the Evangelical Church of Greece
- Lauren Robinson, who completed her service with the United Church of Christ in the Philippines
- Abigail Fate, who is a candidate for service with Melel Xojobal, in Chiapas, Mexico

Moderator Williams declared, with the acclamation of the delegates, that the above honored guests be granted voice in the Thirty-second General Synod.

9. JUST PEACE VIDEO

Moderator Williams invited former General Minister and President Rev. Geoffrey Black and Rev. Sheila Harvey Guillaume to introduce the Just Peace Video.

Rev. Black and Rev. Guillaume indicated that the Just Peace Steering Committee is at General Synod to reaffirm the church's identity as a Just Peace Church, to remind the General Synod of the long-standing commitments, and to celebrate the courage of those who have faithfully advocated for a just peace. It is in that spirit that the Just Peace video was shared, hoping that it would inspire continued courage in the struggle for justice and peace in the community, the marketplace, in the earth, and among the nations.

10. NOMINATION AND SPEECH OF ASSOCIATE GENERAL MINISTER CANDIDATE

Moderator Williams introduced Rev. Michael Blair, Executive Minister, Church in Mission, of The United Church of Canada to present the nominee.

Rev. Michael Blair introduced the Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson.

The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson spoke.

Moderator Williams indicated that the United Church of Christ Board unanimously accepted the recommendation of the Associate General Minister Search Committee to nominate the Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson for election to the position of Associate General Minister at the Thirty-second General Synod.

Moderator Williams further indicated that the nomination is now before the Thirty-second General Synod. The election will be held on Monday morning.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moderator Williams invited Assistant Moderator Lowes to make the announcements.

Assistant Moderator Lowes:

- Artist Tia Richardson will share her reflections on her painting at the close of the Third Plenary tomorrow.
- Sign up for first round of 1-minute Speak Outs at beginning of Third Plenary. Delegates interested should proceed to Floor Parliamentarian's table behind Microphone 6 and see Gary Schulte.

12. RECESS

Moderator Williams declared General Synod to be in recess.

Saturday, June 22, 2019

Third Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER AND SPONSOR RECOGNITION

Assistant Moderator Lowes called the Third Plenary of the Thirty-second General Synod to order at 8:30 a.m.

Moderator Lowes introduced a partners and major financial sponsor of the General Synod, the Chicago Theological Seminary. Assistant Moderator Lowes thanked the Chicago Theological Seminary for their generous support of the General Synod.

2. SPEAK OUT!

3. RE-NOMINATION AND SPEECH OF GENERAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT

Assistant Moderator Lowes indicated the next order of business was to consider the re-nomination and election of the Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer to another four-year term as General Minister and President. The Rev. Dr. Jenny Witcher was introduced to present Rev. Dr. Dorhauer.

The Rev. Dr. Jenny Witcher spoke to the re-election of the General Minister and President.

Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer accepted the nomination.

Assistant Moderator Lowes indicated that the nomination for re-election of the Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer was before the General Synod and the election would take place on Monday morning during the Fourth Plenary.

4. **ON RECOGNIZING OPIOID ADDICTION AS A HEALTH EPIDEMIC, ENSURING ACCESS TO TREATMENT AND PHARMACEUTICAL CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY**

Assistant Moderator Penny Lowes indicated that the next item of business was a resolution coming directly to the floor of the General Synod. Assistant Lowes indicated that the General Synod Standing Rules gives this as an option for resolutions deemed noncontroversial and not in need of time in a General Synod Committee for discussing and refining the resolution.

The Business Committee of the Thirty-second General Synod has recommended this proposed resolution be sent to a Plenary of the General Synod.

Assistant Moderator Lowes indicated that the resolution was submitted by the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries.

Yvette Wynn, Vice Chair of the Business Committee, moved that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopt the resolution Recognizing Opioid Addiction as a Health Epidemic, Ensuring Access to Treatment and Pharmaceutical Corporate Responsibility, recommended its approval, and yielded the time to speak to the resolution to Katie McCloskey.

Assistant Moderator Lowes, without objection, granted voice to Katie McCloskey for the purpose of addressing the resolution.

Katie McCloskey spoke to the resolution.

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

19-GS-05 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the resolution Recognizing Opioid Addiction as a Health Epidemic, Ensuring Access to Treatment and Pharmaceutical Corporate Responsibility.

(Vote: 629 Yes; 11 No; 8 Abstentions – 648 electronic submissions registered)

ON RECOGNIZING OPIOID ADDICTION AS A HEALTH EPIDEMIC, ENSURING ACCESS TO TREATMENT AND PHARMACEUTICAL CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

A Resolution of Witness

Text of the Resolution:

Whereas, faith leaders and pastors of all faiths including the United Church of Christ have a unique vantage on the opioid crisis, observing individuals' sufferings, families' anguish, and the shame of addiction that prevents the necessary discourse to help curb this national affliction; and

Whereas, opioid medications provide crucial pain management for terminal diseases and certain chronic conditions; and

Whereas, interference with access to opioid medications for individuals suffering from terminal diseases and chronic conditions is unethical and should be avoided; and

Whereas, in 2016 the number of overdose deaths involving opioids was five times higher than it was in 1999, and on average 115 people die every day from an opioid overdose; and

Whereas, a recent study by the RAND Corporation showed that while the number of Medicaid recipients receiving medication to treat opioid addiction has increased, the increase is smaller in poorer counties and in areas with greater black and Hispanic residents; and

Whereas, pharmaceutical or health care companies that make or distribute opioid drugs face growing potential liability from lawsuits along with regulatory, medical and public pressure to drastically reduce their use, including 27 U.S. states and more than 400 cities, counties, and other entities suing these corporations; and

Whereas, according to the White House Council of Economic Advisors, the opioid epidemic cost the U.S. economy an estimated \$504 billion in 2015, equivalent to 2.8 percent of GDP;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges all settings of the United Church of Christ and its members to recognize opioid addiction as a health epidemic

Be it further resolved, that the Thirty-second General Synod calls on Congress to increase Medicare and Medicaid funding to treat opioid addiction;

Be it further resolved, that the Thirty-second General Synod recognizes that opioid addiction is not a determinant of a person's worth, and invites a public discourse on the need for just and equitable treatment to lessen the stigma from asking for help and treatment;

Be it finally resolved, that the Thirty-second General Synod urges all settings of the United Church of Christ to use all manner of activism, including shareholder activism of opioid pharmaceutical manufacturers and distribution corporations, to hold accountable those who are acting in bad faith with the American people, either by irresponsibly marketing, distributing, and prescribing to individuals or by criminalizing those who become addicted.

Funding:

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 United Church of Christ, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

5. NEHEMIAH'S LIFE: A CALL FOR CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

Assistant Moderator Lowes indicated that the next item of business was a resolution coming directly to the floor of the General Synod and indicated that the General Synod Standing Rules give this as an option for resolutions deemed noncontroversial and not in need of time in a General Synod Committee for discussing and refining the resolution.

Assistant Moderator Lowes indicated the resolution was submitted by Chicago Metropolitan Association, Fox Valley Association, and the Illinois Conference.

Yvette Wynn moved, on behalf of the Business Committee, that the Thirty-second General Synod adopt the resolution, and called on Bill McCarthy of the Chicago Metropolitan Association speak to the resolution.

Assistant Moderator Lowes, without objection, granted voice to Bill McCarthy for the purpose of address the resolution.

Bill McCarthy spoke to the resolution.

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

19-GS-06 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the resolution Nehemiah's Life: A Call for Congressional Hearings on Violence in America.

(Vote: 629 Yes; 8 No; 12 Abstentions – 649 electronic submissions recorded)

NEHEMIAH'S LIFE: A CALL FOR CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

A Resolution of Witness

Text of the Resolution

Whereas, the heart of God is goodness and love. God's love for humankind is expressed in part by God's inestimable gift of free will to each person while creating us in God's image (Genesis 1:26). In response to God's love, we are commanded to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbor as our self. (Mark 12:30-31).

Whereas, in civil society we are often placed in stressful and contested relationships with other persons, yet we are commanded still to work to normalize relationships with our fellow persons as best we can in love, so as to be able to come to God in prayer with a pure heart. (1 John 4:20-21).

Whereas, we are cautioned against doing violence toward one another because the heart of our creator is love and we are admonished to imitate the motive of the creator and to love one

another forever. We are admonished, as far as it is possible, to live peaceably with one another (Romans 12:18).

Whereas, America has historically committed itself to free will for its citizens under the protection of law, our country fought a war to end human slavery, and our government has passed civil rights laws to equalize the legal rights of its citizens. Yet with all, full social justice has eluded our population and acts of violence in America have reached epidemic proportions.

Whereas, retaliatory violence is the product of societal injustice, lack of real opportunity and emotional isolation. For example, nearly every person in the Chicago, IL area has been affected by violence at one time or another. This trend of civilian violence is duplicated in almost every major city in the country and costs America substantial loss of life every year among all segments of our population.

Whereas, and by example, a national study entitled, “Violence in the United States: Status, Challenges, and Opportunities,” well researched by health-care professionals and published 8/4/15 in the Journal of the American Medical Assn., stated in part, “Interpersonal violence, which includes child abuse and neglect, youth violence, intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and elder abuse, affects millions of US residents each year. However, surveillance systems, programs, and policies to address violence often lack broad, cross-sector collaboration, and there is limited awareness of effective strategies to prevent violence.”

Whereas, the United Church of Christ is one of the most diverse Christian denominations in the United States; and the UCC connects caring and acting, gratitude and giving, peace and justice, service and advocacy in a life of prayer and justice, whose motto is “That they may all be one.”

Whereas, the United Church of Christ seeks to sustain a collective voice of social witness, and encourages the study, proclamation and living of justice and peace in the church and in the world by sponsoring a continuous effort of public action and witness.

Whereas, violence manifests itself in many forms, including, but not limited to systemic and structural violence sanctioned by the state such as racism, police crimes, and economic disparities as well as interpersonal violence such as domestic and sexual abuse and community harm. We are admonished, as far as possible, to identify and address these issues without establishing laws and policies which serve to increase incarceration.

Whereas, the United Church of Christ, rooted in its ancient witness to God’s love, has chosen to take a stand against many forms of violence in America and particularly as follows:

- a) in 1983, General Synod 14 adopted the, “Pronouncement on Violence in Relation to Women.
- b) In 1995, General Synod 20 passed the resolution: “Guns and Violence;” calling on UCC members to engage in reflection to better understand the roots of violence in our culture.
- c) in 1995, General Synod 20 passed the resolution: Violence in our Society and World,” affirming that the U.C.C. actively opposes violence as a societal norm, calling on members to advocate for public policy programs which address the root causes of violence and poverty.

- d) In 1999, General Synod 22 passed the resolution: “Prevention of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth Suicide;”
- e) In 2001, General Synod 23 passed the resolution: “Calling on the United Church of Christ to Join the Decade to Overcome Violence;” a United Nations worldwide anti-violence appeal.
- f) In 2003, General Synod 24 passed the resolution: “Reaffirming the U.C.C.’s denouncement of Violence Against Lesbian and Gay People and Calling for the Inclusion of Transgender People within that Anti-Violence Statement;”
- g) In 2011, General Synod 28 passed the resolution: “To Counter Actions of Hostility Against Islam and the Muslim Community,” on the upcoming 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.
- h) In 2013, General Synod 29 passed the resolution: “Resolution Against Bullying and Discrimination;”

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the Congress of the United States to conduct formal hearings to discover systemic and proximate causes of civilian violence in America, and to receive testimony as to changes in American society that may be undertaken to alleviate the effects of violence on the American people.

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. OUR CHURCH’S WIDER MISSION

Assistant Moderator Lowes called on the Director of the Office of Philanthropy, Technology, Identity and Communication, Cynthia Bailie, for a presentation on OCWM.

Cynthia Bailie spoke on celebrating OCWM’s Basic Support and Five for Five program.

7. MUSIC/STRETCH BREAK

8. STATE OF THE CHURCH ADDRESS

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

Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer spoke on the State of the Church.

9. FORMER UCC PRESIDENTS PRESENTATION

Assistant Moderator Lowes invited Rev. Dr. Dorhauer to remain at the podium to introduce the former UCC Presidents.

Rev. Dr. Dorhauer introduced Rev. Dr. Paul Sherry, Rev. Dr. John Thomas, and Rev. Geoffrey Black, and indicated that Rev. Avery Post was unable to be present but sent well wishes and love to all. Rev. Dr. Dorhauer presented the a specially commissioned medallion to each as a family keepsake and heirloom: “The medallion bears the logo of the UCC on the front and has the title of office, name, and years of tenure on the back. It is a small but heartfelt expression of deep appreciation for the remarkable leaders.”

10. MOVEMENT MAKERS PRESENTATION

Assistant Moderator Lowes called upon the Associate General Minister of Justice and Local Church Ministries, the Rev. Traci Blackmon, to present the Movement Makers.

Traci Blackmon introduced the Movement Makers.

Assistant Moderator Lowes thanked the presenters and the award recipients for their tireless and faithful work.

11. PROTECTION OF IMMIGRANT CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES.

Assistant Moderator Lowes indicated that the Business Committee of the Thirty-second General Synod has recommended this proposed resolution be sent to a plenary of the General Synod. The General Synod Standing Rules gives this as an option for resolutions deemed noncontroversial and not in need of time in a General Synod Committee for discussing and refining the resolution.

Assistant Moderator Lowes indicated that the resolution was submitted by the Illinois Conference.

Yvette Wynn moved, on behalf of the Business Committee, that the Thirty-second General Synod adopt the resolution, and called on Rev. Dr. Marilyn Pagan-Banks of the Illinois Conference to speak to the resolution.

Assistant Moderator Lowes granted, without objection, voice to Rev. Dr. Marilyn Pagan-Banks for the purposing of addressing the resolution.

Rev. Dr. Marilyn Pagan-Banks spoke on behalf of the resolution.

Assistant Moderator Lowes indicated that the General Synod Program and Planning Committee made the decision to allow young people to take a few moments to present a youth perspective on the issues as a part of the deliberations. The resolution before the house is one of the resolutions to which the youth have decided to speak.

Assistant Moderator Lowes, without objection, respectfully requested that the General Synod suspend the Standing Rules to allow the body to hear a three-minute presentation from the Youth at Synod as the General Synod prepares to debate and take action upon the current motion.

All of the youth spoke in favor of the resolution.

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

19-GS-07 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the resolution Protection of Immigrant Children and their Families.

(Vote: 612 Yes; 10 No; 8 Abstentions – 630 electronic submissions registered)

PROTECTION OF IMMIGRANT CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES
A Resolution of Witness

Text of the Resolution

Whereas, Jesus proclaimed the importance of children, how can we do otherwise? “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.” (Matthew 18:5)

Whereas, we have ample evidence that the cumulative effects of early childhood adversity and toxic stress cause lifelong detrimental results for many individuals by changing their brain architecture so that they may have permanent difficulty in their ability to learn and may develop maladaptive behaviors, experience stress related chronic diseases and engage in destructive habits as adults. (1,2) As a nation, we cannot justify deliberately placing children on this path.

Whereas, multiple national and regional organizations concerned with child welfare have written a letter (Jan. 16, 2018) to Kirsten M. Nielsen, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, urging the Department “to abandon any plans to systemically separate children from their families absent evidence that a specific parent posed a threat to the safety and well-being of his or her child, as required by the laws of all 50 states.”

Whereas, the 1959 UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child include Principle 2 “The child shall enjoy special protection, and shall be given opportunities and facilities by law and other means, to enable him to develop physically, mentally, morally, spiritually, and socially in a healthy and normal manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity...” and Principle 6 “The child, for the full and harmonious development of his personality, needs love and understanding. He shall, whenever possible, grow up in the care and under the responsibility of his parents....” (3)

Whereas, the history of the United States demonstrates that the forced and government-sanctioned separation of children from their parents, as often occurred to African American children during the era of slavery and also to Native American children who at one time were compelled to live away from their families in boarding schools, results in a multigenerational legacy of trauma.

Whereas, as the United Church of Christ, we believe that we must be servants in the service of others and must follow the teaching of Jesus to love one another.

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the United Church of Christ to advocate for the Department of Homeland

Security, the Department of Justice, and other applicable governmental departments and agencies to immediately end the practice of separating minor children from their parents, except for the rare cases when the parents pose a threat to their own children, and that minor children who already have been taken from their parents be quickly reunited with them.

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. WELCOMING NEW CHURCHES

Assistant Moderator Lowes invited Rev. Dr. Chris Davies, team leader for the Faith Education, Innovation and Formation team in Justice and Local Church Ministries, to help welcome churches new to the United Church of Christ since the last General Synod.

Rev. Dr. Chris Davies introduced a video and invited those participating in the processional to celebrate.

13. MATTHEW DESMOND KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Assistant Moderator Lowes introduced Troy VanAken, President of Elmhurst College, to introduce Matthew Desmond, Keynote Speaker.

Troy VanAken introduced Professor Matthew Desmond, who gave a talk on housing and eviction, followed by a question and answer period.

14. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTORS

Assistant Moderator Lowes indicated an important part of the General Synod in recent years has been the insightful commentary of our theological reflectors and indicated that at this General Synod three artists were invited to share their commentary through their art. The first theological reflector for the General Synod, Tia Richardson, has been painting on the Artist Stage since the opening service of worship yesterday. Her colorful artistry has graced our presence. Assistant Moderator invited Tia to say a few words about the canvas she created and how it reflects her experience with the General Synod.

Tia Richardson recapped many of the events of the past two days and explained how she had incorporated the people, the images, the music, the children, the colors, and the light into her painting. Tia indicated that the title of her piece was “Everything Can Bring Liberation Through Love.”

Assistant Moderator Lowes thanked Tia for sharing, not only her art, but also her thoughtful words and indicated we were blessed by her presence.

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Assistant Moderator Lowes invited Moderator Williams to the podium for the morning announcements.

Moderator Williams made the following announcements:

- Next plenary will be at 8:00 am on Monday morning
- Please clear tables in preparation for Sunday Worship
- Please visit Exhibit Hall

16. RECESS

Assistant Moderator Lowes announced that the Third Plenary of the Thirty-second General Synod was complete and was now in recess.

Monday, June 24, 2019
Fourth Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER AND SPONSOR RECOGNITION

Moderator Williams called the Fourth Plenary of the Thirty-second General Synod to order at 8:00am.

Moderator Williams indicated it was time to hear from a major partner and major financial sponsor of the General Synod, the Insurance Board, and thanked the Insurance Board for their generous support of General Synod.

2. ORDER OF BUSINESS

Moderator Williams indicated the need to give the body an opportunity to make a decision on whether to delay the Fifth Plenary to give the body the opportunity to participate in a march scheduled to the ICE office.

A motion was made and seconded to delay of the Fifth Plenary Session until 3:00 p.m.

19-GS-08 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ approves the motion to delay the start of the Fifth Plenary until 3:00 p.m.

(Vote: 457 Yes; 84 No; 31 Abstentions – 570 electronic submissions registered)

3. SPEAK OUT

4. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTORS

Moderator Williams introduced the next Theological Reflector: poet Jack Evans.

Jack has been an active member of the Phoenix alternative art scene for forty years. He has been a poet, performance artist and actor, as well as the director of various spoken word series and performance events. From 2011-2015 Jack was the Poet Laureate of the Southwest Conference of the UCC, and is currently half of the “Evans Bell Conversion,” a spoken word and music duo that opens for rock bands in taverns and performs at church services on Sundays. His most

recent book is Rain Is the Hourglass of Memory, printed by Hoot 'n' Waddle Press, Phoenix.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND RECOGNITION

Moderator Williams indicated that the body had received the nomination of Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson as Associate General Minister and the re-nomination of Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer as General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ and it was now time to vote on their nominations.

On March 8, 2019, the United Church of Christ Board nominated for election by the Thirty-second General Synod the selection of its Search Committee, the Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson of the Florida Conference, for a four-year term as Associate General Minister of the United Church of Christ, and submits its nomination for consideration by delegates to the Thirty-second General Synod, meeting June 21-25 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

A vote of 60% in favor is required. There was no discussion.

19-GS-09 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ elects Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson to a four-year term as Associate General Minister of the United Church of Christ.

(Vote: 634 Yes; 17 No; 19 Abstentions – 670 electronic submissions registered)

On October 20, 2018, the United Church of Christ Board nominated for re-election by the Thirty-second General Synod the Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, General Minister & President of the United Church of Christ, for an additional four-year term as General Minister & President of the United Church of Christ, and submits its nomination for consideration by delegates to the Thirty-second General Synod, meeting June 21-25 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

A vote of 60% is required. Discussion:
Ten people spoke in favor and six people spoke against the re-election.

A motion was made and seconded to call the question.

19-GS-10 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ ends debate on the election of Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer to an additional four-year term as General Minister & President.

(Vote: 541 Yes; 109 No; 9 Abstentions – 669 electronic submissions registered)

19-GS-11 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ elects the Rev. John Dorhauer, to an additional four-year term as General Minister & President of the United Church of Christ.

(Vote: 447 Yes; 210 No; 38 Abstentions – 695 electronic submissions registered)

The motion passed by 68%.

An issue was raised as to whether the electronic voting system was registering all of the votes.

Moderator Williams later indicated the following: “There are 745 voting delegates present, which means it would take 445 votes for a 60% majority, so even if there were 50 votes not counted and those were all no votes, the motion passed.”

Secretary’s Note: Per the General Synod Standing Rules, abstentions are not counted as votes. Accordingly, if all 745 voting delegates registered were present for the vote, and the 50 additional electronic submissions were registered as “No” votes, the motion would have passed by more than the required 60%: $447/707 = 0.63$.

Moderator Williams called Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson and Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, along with Rev. Traci Blackmon and Rev. Dr. Jim Moos to the stage for prayer.

Moderator Williams moved into the elections for various offices of the Church.

United Church of Christ Board Class of 2025: The names and biographies of the 12 nominees, selected by the General Synod Nominating Committee, were posted for delegate review in February. The motion to elect these individuals comes from a committee of the General Synod and requires no second.

The nominees are: Jeanette Zaragoza DeLeon, Kearstin Bailey, Eleanor (Elly) Chong, Hannah Cranbury, Shernell J. Edney Stilley, Derrick Elliott, Julia Gaughan, Eric Jackson, D’Angelo Smith, Kylie Steever, and Lewis Zeidner.

19-GS-12 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ elects the 12 identified members to the United Church of Christ Board, Class of 2025.

(Voice Vote)

General Synod Nominating Committee Class of 2025: The names and biographies of these five members of the United Church of Christ have been posted since March. The motion to elect these individuals comes from a committee of the General Synod and requires no second.

The nominees are: June Boutwell, Faith Burgess, Paul Fogle, Carol Reynolds, and Marvin Silver.

19-GS-13 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ elects the five identified members to the General Synod Nominating Committee, Class of 2025.

(Vote: 608 Yes, 12 No, 35 Abstentions – 655 electronic submissions registered)

Moderator of the Thirty-third General Synod: It was the stated intent of the writers of the new governance structure that there would be a graduation of leadership in this position, that the Assistant Moderator from one biennium would be elected as Moderator for the next biennium.

Accordingly, the General Synod Nominating Committee has selected the Rev. Penny Lowes for election as Moderator of the Thirty-third General Synod.

19-GS-14 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ elects the Rev. Penny Lowes as Moderator of the Thirty-third General Synod.

(Voice Vote)

Assistant Moderator of the Thirty-third General Synod: The nominee is Robert Sandman of the Maine Conference.

19-GS-15 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ elects Robert Sandman Assistant Moderator of the Thirty-third General Synod.

(Voice Vote)

6. RECOGNITION OF NEW AND RETIRING CONFERENCE MINISTERS

Moderator Williams called on Deborah Blood, of the Council of Conference Ministers, to recognize new and retiring Conference Ministers.

New Conference Ministers since the Thirty-first General Synod in 2017:

Bonnie Bates, Designated Term Conference Minister, Penn Northeast
Freeman Palmer, Conference Minister, Central Atlantic
Justo Gonzalez, Intentional Interim Conference Minister, Illinois
Brigit Stevens, Executive Conference Minister, Tri Conference Ministries (Nebraska, South Dakota, Iowa)
Marilyn Kendrix, Transitional Conference Minister, Rhode Island
Gordon Rankin, Conference Minister, New Hampshire
Don Long-Higgins, Transitional Conference Minister, Ohio
Gabrielle Chavez, Intentional Interim Conference Minister, Hawaii
David Popham, Conference Minister, Hawaii (September 1)
Don Remick, Transitional Interim Conference Minister, Massachusetts
Char Burch, Transitional Conference Minister, Southeast
Molly Carlson, Designated Term Conference Minister, Central Pacific
Ann Graves, Acting Conference Minister, Penn Central
Carrie Call, Transitional Conference Minister, Penn Central (August 1).

Newly retired or former Conference Ministers since the Thirty-first General Synod in 2017:

Jim Antal, Massachusetts
Barbara Libby, Rhode Island
Rich Pleva, Iowa
Roddy Dunkerson, Nebraska
Jorge Morales, Illinois

John Gantt, Ohio
Alan Miller, Penn Northeast
Walter John Boris, Central Pacific

7. ADDRESSING THE STATE OF GLOBAL FORCED MIGRATION

Moderator Williams indicated that the next item of business was a resolution entitled Addressing the State of Global Forced Migration. He called on Yolanda Adams of the Southern Conference to present the recommended action.

Yolanda Adams moved on behalf of Committee #3 that the Thirty-second General Synod adopt the resolution Addressing the State of Global Forced Migration, as amended by Committee, and she spoke to the motion.

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

19-GS-16 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the resolution Addressing the State of Global Forced Migration.

(VOTE: 669 Yes; 12 No; 10 Abstentions – 691 electronic submissions registered)

ADDRESSING THE STATE OF GLOBAL FORCED MIGRATION
A Resolution of Witness

Text of the Resolution:

Whereas, the global state of forced migration and displacement has reached a crisis, according to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, with currently more than 68.5 million people forcibly displaced from their homes for reasons of war, violence, persecution, climate change, economic injustice, impoverishment, colonialism and its legacy, and exploitation, among others, a trend that continues to increase with no sign of a reversal (2017 UNHCR report); and

Whereas, more than 85% of those who are displaced are currently in countries that have little economic or structural capacity to provide care or services for them, while those nations who are far better able to do so, including the United States, have (for the most part) placed restrictions on refugee admissions, asylum applications and other forms of immigration, even while benefitting economically from the impoverished and unstable countries from which many of these displaced persons flee; and

Whereas, policy debates and general discourse on migration in the United States and in Europe have, with a few notable exceptions, centered on justifications of restrictions that are racist, xenophobic, bigoted, and slanderous, and have specifically named people who are brown and black, from specific countries, and of certain faiths, particularly Islam, as excluded; and

Whereas, those countries that do host refugees and migrants often receive compensation from the US and Europe to keep the migrants “warehoused” in their countries; and

Whereas, thus far, the global community has failed terribly to address comprehensively and collaboratively the massive movement of people, most often for reasons of self-interest, preservation of privilege, power, and wealth, enabling wealthy economies to benefit from the labor of migrants with little acknowledgement of obligations for the security and welfare of the migrants themselves; and

Whereas, due to restrictions and strict regulations, people take tremendous risks to reach safety and a new home, crossing deserts, seas, and other difficult terrain, for days, weeks, and months, only to reach reinforced and militarized borders, detention, and incarceration, likely rejection and forced return; not to mention the thousands who do not survive the journey at all; and

Whereas, the United Church of Christ has a long history of providing welcome and creating robust structures of welcome for the resettlement of refugees within the United States; and

Whereas, global partners of the United Church of Christ are advocating for and responding to the needs of the displaced and refugees among them, often with our support through Global Ministries, One Great Hour of Sharing, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)'s Week of Compassion offering, including:

- People fleeing from high levels of structural, social and economic violence in El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, and seeking asylum elsewhere to escape horrific conditions;
- African migrants and refugees who have become bottle-necked in North Africa, including in Morocco, in their attempt to make their way to Europe;
- Refugees from conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi, now living in camps in Tanzania;
- Syrian and Iraqi displaced persons and refugees who have escaped war and conflict, now located throughout the Middle East and in Europe;
- Generations of Palestinian refugees displaced and dispossessed of their homes and property following the wars of 1948 and 1967, in the Middle East and beyond;
- People from throughout Southern Asia where millions are forced to migrate, and are trafficked and pushed into various forms of slavery;
- People at risk from climate change in the Pacific Islands, including Tuvalu, where rising sea levels threaten to flood and eventually eliminate whole island countries;

Whereas, General Synods of the United Church of Christ have advocated for a more humane US immigration policy (GS 2007), comprehensive immigration reform (GS 2013), and for the UCC to become an immigrant welcoming church (GS 2017); and, with the guidance of our global partners through Global Ministries, advocate for the rights and dignity of displaced persons and migrants the world over;

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

Affirms a vision of God's family that is all-inclusive, accepting, and welcoming, recognizing the dignity of every human being; and rejects the divisive discourse of fear, xenophobia, bigotry, and

racism that pervades the discourse on global forced migration, including as it relates to policy debates on immigration; and

Calls upon the members of the United Church of Christ in all settings to take seriously the matter of global forced migration: to pray, learn, and actively engage in education about the current state of global forced migration using resources made available through the church, specifically Global Ministries, the UCC's Humanitarian and Development Ministries, and the UCC National Collaborative on Immigration; and

Urges members of the UCC to participate in practicable ways to address the state of global forced migration through

- support of denominational partners around the world who are responding to the needs of displaced people, whether they are refugees, migrants, internally displaced, asylum-seekers, or others, through Global Ministries and One Great Hour of Sharing;
- engagement in refugee resettlement programs in the US through the UCC's Humanitarian and Development Ministries;
- advocacy for the rights of refugees everywhere based on the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951); and for Palestinian refugees specifically as stipulated in UN General Assembly Resolution 194 (1948), and for continued US funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency;
- advocacy and action on issues of economic justice, climate justice, and immigration justice; and
- efforts to dismantle racism, to learn about different cultures and religions, including Islam, and to counter any form of discrimination, bigotry, and xenophobia when encountered; and

Calls upon the US Administration and Congress to take seriously the issue of global forced migration, leaving behind partisan discourse and promoting actively the principles of the United Nations' Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration, which seeks, among other things, to:

- address all aspects of international migration, including the humanitarian, developmental, human rights-related and other aspects;
- make an important contribution to global governance and enhance coordination on international migration;
- present a framework for comprehensive international cooperation on migrants and human mobility; and
- set out a range of actionable commitments, means of implementation, and a framework for follow-up and review among Member States regarding international migration in all its dimensions; and

Calls UCC members and settings to advocate for the US to work with the global community toward these goals.

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:

The Officers of the Church, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

8. TA1: CT, RI, and MASS CONFERENCE MERGER

Moderator Williams indicated that the next item of business was a resolution coming directly to the floor of General Synod. The resolution was submitted by three southern New England Conferences to merge into a single Conference.

Per the United Church of Christ Constitution Article IX, paragraph 52 “the boundaries of any new Conference or any adjustment of boundaries between Conferences, shall be determined by the Conferences concerned with the approval of the General Synod.” Accordingly, the role of the General Synod in this instance is to approve or reject the proposal of the Conferences concerned without further amendment to the resolution.

Yvette Wynn, Vice Chair of the Business Committee, moved that the Thirty-second General Synod adopt the resolution and yielded her time to speak to the motion to Jocelyn Gardner Spencer of the Connecticut Conference, Linda Mesler of the Massachusetts Conference, and Marilyn Kendrix of the Rhode Island Conference.

Discussion:

Five people spoke in favor; two people spoke against.

19-GS-17 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the resolution TA1 Motion to General Synod 32, 2019.

(VOTE: 601 Yes; 90 No; 24 Abstentions – 715 electronic submissions registered)

TA1 MOTION TO GENERAL SYNOD 32, 2019

A Prudential Resolution

Text of the Resolution

Whereas, in a 2014 study of the health and vitality of its conferences, the United Church of Christ found that Conferences need and desire to work collaboratively; and

Whereas, in June 2017, the Annual Meetings of the Rhode Island Conference of the United Church of Christ, the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ, and the Connecticut Conference each voted to approve a resolution calling for the creation of a new Conference of the United Church of Christ in Southern New England; and

Whereas, the three said Conferences have each spent the year between their 2017 and 2018 Annual Meetings discerning a call to join together as one single new Conference of the United Church of Christ in Southern New England; and

Whereas, the Boards of Directors of the three said Conferences each voted unanimously to recommend to their 2018 Annual Meetings a common vision statement, a covenant agreement among the three Conferences, and articles of incorporation and bylaws for the proposed new Conference; and

Whereas, the three said Conferences voted nearly unanimously at each of their 2018 Annual Meetings to approve the proposed common vision, covenant, articles, and bylaws; and

Whereas, the three said Conferences voted nearly unanimously at each of their 2018 Annual Meetings to elect a new united Board of Directors to take office upon the formation of the new Conference organization; and

Whereas, the Reverend John Dorhauer, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, declared that the proposed union of the three said Conferences into a new Southern New England Conference would signal to the wider church "...that we can accomplish more together than apart, that we live in an interdependent world in which we all need each other...";

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Thirty-second General Synod does hereby recognize a new Conference in Southern New England and vicinity (provisionally called the "TA1 Conference of the United Church of Christ"), created with geographic boundaries encompassing those previously of the Rhode Island Conference, the Massachusetts Conference, and the Connecticut Conference, effective January 1, 2020; and

Be it further resolved that, the Thirty-second General Synod does hereby approve the termination of the standing of the Rhode Island Conference, the Massachusetts Conference, and the Connecticut Conference with the General Synod, effective January 1, 2020, and concurrently grants the new TA1 Conference of the United Church of Christ standing as a Conference of the United Church of Christ, including all the powers, privileges, and responsibilities, of a Conference of the United Church of Christ; and

Be it further resolved that the Thirty-second General Synod acknowledges that, effective January 1, 2020, each Association of the said three shall automatically become an Association of the new TA1 Conference of the United Church of Christ, as determined by the new TA1 Conference.

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.

9. LET JUSTICE ROLL DOWN – DECLARING SUPPORT FOR THE GREEN NEW DEAL AND AFFIRMING THE INTERSECTIONALITY OF CLIMATE JUSTICE WITH ALL JUSTICE ISSUES.

Moderator Williams called on Dawn Sowash of the Penn Southeast Conference to present the recommended actions from Committee 15.

Dawn Sowash, on behalf of Committee #15, moved that the Thirty-second General Synod approve as Amended by Committee the Resolution on Let Justice Roll Down – Declaring support for the Green New Deal and Affirming the Intersectionality of Climate Justice with all Justice Issues. Dawn Sowash then Spoke to the resolution.

Discussion: Two spoke in favor.

19-GS-18 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the resolution Let Justice Roll Down – Declaring Support for the Green New Deal and Affirming the Intersectionality of Climate Justice with all Justice Issues.

(VOTE: 662 Yes; 30 No; 9 Abstentions – 701 electronic submissions registered)

**LET JUSTICE ROLL DOWN --
DECLARING SUPPORT FOR THE GREEN NEW DEAL
AND AFFIRMING THE INTERSECTIONALITY OF CLIMATE JUSTICE
WITH ALL JUSTICE ISSUES**
A Resolution of Witness

Text of the Resolution

Whereas, the Green New Deal is rooted in the scientific findings from the October 2018 Special Report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which declares that carbon emissions must be reduced by about fifty per cent before 2030 and completely phased out before 2050 if global temperature rise is to be limited to 1.5°Celsius;

Whereas, humanity is already contending with changes on a scale we can hardly comprehend, such as:

- Rainfall from big storms is now measured in feet - not inches (e.g., Houston received five feet (61”) of rain from Hurricane Harvey).
- The Earth's temperature is already well into the range that existed during the Eemian period, 120,000 years ago, when sea level was 20 to 30 feet higher than it is now.
- The cost of catastrophic, unprecedented flooding in the Midwest in the spring of 2019 is well over \$3 billion.
- “Not since World War II have more human beings been at risk from disease and starvation than at this very moment.” Climate change is the primary cause of droughts, which are increasingly rendering areas in Africa uninhabitable.
- Recognizing that the sixth mass extinction in geological history is now underway,

biologists are using the term “Biological Annihilation” as species are going extinct at least 100 times the normal rate;

Whereas, the urgency of the climate crisis is accelerating faster than anyone imagined. For example:

- In January 2019, scientists learned that the oceans are warming 40% faster than they had previously thought.
- As the oceans absorb CO₂, they are becoming more acidic at a frightening rate in excess of any change the world has seen in 300 million years.

Whereas, climate change multiplies and accelerates injustice by hitting the poorest people and people of color first and worst because it’s the poorest people and people of color who typically live in areas most likely to flood, most prone to disease, and most subject to the droughts, heat-waves and various diseases that are now migrating on account of climate change.

Whereas, climate change is creating and accelerating a health crisis in our inner cities that gets worse each summer, especially as rising temperatures create urban heat islands responsible for more and more cases of asthma that are disabling – and killing – children and elderly people of color.

Whereas, those most affected by climate change have not caused it and are powerless to stop it. For example, the farmers in parts of Africa who are losing their lands either to drought or to unprecedented flooding have a carbon footprint that is virtually 1/200th the carbon footprint of the average American;

Whereas, the people and institutions who actually caused and are causing climate change aren’t being held accountable for the catastrophic damage climate change is already causing;

Whereas, the Green New Deal acknowledges the necessity of assuming moral responsibility for intergenerational harm caused by failure to act on climate change and the urgency of taking action on a comprehensive scale to reduce the catastrophe future generations will inherit;

Whereas, on March 15, 2019, more than 1,400,000 young people in 128 countries, in over 2,200 cities and towns, and on every continent (including Antarctica) walked out of their schools on a school strike for climate action – the biggest day of global climate action ever – insisting that, in the words of 16-year old Greta Thunberg, initiator of the school strike for the climate and Nobel Prize nominee, “We need a whole new way of thinking...we need to start cooperating and sharing the remaining resources of this planet in a fair way”;

Whereas, in 2017, 97% of Synod delegates acknowledged the profound moral implications of climate change by voting to “declare a new moral era,” and committing to the “moral imperative” of urging “clergy to speak from their pulpits about the moral obligation of our generation to protect God’s creation”;

Whereas, the two interfaith environmental organizations with which the United Church of Christ

partners - Interfaith Power and Light (a national organization with affiliates in almost every state) and GreenFaith- describe the Green New Deal as “a tangible expression of key values that animate [our] vision of a better world” and as “a profound moral opportunity” because the Green New Deal is informed by truth and science, driven by urgency, far reaching in its scale and comprehensive in its goals;

Whereas, Yale researchers say 81% of the voters they polled support a Green New Deal to create jobs and work toward renewable energy;

Whereas, scores of scientists have spoken out in favor of the Green New Deal, including Stanford Professor Mark Jacobson, whose research demonstrates that each of the 50 states can establish a zero-emissions economy by 2035 and who says, "Right now, we have about ninety per cent or ninety-five per cent of the technology we need.... We don't need a technological miracle to solve this problem. The bottom line is we just need to deploy, deploy, deploy";

Whereas, on February 8, 2019, the executive leadership of the United Church of Christ endorsed the Green New Deal;

Whereas, over the past 50+ years the UCC, along with religious leaders from other faiths and denominations, has issued countless statements on the goodness of Creation and our call to act as responsible environmental stewards, all of which has been an insufficient witness;

Whereas, the Core Purpose of the United Church of Christ states (in part): “... we serve God in the co-creation of a just and sustainable world as made manifest in the Gospel of Jesus Christ” and

Whereas, this historic moment provides Christian communities with a powerful opportunity to bear witness to the sacredness of God’s Creation and the urgent call to preserve it, and responding to this call expresses the new mission initiative of the UCC known as the three great loves, one of which is love of creation;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ, in keeping with numerous resolutions passed by previous General Synods, recognizes the scale and immediacy of the climate crisis, the urgent need to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, and the moral obligation to embrace the unprecedented socio-economic changes that we must effect and engage as opportunities to create fair paying jobs, secure clean air and water, redress manifestations of environmental racism and pursue a just transition to clean and renewable energy.

Be it further resolved, that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ joins the executive leadership of the United Church of Christ and the United Church of Christ Council for Climate Justice in endorsing the Green New Deal Resolution (H. Res. 109) as introduced in Congress on February 7, 2019.

Be it further resolved, that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the whole of the church, understanding the intersectionality of climate change and justice,

to accept the moral responsibility that comes with living “at such a time as this” (Esther 4:14) by:

- Bear witness to the critical role science must play in understanding the challenges that now pose an existential threat to all forms of life on this planet;
- Continuing to learn from scientifically informed sources about the new realities and new solutions that are emerging every day;
- Discussing climate change with increasing frequency at church, at home, at work and in our social encounters, emphasizing how it threatens things we all value while noting that we already have the technology we need to achieve the goals of the Green New Deal;
- Incorporating into our worship life and community leadership and awareness of climate change, its consequences especially for the “frontline and vulnerable communities”, and the opportunities we still have to make the changes science says we must and technology says we can;
- Helping all communities be more prepared for extreme weather events and more resilient to the effects of the changing climate;
- Lifting up the reality that the majority of people surveyed, regardless of their political affiliation or allegiance, support a Green New Deal;
- Paying attention as federal, state and local agencies develop and propose new policies that impact our environment and planet, engaging those agencies as advocates for policies and legislation that advance the goals of the Green New Deal, including its commitment to address the “systemic injustices” that disproportionately affect “frontline and vulnerable communities”;
- Maintaining a commitment to compassion and fairness by advocating for a just transition for those workers and communities most dependent on fossil fuel energy so that they, too, have opportunities for clean, healthful and family-supporting jobs that heal our planet.

Be it further resolved, that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the whole of the church to accept that it is up to us to pour ourselves out to bend the moral arc of the universe towards justice, with joy in our hearts, beauty in our sights, and hope for a healthy and sustainable world for all children.

Funding:

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:

The Officers of the Church, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

10. SUPPORTING SURVIVORS OF RAPE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE THROUGH AN ONGOING CHURCH-WIDE OBSERVANCE OF BREAK THE SILENCE SUNDAY (BTSS)

Moderator Williams called on Cheryl Lindsay of the Ohio Conference to present the recommended action from Committee #9.

Cheryl Lindsay moved on behalf of Committee #9 that the Thirty-second General Synod approve as amended by Committee the resolution Supporting Survivors of Rape and Sexual Violence Through an Ongoing Church-wide Observance of Break the Silence Sunday (BTSS) and also spoke to the resolution.

Discussion:
Three spoke in favor.

19-GS-19 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the resolution Supporting Survivors of Rape and Sexual Violence Through an Ongoing Church-wide Observance of Break the Silence Sunday (BTSS).

(VOTE: 691 Yes; 10 No; 0 Abstentions – 701 electronic submissions registered)

**SUPPORTING SURVIVORS OF RAPE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE THROUGH AN
ONGOING CHURCH-WIDE OBSERVANCE OF BREAK THE SILENCE SUNDAY
(BTSS)**

A Prudential Resolution

Text of the Resolution

Whereas, in the more than thirty years since General Synod Fourteen the church has made little progress in truly supporting survivors of rape and sexual violence;

Whereas, survivors of rape and sexual violence are hesitant to come forward and share their stories with clergy or congregations because of theologies that perpetuate, glorify, or even encourage suffering and that advocate quick and uncomplicated forgiveness;

Whereas, the church, across traditions, has often been complicit in protecting perpetrators within their own communities and congregations, and the church has perpetuated the victim blaming and shaming, mirroring the painful doubt and disbelief survivors face in the wider society, and contributing to the rape culture in which we all live;

Whereas, due to the intensely personal nature of the crimes, the relationships that often exist between perpetrator and victim, and the challenges of the criminal justice system, the scope of rape and sexual violence is difficult to measure.

Whereas, it is estimated that every 98 seconds someone in the United States is sexually assaulted;

Whereas, the most conservative statistics estimate that one in every six women and one in every 33 men in the United States will be the victim of an attempted or completed sexual assault in their lifetime and that an estimated 63,000 children are sexually abused each year.

Whereas, we are in the midst of a cultural transformation, in the United States and around the world, with the *#metoo* movement empowering survivors to come forward and share their stories

of rape, abuse, sexual harassment, and other sexual violence;

Whereas, with the testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee by Dr. Christine Blasey Ford during the confirmation hearings for Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, the United States has clearly seen the challenges survivors face in coming forward with their stories, particularly after many years of carrying those stories in silence;

Whereas, the backlash many survivors face after telling their stories often forces them back into silence and fear, and frequently complicates or damages healing already accomplished;

Whereas, the scriptural testimony of Genesis (1.26-27, 5.1-2, and 9.6) along with Psalm 8.3-8, James 3.9 and others affirm that humanity is created in the very image of God;

Whereas, in Judges 19 the story of rape and violence ends with a clear call to the faithful to, “Consider it, take council, and speak out” (Judges 19.30);

Whereas, in numerous healing stories in the Gospels (Matthew 9.20-22, Mark 5.25-34, Mark 10.46-52, Luke 17.11-19, Luke 18.35-43) Jesus, reaching out to those in need who have come to him for healing and hope, declares “your faith has made you whole”, recognizing that the speaking the truth of our stories can save us;

Whereas, the scriptural testimony of 2 Corinthians 5.17 declares that through faith in Jesus Christ we are all a new creation;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Thirty-second General Synod calls upon the national church leadership, Conferences, Associations, and local churches to speak out in support of survivors of rape and sexual violence, offer care to individuals, including silent supportive witness in courtrooms, and advocate for sexual violence prevention education;

Be it further resolved, that the national setting of the United Church of Christ, as an act of repentance and commitment to healing add an annual observance of Break The Silence Sunday (BTSS) to its calendar with the suggested date of the fourth Sunday of April so as to occur within national sexual assault awareness month;

Be it further resolved, that local churches be invited to participate in an annual observance of Break The Silence Sunday, on the suggested Sunday or any date or dates deemed appropriate, honoring within their worship, education, and community contexts the stories and struggles of survivors of rape and sexual violence, and encourage such an observance in the ecumenical community;

Be it further resolved, due to the sensitive nature of the topics of Break The Silence Sunday, that all settings of the church are encouraged to treat survivors of sexual violence and their stories (paying particular attention to the needs of communities of color, LGBTQ+ identifying people, and people with disabilities) with due care and preparation, allowing time for education, self-care, and gathering of resources;

Be it finally resolved, that all settings of the United Church of Christ be encouraged to educate clergy and laity on how to support survivors of rape and sexual violence including trauma-informed care, and to advocate on behalf of those not yet ready to speak openly so that the voices of survivors do not speak alone.

Funding:

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.

11. JESUS SAID, “FOLLOW ME”

Moderator Williams called on Rev. Edward Livingston of the Penn SE Conference to present the recommended actions from Committee #14.

Rev. Livingston, on behalf of Committee #14, moved that the Thirty-second General Synod adopt the resolution Jesus Said “Follow Me” as amended by Committee. Rev. Livingston spoke to the resolution.

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

19-GS-20 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the resolution Jesus Said “Follow Me.”

(VOTE: 641 Yes; 34 No; 42 Abstentions – 717 electronic submissions registered)

JESUS SAID, “FOLLOW ME.”

A Resolution of Witness

Text of the Resolution

Whereas, as the United Church of Christ we are a unity of multiple voices, each essential, each congregation autonomous, uncoerced, and with its own integrity;

Whereas, as the United Church of Christ in these perilous times, we must heed Dr. Martin Luther King’s directive to the church to be the “conscience of the state,”

Whereas, as the United Church of Christ, we have been blessed by God’s extravagant welcome, and have sought to be agents of that graciousness,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon congregations to engage in reflection and conversation on what it means to follow Jesus in the diversity of our practices, with the intent of learning from one another and encouraging one another in faithful witness and extravagant welcome;

Be it further resolved that the Thirty-second General Synod calls upon congregations to have these conversations within, between, and among Local Churches, focusing on the significance of Jesus' call, "Follow me" in this era, and the ways in which each congregation responds to that call;

Be it further resolved that the Thirty-second General Synod calls upon Conferences and Associations to provide settings for the conversations within, between, and among Local Churches, and requests Conferences and Associations to distribute conversation guides to Local Churches and Authorized Ministers;

Be it finally resolved that the Thirty-second General Synod requests the implementing body for this resolution to develop a conversation guide and a system for receiving, compiling, and distributing the reports from the conversations on Jesus said, "Follow me."

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. CORNERSTONE FUND

Moderator Williams called on Maria Coyne, President and CEO of the United Church of Christ Cornerstone Fund.

Maria Coyne reported on the Cornerstone Fund.

13. UCCEVERYWHERE

Moderator Williams recognized Cynthia Bailie and Chris Gabriel.

Cynthia Bailie and Chris Gabriel reported on UCCEverywhere.

14. 2019 ANTIONETTE BROWN AWARD

Moderator Williams called on Rev. Elizabeth Dilley and Rev. Dr. Sheila Guillaume to present the 2019 Antoinette Brown Awards.

Rev. Dilley and Rev. Dr. Guillaume recognized as recipients of the 2019 Antoinette Brown Award Rev. Liddy Barlow, Rev. Eileen Norrington, and Rev. Marti Baumer. The institutional award was presented to WomanPreach! Inc.

15. FROM THE GROUND UP

Moderator Williams called upon Cheryl Joseph Williams to report on From the Ground Up.

16. THREE GREAT LOVES

Moderator Williams recognized Rev. David Sigmund to report on the Three Great Loves.

18. MUSIC BREAK

Steve Mizer played the accordion.

17. COMMENTS

Moderator Williams made comments regarding election of the General Minister & President. Please see Fourth Plenary, 5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND RECOGNITION, for comments.

Moderator Williams called on Assistant Moderator Lowes for the following announcements:

- Prayers for Justo Gonzalez
- Sign up for ICE march
- Shuttle to the ICE office
- Prayer Circle for those who need self-care
- A widespread network outage is affecting many areas and not just the General Synod; please use General Synod WiFi

Assistant Moderator Lowes invited the body to pray the Prayer of Discernment.

18. RECESS

Moderator Williams declared that the Fourth Plenary of the Thirty-second General Synod to be in recess.

Monday, June 24, 2019

Fifth Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER AND SPONSOR RECOGNITION

Assistant Moderator Lowes called the Fifth Plenary of the Thirty-second General Synod to order at 3:00 pm.

Assistant Moderator Lowes indicated it was time to hear from a major partner and major financial sponsor, the United Church of Christ Church Building and Loan Fund and thanked the United Church of Christ Church Building and Loan Fund.

2. SPEAK OUT

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

Assistant Moderator Lowes called on Nick Katzakis, CFO of the United Church of Christ, to give the financial report.

Nick Katzakis gave the financial report.

Assistant Moderator Lowes called on Bob Frieberg, chair of the United Church of Christ Board Finance & Budget Committee, who moved that the General Synod adopt a National Basic Support Allocation base of \$4.79 million and \$4.76 million for the budget years 2020 and 2021

respectively.

19-GS-21 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the National Basic Support Allocation base of \$4.79 million and \$4.76 million respectively for the budget years 2020 and 2021.

(VOTE: 582 Yes; 5 No; 39 Abstentions – 626 electronic submissions registered)

Bob Freiberg then moved, on behalf of the United Church of Christ Board, that the General Synod delegate the determination of the percentage allocation for Our Church's Wider Mission National Basic Support for the 2020-2021 biennium to the United Church of Christ Board.

19-GS-22 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ delegates the determination of the percentage allocation for Our Church Wider Mission National Basic Support for the 2020 and 2021 biennium to the United Church of Christ Board.

(VOTE: 567 Yes; 14 No; 42 Abstentions – 633 electronic submissions registered)

4. DENOUNCING ACTS OF VIOLENCE, HATRED AND RACISM CARRIED OUT IN THE NAME OF NEO-NAZI AND WHITE SUPREMIST IDEOLOGIES

Assistant Moderator Lowes called on Rev. Philomena Hare of the Massachusetts Conference to present the recommended action from Committee #6.

Rev. Philomena Hare moved on behalf of Committee #6 that the Thirty-second General Synod adopt the resolution Denouncing Acts of Violence, Hatred and Racism Carried Out in the Name of Neo-Nazi and White Supremist Ideologies as amended by Committee. Rev. Hare spoke to the resolution.

Assistant Moderator Lowes indicated that the General Synod Program and Planning Committee made the decision to allow young people to take a few moments to present a youth perspective on the issues as a part of the deliberations and the resolution before the house is one of the resolutions to which the youth have decided to speak.

Assistant Moderator Lowes, without objection, respectfully requested that the General Synod suspend the Standing Rules to allow the body to hear a three-minute presentation from the Youth at Synod as they prepare to debate and take action upon the current motion.

All of the youth spoke in favor of the resolution.

Assistant Moderator Lowes opened up the resolution for general discussion.

There was no other discussion.

19-GS-23 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the resolution Denouncing Acts of Violence, Hatred and Racism Carried

Out in the Name of Neo-Nazi and White Supremist Ideologies.

(Vote: 673 Yes; 2 No; 4 Abstentions – 679 electronic submissions registered)

**DENOUNCING ACTS OF VIOLENCE, HATRED, AND RACISM CARRIED OUT IN
THE NAME OF NEO-NAZI AND WHITE SUPREMACIST IDEOLOGIES**

A Resolution of Witness

Text of the Resolution

Whereas, scripture offers important teachings such as:

- God’s call and commandment to love God with all of one’s being (Deut. 6:5), and to love one’s neighbor as one’s self (Matthew 22:37-40)
- God’s call through the prophets to “act justly and love mercy” (Micah 6:8)
- God’s call through Jesus “to do unto others . . .” (Matthew 7:12), to see the despised and oppressed as children of God, as in the story of Jesus’ encounter with the Samaritan woman (John 4:4-30), and in the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37)
- God’s vision of the church as a people “drawn from every nation, all tribes, peoples, and languages” (Revelations 7:9); and

Whereas, the church has understood itself to be called by God to speak and act on behalf of the outcast and oppressed in many times and cultures; and

Whereas, since 2016, we have witnessed significant increases in the incidents of hate speech, hate crimes, assault, and harassment, directed at many minority peoples including immigrants, Native Americans, Muslims, Jews, LGBTQ people and more; and

Whereas, we recognize that all persons have a constitutional right to free speech, nonetheless the open display of Nazi and white supremacist regalia (swastika and Confederate flags), the overt hateful and racist behavior in the white nationalist “Unite the Right” demonstration (Charlottesville VA, Aug. 12th, 2017), and the increasingly frequent expression of hateful, extremist views in many forms of media is both profoundly disturbing to us and diametrically opposed to our mandate from God; and

Whereas, on September 12th, 2017, both Houses of the United States Congress unanimously passed a joint resolution condemning white nationalists, white supremacists, the Ku Klux Klan neo-Nazis, and other hate groups.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the congregations of the United Church of Christ to denounce all forms and expressions of white supremacist hatred as displayed by neo-Nazi groups, the Ku Klux Klan, and others; and

Be it further resolved, that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ exhorts all congregations of the United Church of Christ to speak and act in solidarity with all who are the targets of hate speech and actions; and

Be it further resolved, that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges all members, congregations, and ministry settings of the UCC to engage in reflection, learning, self-examination, and repentance for the ways in which white supremacy has influenced, and continues to influence, our personal, interpersonal, institutional, and cultural lives; and to seek out opportunities for transformative dialogue and relationship with people of diverse backgrounds and perspectives, including both targets and supporters of white supremacist rhetoric and action, with special attention to assisting congregants of white and/or European descent to acknowledge their responsibility to use their privilege to disrupt bigotry rooted in whiteness; and

Be it finally resolved, that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages each congregation of the United Church of Christ to join with other communities of faith to proclaim our shared commitment to Racial Justice.

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.

7. ESTABLISHING AN ACTION TEAM TO CONDUCT A LISTENING CAMPAIGN AND BRING RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE FUTURE OF CHRISTIAN WITNESS AT GENERAL SYNOD.

Assistant Moderator called on David Bahr of the Connecticut Conference to present the recommended action from Committee #4.

David Bahr moved on behalf of Committee #4 that the Thirty-second General Synod adopt the resolution Establishing an Action Team to Conduct a Listening Campaign and Bring Recommendations on the Future of Christian Witness at General Synod as amended by committee, and David Bahr spoke to the Motion.

Discussion:

Three spoke in favor.

19-GS-24 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the resolution Establishing an Action Team to Conduct a Listening Campaign and Bring Recommendations on the Future of Christian Witness at General Synod.

(Vote: 372 yes; 228 No; 93 Abstentions – 693 electronic submissions registered)

**Establishing an Action Team to Conduct a Listening Campaign and Bring
Recommendations on the Future of Christian Witness at General Synod
A Prudential Resolution**

Text of the Resolution

Whereas, Resolutions of Witness are a means for the General Synod of the United Church of Christ to speak to the Church and to the world on matters moral, ethical, or religious, from a place of Christian conviction;

Whereas, the polity of the United Church of Christ is such that General Synod may *urge, call upon, or ask* the varied settings primarily encountered – that is, the Local Church, the Association, and the Conference – to abide by the aspirations of a Resolution of Witness, the entity of General Synod has no Constitutional authority to do anything more;

Whereas, God calls us to tremendous and abundant things, and so the missional priorities of the wider church does not infringe upon the autonomy of the local churches' works of mercy and justice, nor does the discernment of General Synod interfere with the adjudication of the Holy Spirit leading the varied settings of the United Church of Christ to specific acts of mission and witness;

Whereas, the attendees of General Synod, whether Delegates or Visitors, collectively hold tremendous power, as they are organizers, activists, and community leaders in their various settings and have the capacity to bear and launch the mission of the wider church, as determined by General Synod, in their local settings;

Whereas, the material deprivation and moral crises of our communities and world require powerful responses, and in a time such as this, there is a need for Christian witness in the form of concerted action that goes beyond declarations of our Christian conviction;

Whereas, deeper engagement with the charge to discern the mission of the United Church of Christ requires more fully knowing one another as followers of Christ, learning from one another as leaders in our various settings, and trusting one another as the body of the Church;

Whereas, General Synod is a body of over 700 voting members of the United Church of Christ, and the work and ministry of General Synod is ongoing; additionally, General Synod is an event that marks the moment of transition between bienniums, and as such, it is both the genesis and culmination of the symbiotic, relational, and covenantal life cycle of the wider church;

Therefore be it resolved that the Thirty-second General Synod create a listening campaign throughout the denomination in all of its expressions including for example, youth and other HUGS (historically under-represented groups), to ask how the various settings most energetically and thoroughly carry out Christian mission and witness, and prayerfully listen to the concerns of the Church, formulating the eventual recommendation about the future form of General Synod's Christian witness.

Be it resolved that the UCC Board in consultation with the Council of Conference Ministers consider an effective implementation plan for this listening campaign, to be reported to and by General Synod 33.

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.

8. CALLING UPON THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD TO BRING BYLAWS REVISIONS THAT INCLUDE NON-BINARY GENDER LANGUAGE

Assistant Moderator Lowes called on Sarah Frische-Mouri Hannigan of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference to present the recommended action from Committee 12.

Sarah Frische-Mouri Hannigan moved that the Thirty-second General Synod adopt the Resolution Calling Upon the United Church of Christ Board to bring Bylaws Revisions that Include Non-Binary Gender Language as amended by Committee. Sarah Frische-Mouri Hannigan spoke to the motion.

Discussion:

One person spoke in favor.

19-GS-25 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the resolution Calling Upon the United Church of Christ Board to Bring Bylaws Revisions that Include Non-binary Gender Language.

(Vote: 636 yes; 51 No; 14 Abstentions – 693 electronic submissions registered)

RESOLUTION CALLING UPON THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD TO BRING BYLAWS REVISIONS THAT INCLUDE NON-BINARY GENDER LANGUAGE
A Resolution of Witness

Text of the Resolution

Whereas, God has brought forth human beings as creatures who are male, female, sometimes dramatically or subtly a complex mix of male and female in their bodies and/or psyches, and sometimes who psychologically experience both and female identification and/or neither male nor female identification; and

Whereas, human cultures have created a broad diversity of roles for men and women, and have sometimes created roles for people named as neither man nor woman often revered and respected

roles; and

Whereas, rules of appearance in the Bible, such as in Deuteronomy 22:5, are certainly among the rules criticized by Jesus as focused on outward conformity rather than inward integrity grounded in the acceptance of God's love; and

Whereas, there are numerous biblical affirmations of the goodness of creation and the love of God for all people, including Genesis 1, Psalm 139, John 1: 1-5, and Acts 10: 34-43; and

Whereas, Galatians 3: 26-29 calls on those who are baptized to put on Christ like a garment and to look past human divisions to become one person in Christ; and

Whereas, people with diverse understandings of their own gender beyond male and female are currently offering valuable ministry within the United Church of Christ, both as lay people and as clergy; and

Whereas, Christian people whose gender identity is something other than cis gender have sometimes experienced rejection and non-acceptance within some expressions of the United Church of Christ and in other expressions of Christ's Church, and are in need of a welcoming Christian community where they are valued as Christian people, and

Whereas, many settings of the United Church of Christ have little understanding of persons who gender identity is something other than cis gender; of how to meet their needs and make them feel welcome, of how to integrate their gifts and capacities for ministry into the life of the church and of how to integrate them into liturgy and expressions of worship.

Therefore, be it resolved, that all congregations of the United Church of Christ are encouraged to welcome people of all gender identities and expressions into membership, ministry, leadership, and full participation; and

Be it further resolved, that all settings of the United Church of Christ are encouraged to learn about the realities of gender experience and expression; and

Be it further resolved, that all settings of the United Church of Christ carefully consider the use of language relating to gender in all publications, curricula, and documents; and

Be it finally resolved, that the United Church of Christ Board bring bylaws revisions to the 2021 General Synod that include gender expansive language and welcome persons of all gender identities and expressions into service as General Synod Delegates and as members of the United Church of Christ Board.

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.

9. SOUTHERN ASIA INITIATIVE

Assistant Moderator Lowes welcomed Rev. Dr. James Moos, Associate General Minister for Global Engagement and Operations and the Co-Executive of Global Ministries, and Dr. Darshan Ambalavanar, Director of Diaconal Ministries, Church of American Ceylon Mission, Sri Lanka, to introduce the Southern Asia Initiative.

10. REV. DR. JAMES MOOS RECOGNITION

Assistant Moderator Lowes introduced a video and expressed thanks to Rev. Dr. James Moos for his commitment to the church, to building relationship, to leading impactful ministries and we celebrate and give thanks for his ministry.

11. RECESS

Assistant Moderator Lowes declared the Fifth Plenary of the Thirty-second General Synod to be complete.

**Monday, June 24, 2019
Sixth Plenary Session**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND SPONSOR RECOGNITION

Assistant Moderator Lowes called the Sixth Plenary of the Thirty-second General Synod to order at 7:00 p.m.

Assistant Moderator Lowes indicated it was time to hear from a major partner and major financial sponsor, the Cornerstone Fund. Assistant Moderator Lowes thanked the Cornerstone Fund.

2. SPEAK OUT

3. DISCERNING, ARTICULATING AND RESOURCING THE NATURE, PURPOSE, COMPOSITION, COVENANTAL AUTONOMY AND DEFINITION OF THE 'BASIC UNIT OF LIFE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST' FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY.

Assistant Moderator Lowes called on Rev. Elliott Munn of the Connecticut Conference to present the recommended action from Committee #11.

On behalf of Committee #11, Rev. Elliott Munn moved that the Thirty-second General Synod adopt the Resolution Discerning, Articulating, and Resourcing the Nature, Purpose, Composition, Covenantal Autonomy and Definition of 'the basic unit of life and organization of the United Church of Christ' for the Twenty-first Century and Rev. Munn spoke to the motion.

Amendment made and seconded. Amendment ruled out of order.

Discussion:

One person spoke against.

19-GS-26 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the resolution Discerning, Articulating, and Resourcing the Nature, Purpose, Composition, Covenantal Autonomy and Definition of ‘the basic unit of life and organization of the United Church of Christ.’

(Vote: 369 yes; 230 No; 86 Abstentions – 685 electronic submissions registered)

**DISCERNING, ARTICULATING, AND RESOURCING THE NATURE, PURPOSE,
COMPOSITION, COVENANTAL AUTONOMY AND DEFINITION OF ‘THE BASIC
UNIT OF LIFE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST’ FOR
THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY
A Prudential Resolution**

Text of the Resolution

Whereas, Article V, paragraphs 10 and 11 of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ employ objectionable language; and

Whereas, Article V of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ met with criticism during the hearing preceding its adoption at the Twenty-Seventh General Synod, but rules prevented changes in the language of the Article that delegates found objectionable; and

Whereas, the Bylaws adopted by the Thirty-First General Synod contain that same objectionable language; and

Whereas, General Synods 9, 11, 12, 14, 16 and 17 have affirmed the use of inclusive language; and

Whereas, Article III of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ describes the ideals of covenantal relationships but does not describe or provide for the accountability necessary to live into these covenantal relationships; and

Whereas, Article V, paragraph 10, of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ limits to three the purposes for which a Local Church may be organized: Christian worship, for the furtherance of Christian fellowship, and for the ongoing work of Christian witness; and

Whereas, Article V, paragraph 10 of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ omits as a purpose for which a local church may be organized creating a just world for all; and

Whereas, Article V of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ does not include the word “covenant;” and

Whereas, Article V, paragraph 17 of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ uses the word “fellowship” instead of the word “covenant;” and

Whereas, Article V, paragraph 16, of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ singles out Congregational Christian local churches and prohibits them from a dual affiliation with the UCC, calling into question the UCC value of extravagant welcome; and

Whereas, the current practice of conferences and associations is to “admit, or continue to fellowship with” Local Churches from other denominations and affiliations as well as faith communities that do not identify as a church in the spirit of the UCC value of extravagant welcome; and

Whereas, the words “to formulate its own covenants and confessions of faith; to admit members in its own way” in paragraph 18 seem to conflict with paragraph 11 which prescribes three methods for being admitted to a Local Church belonging to the UCC;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on the United Church of Christ Board to convene a working group representative of the whole of the United Church of Christ to:

1. lead the United Church of Christ in a process of discernment regarding Article V of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ; and
2. recommend revisions to Article V in accordance with the working group’s discernment and conclusions including, but not limited to, equal clarity about Local Church covenant and autonomy, parameters for local church accountability and the oversight of local churches, a provision for releasing congregations from the United Church of Christ, and amendments to Articles III and VIII and other sections of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ so that the whole of the document is consistent; and
3. produce a Manual on the Local Church, akin to the Manual on Ministry, for use by all settings of the Church to fully live into their covenantal responsibilities and privileges under the Constitution of the United Church of Christ; this Manual will speak to items including, but not limited to, a Congregational Code, Marks of Faithful and Vital Congregations, and processes and resources for birthing, admitting, strengthening, revitalizing, and releasing congregations; and
4. report its progress along with its recommendations for revising Article V of the Constitution to the next General Synod.

Be it further resolved that the General Synod of the United Church of Christ invites and encourages all settings of the United Church of Christ to pray for and participate with this discernment process locally.

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.

4. OVERSIGHT OF THE LOCAL CHURCH AND ITS COVENANTAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ASSOCIATION IN WHICH IT HOLDS STANDING AS A LOCAL CHURCH OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST.

Assistant Moderator Lowes called on Rev. Jim CastroLang from the Pacific Northwest Conference to present the recommended action from Committee #13.

On behalf of Committee #13 Rev. Jim CastroLang moved that the Thirty-second General Synod adopt the Resolution Oversight of the Local Church and its Covenantal Relationship with the Association in which It Holds standing as a Local Church of the United Church of Christ and recommended that the Thirty-second General Synod take no action. He then he spoke to the resolution.

Discussion:

A motion was made and seconded to table the Motion.

19-GS-27 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ tables the resolution Oversight of the Local Church and its Covenantal Relationship with the Association in which It Holds Standing as a Local Church of the United Church of Christ.

(Vote: 605 Yes; 70 No; 18 Abstentions – 693 electronic submissions registered)

5. STEWARDSHIP OF EXHIBIT SPACE

Assistant Moderator Lowes called on Brian Burke of the Ohio Conference to present the recommended action on behalf of Committee #8.

On behalf of Committee #8, Brian Burke moved that the Thirty-second General Synod adopt the Resolution Stewardship of Exhibit Space and recommend disapproval of the resolution and asked that the General Synod vote no on the resolution.

Discussion:

A motion was made and seconded to postpone the vote on the resolution regarding Stewardship of Exhibit Space.

The Motion was defeated.

(Vote: 242 Yes; 404 No; 36 Abstentions – 682 electronic submissions registered)

A motion was made and seconded to extend discussion into the next Plenary should the body not

have enough time to thoroughly discuss the resolution

19-GS-28 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ extends discussion of the resolution Stewardship of Exhibit Space into the next plenary.

(Vote: 433 Yes; 236 No; 21 Abstentions – 690 electronic submissions registered)

Discussion before the order of the day:
Six spoke in favor and six spoke against the resolution.

6. ORDER OF THE DAY

Assistant Moderator Lowes called the Order of the Day and indicated those at the microphones should resume their position at the next plenary.

7. DON HART RECOGNITION

Assistant Moderator Lowes called on Kathy Dwyer, Pastor of Rock Springs Congregational Church in Arlington, Virginia and the Chair of the Board of United Church Funds, who led a recognition of Don Hart, retiring President of United Church Funds.

8. PILGRIM PRESS RELAUNCH

Assistant Moderator Lowes called on Rachel Hackenberg to present The Pilgrim Press relaunch and video.

9. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Assistant Moderator Lowes welcomed poet and Theological Reflector Jack Evans to the Artists stage.

Jack Evans shared his thoughts and poetry.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Assistant Moderator Lowes invited Moderator Williams to the microphone for the following announcements:

- Self-care suite is available for anyone who needs support.

11. RECESS

Assistant Moderator Lowes indicated we would move into a time of worship and declared the Sixth Plenary to be complete at the end of worship. The next plenary will begin tomorrow morning at 8:00 a.m.

**Tuesday, June 25, 2019
Seventh Plenary Session**

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. SPEAK OUT

3. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Moderator Williams welcomed the final Theological Reflector: Musician and composer Sandy Champion.

4. STEWARDSHIP OF EXHIBIT SPACE (CONTINUED)

Discussion continued.

A motion was made and seconded to table the resolution. After making the motion to table the resolution, the delegate making the motion spoke to the motion and asked that after the resolution was tabled, that the United Church of Christ Board create a behavioral covenant to govern the Exhibit Hall space.

19-GS-29 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ tables the resolution Stewardship of Exhibit Space.

(Vote: 375 Yes; 228 No; 20 Abstentions – 623 electronic submissions registered)

5. RESOLUTION REGARDING THE USE OF PLASTIC FOAM (i.e. Styrofoam®)

Moderator Williams called on Diane Johnson of the Northern California Nevada Conference to present the recommended actions from Committee #5.

Diane Johnson moved, on behalf of Committee #5, to recommend that the Resolution Regarding the Use of Plastic Foam be approved as amended by Committee. Diane Johnson spoke to the motion.

Moderator Williams indicated that the General Synod Program and Planning Committee made the decision to allow young people to take a few moments to present a youth perspective on the issues as a part of the deliberations. The resolution before the house is one of the resolutions to which the youth have decided to speak.

Moderator Williams, without objection, respectfully requested that the General Synod suspend the Standing Rules to allow the body to hear a three-minute presentation from the Youth at Synod as the General Synod prepares to debate and take action upon the current motion.

All of the youth spoke in favor of the resolution.

Discussion:

Three spoke in favor of the resolution.

19-GS-30 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts Resolution Regarding the Use of Plastic Foam.

(Vote: 665 Yes; 5 No; 3 Abstentions – 673 electronic submissions registered)

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE USE OF PLASTIC FOAM (i.e. Styrofoam®)

A Resolution of Witness

Text of the Resolution

Whereas, Styrofoam (a registered trademark by Dow Chemical so “Styrofoam” will be replaced with plastic foam) is made of expanded polystyrene foam, and

Whereas, polystyrene is made by linking styrene molecules into a polymer (American Chemistry Council) and “polymer” is defined by Merriam-Webster as a chemical compound or mixture of compounds that is formed by combination of smaller molecules and consists basically of repeating structural units, and

Whereas, plastic foam is used in many applications, including food service (Clean Water Action, 2011), and

Whereas, it takes 500 years for plastic foam to decompose (Sims, 2016), and

Whereas, landfill contents are 25-30% plastic, which includes plastic foam (Sims, 2016), and

Whereas, styrene and benzene are used in the production of plastic foam, and styrene is a probable carcinogen in humans (Aarhus University, 2018), and benzene is a known carcinogen in humans (American Cancer Society), and

Whereas, plastic foam containers leach styrene when they come into contact with warm food or drink, alcohol, oils, and acidic foods such as fruit juice (Sims, 2016), and

Whereas, microwaving food in plastic foam containers increases styrene leaching into food and is considered a health risk (Earth Resource Foundation), and

Whereas, in 1986 the EPA listed polystyrene manufacturing as the 5th largest hazardous waste contributor in the United States and polystyrene is manufactured with petroleum which is non-sustaining and heavily polluting (Sims, 2016), and

Whereas, the United Nations Environment Programs estimated in 2006 that 46,000 pieces of plastic, including plastic foam, float in every square mile of ocean (Sims, 2016), because plastic foam is lightweight and floats readily so it travels easily down storm drains and runs off into waterways, and

Whereas, plastic from urban runoff is the primary source of plastic ocean debris world-wide (Sims, 2016), and

Whereas, as plastics enter the waterways and oceans, they break down into smaller and smaller pieces, which are then ingested by marine life, causing harm or death, which has potential

impacts on seafood fish populations (Monterey Bay Aquarium, 2018), and

Whereas, in 2010 the United Nations estimated that 37% of the global population lives along the coastline (United Nations Goal 14, 2016), and

Whereas, seafood makes up 90% of protein in the diet of persons living in some parts of the world (Monterey Bay Aquarium, 2018), and

Whereas, a study of beach debris in Orange County, California found plastic foam to be the second most abundant form of beach debris (Moore et al. 1998), and

Whereas, a study of microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay found microplastics in 98% of samples (Marine Debris Program, 2018)

Whereas, 100% of human fatty tissues sampled in 1972, 1976, and 1982 contained levels of styrene. A 1988 survey found levels of styrene in fatty tissue to be 8 to 350 nanograms of styrene per gram of tissue (ng/g). 350 ng/g is 1/3 the level of styrene that is toxic to nerves or nervous tissue (Sims, 2016), and

Whereas, research on the effects of plastic pollution and chemical effects on the food web and human health is currently inadequate (Monterey Bay Aquarium, 2018), and

Whereas, non-plastic foam food packaging products are available online at the following websites (this list is NOT all-inclusive – there are others, and users are encouraged and expected to do their own research for quality and price): and

Whereas, the United Church of Christ is committed to Environmental Justice, and the third of the “3 Great Loves” initiative is Love of Creation,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Thirty-second General Synod encourages Conferences, Associations, Congregations, CHHSM Agencies and individuals to avoid the use of plastic foam in food packaging and other activities within their church and church-related facilities; the freedom of implementation belongs to all settings of the United Church of Christ, and

Be it further resolved that Thirty-second General Synod encourages Conferences, Associations, Congregations, and CHHSM Agencies to educate their members about plastic foam and that they encourage the use of alternatives such as paper products or, better yet, ceramic or other dishwasher-safe products.

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. **ON SUPPORT FOR THE ENERGY INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT OF 2019**

Moderator Williams called on Diane Johnson of the Northern California Nevada Conference to present the recommended actions from Committee #5.

Diane Johnson moved, on behalf of Committee #5, to recommend that the resolution On Support for the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 as submitted.

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

19-GS-31 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the resolution On Support for the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019.

(Vote: 647 Yes; 8 No; 10 Abstentions – 665 electronic submissions registered)

ON SUPPORT FOR THE ENERGY INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT OF 2019
A Resolution of Witness

Text of the Resolution

Whereas, climate change, caused largely by pollution from using fossil carbon, has caused problems from drought, severe storms, flooding, rising ocean levels, ocean acid increase, and species destruction; and

Whereas, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 was introduced into the U. S. House of Representatives on January 24, 2019, with bi-partisan cosponsors; and

Whereas, the 2017 UCC Synod passed "The Earth is the Lords, not Ours to Wreck," a resolution to combat climate change; and

Whereas, the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church supports a national tax on carbon-based fossil fuels based on the Carbon Fee and Dividend proposal of the Citizens' Climate Lobby; and

Whereas, the Presbyterian Church (USA) has supported climate action using a carbon dividend plan; and

Whereas, climate change threatens most those who are poor and least able to cope with the changes; and

Whereas, the United Church of Christ consistently favors uniting actions; and

Whereas, the fee and dividend approach of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 provides an effective reduction in fossil carbon pollution, is good for people, especially the poor, is good for the economy, is supported by members from both major parties, and is revenue neutral; and

Whereas, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 applies a fee on extraction of fossil carbon, returns the money to people as a dividend, supports fair international trade, and increases the fossil carbon fee yearly; and

Whereas, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 is bi-partisan and neither supports nor rejects other proposals related to climate change; it can co-exist non-competitively with such proposals;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ expresses its clear support for the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, H. R. 763;

Be it further resolved that the Thirty-second General Synod encourages all settings of the United Church of Christ to seek ways to learn more about climate change and solutions;

Be it further resolved that the Thirty-second General Synod encourages the national setting of the United Church of Christ make available resources to learn about and engage with people of other faiths on climate change;

Be it finally resolved that the Thirty-second General Synod encourages members and settings of the United Church of Christ to speak out for energy innovations and conservation to reduce climate change.

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.

7. A RESOLUTION TO ABOLISH THE GROWTH AND EXISTENCE OF PRIVATE PRISONS

Moderator Williams called on Maria Brace of the Penn Northeast Conference to present the recommended actions from Committee #1.

Maria Brace moved, on behalf of Committee #1, to recommend that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopt the resolution to abolish the Growth and Existence of Private Prisons as amended by committee.

There was a motion to amend the motion.

The amendment to the motion was ruled out of order.

Discussion:

Four spoke in favor of the resolution.

19-GS-32 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts Resolution to Abolish the Growth and Existence of Private Prisons.

(Vote: 646 Yes; 27 No; 4 Abstentions – 677 electronic submissions registered)

**A RESOLUTION TO ABOLISH THE GROWTH AND EXISTENCE OF PRIVATE
PRISONS
A Resolution of Witness**

Text of the Resolution

Whereas, we are each created equal and in the image of God (Genesis 1:26; Galatians 3:28), an indisputable truth in our faith tradition which leaves no room for profiting from the bondage of any human being;

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, between 2000 and 2015 the number of people incarcerated in private prisons increased by 45 %, compared to an overall rise in the prison population of only 10 %.

Whereas, income and profit for private prisons are dependent upon maintaining a large and stable inmate population. Therefore, the incentive for increasingly imprisoning human beings is based upon greed and without regard for alternatives to incarceration, or efforts to achieve justice reform or rehabilitation.

Whereas, there are proven instances of inadequate health care for incarcerated persons, death and injury suffered by incarcerated persons caused by inadequate security staffing levels and inadequate training for security staff which are attributable to cost saving measures that bolster the profits of privately owned or operated prisons.

Whereas, insidious partnerships have been successfully pursued to increase the number of persons housed in private prisons. Said partnerships lend governmental support and structure to profiting from imprisonment of human beings. Specifically, the private prison industry has collaborated with organizations which assist in developing and advocating for passage of model legislation that is shared and often adopted by states, such as “Three strikes” laws and mandatory minimum sentences with virtually no opportunity for parole. Said legislation and other laws similarly supported by the private prison industry serve to increase the inmate population of the facilities from which profit is realized. Through these actions the private prison industry has

gained power to establish and grow prisons beyond any conceivable need.

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, that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the national setting of the United Church of Christ to enable and encourage local churches and conferences to develop methods to:

- a. Raise the church's consciousness of the theological, social, racial, ethnic and economic inequities which accompany the existence and/or increase of privately owned or operated correctional and holding institutions including, but not limited to prisons, jails, and detention centers (hereafter referred to as PRIVATE PRISONS).
- b. Monitor and advocate against proposals for state and federal criminal justice and sentencing laws which serve to increase and support the increase of the inmate population of PRIVATE PRISONS.
- c. Actively divest of corporations which operate PRIVATE PRISONS. Advocate that corporate suppliers to or corporate investors in PRIVATE PRISONS cease these activities. Implement an action plan for divestment from corporations which supply to or invest in PRIVATE PRISONS which do not demonstrate these changes.

Therefore, be it further resolved, that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the U. S. Congress, state legislatures, and local governments to ban government contracting with, or approval of, the existence of PRIVATE PRISONS.

Be it finally resolved, that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls for appropriate legislation accompanied by the appropriate oversight mechanisms of U.S. Congress, State legislatures, and local governments to immediately require existing PRIVATE PRISONS to provide optimum spiritual, medical, physical, and mental care, as well as safety measures.

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.

8. CALLING FOR THE UNITED STATES TO PULL “BACK FROM THE BRINK” AND PREVENT NUCLEAR WAR.

Moderator Williams called on the Rev. Rose Wright-Scott of the Southern Conference to present the recommended actions from Committee #10.

Rev. Rose Wright-Scott moved, on behalf of Committee #10, to recommend that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopt the resolution as amended calling for the United States to pull “Back From the Brink” and Prevent Nuclear War. Rev. Scott spoke to the resolution.

Discussion:

One spoke in favor of the resolution.

19-GS-33 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the resolution Calling for the United States to pull “Back From the Brink” and Prevent Nuclear War.

(Vote: 650 Yes; 22 No; 7 Abstentions – 679 electronic submissions registered)

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE UNITED STATES TO PULL “BACK FROM THE BRINK” AND PREVENT NUCLEAR WAR

A Resolution of Witness

Text of the Resolution

Whereas, in our scriptures we read that “where there is no vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18); and

Whereas, in 2018 the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists moved the Doomsday Clock ahead by 30 seconds — to 11:58 p.m. A symbolic gesture suggesting that civilization is two minutes away from destruction; and

Whereas, the Twelfth General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed a pronouncement “Reversing the Arms Race”; and

Whereas, the Fifteenth General Synod passed a pronouncement declaring the United Church of Christ a “Just Peace Church” that declared opposition to all weapons of mass destruction, calling for the immediate cessation of testing, production, and deployment of such arsenals; and

Whereas, 95 percent of the world’s nuclear weapons are in the hands of the United State and Russia and the rest are held by seven other countries: China, France, Israel, India, North Korea, Pakistan, and the United Kingdom; and

Whereas, since the height of the Cold War, the United States and Russia have dismantled more than 70,000 nuclear warheads, but 14,485 of these weapons still exist and pose an intolerable risk to human survival; and

Whereas, former U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry has said, “the risk of a nuclear catastrophe today is greater than it was during the Cold War — and yet our public is blissfully unaware of the new nuclear dangers they face;” and

Whereas, the use of even a tiny fraction of these weapons would cause worldwide climate disruption and global famine; and

Whereas, a large-scale nuclear war would kill hundreds of millions of people directly and cause unimaginable environmental damage and catastrophic climate disruption; and

Whereas, as the effects of climate change place increased stress on communities around the world and intensify the likelihood of conflict, the danger of nuclear war will grow; and

Whereas, despite assurances that these arsenals exist solely to guarantee that they are never used, there have been many occasions when nuclear armed states have prepared to use these weapons, and war has been averted only at the last minute; and

Whereas, the planned expenditure of more than \$1 trillion to enhance our nuclear arsenal will not only increase the risk of nuclear disaster but fuel a global arms race and divert crucial resources needed to assure the well-being of the American people and people all over the world; and

Whereas, there is an alternative to this march to nuclear war: in July 2017, 122 nations called for the elimination of all nuclear weapons by adopting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Whereas, in 2018 the U.S. has expressed its intent to exit the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, a critical agreement to curtail nuclear weapons; and

Whereas, living into the United Church of Christ’ current mission statement to “Build a just world for all” will necessitate the elimination of nuclear weapons;

Therefore be it resolved that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ reaffirms its vision of a nuclear-weapon-free world and endorses the “Back from the Brink: The Call to Prevent Nuclear War” campaign, calling upon policymakers to take measures to prevent nuclear war by:

- renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first;
- ending any president’s sole, unchecked authority to launch a nuclear attack;
- taking US nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert;
- cancelling the plan to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons; and
- actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.

Be it further resolved that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on the U.S. President and Congress to take necessary steps to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and make nuclear disarmament the centerpiece of our national security policy;

And be it further resolved that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges the National setting, conferences, associations, and local churches to advocate for policy makers to support the aforementioned resolutions.

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.

9. DESIGNATING THE MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AS A HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED GROUP

Moderator Williams called on the Rev. Michael Vollbrecht of the Kansas Oklahoma Conference to present the recommended actions from Committee #7.

Rev. Michael Vollbrecht moved, on behalf of Committee #7, to recommend that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopt the resolution as revised Designating the Mental Health Network of the United Church of Christ as a Historically Underrepresented Group.

Discussion:

Eight people spoke in favor of the resolution.

19-GS-34 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the resolution Designating the Mental Health Network of the United Church of Christ as a Historically Underrepresented Group.

(Vote: 658 Yes; 18 No; 3 Abstentions – 679 electronic submissions registered)

The Business Committee of the Thirty-second General Synod has recommended this proposed resolution be sent to a Committee of the General Synod.

DESIGNATING THE MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AS A HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED GROUP
A Prudential Resolution

Text of the Resolution

Whereas, the Twenty-second General Synod adopted the “Calling the People of God to Justice for Persons with Serious Mental Illnesses (Brain Disorders)” and the Thirtieth General Synod adopted the “Developing Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged (WISE) Congregations

for Mental Health,” and

Whereas, since 1993 the UCC Mental Health Network (once known as the UCC Mental Illness Network), has faithfully served all expressions of the UCC, promoting mental health and the Welcome, Inclusion, Support, and Engagement (WISE) for the millions of individuals and their families living with mental health challenges, brain disorders, and substance use disorders into the Body of Christ, the Church, and the larger society through education, resources, support, programs, five conferences with the UCC Disabilities Ministries, and through its own WISE Congregation for Mental Health Conferences, and

Whereas, the importance of the UCC Mental Health Network’s work has been recognized by the United Church of Christ Justice and Local Church Ministries through a newly created position in the national setting for a Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice that liaises equally with the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries and the United Church of Christ Mental Health Network, and

Whereas, the UCC Mental Health Network's work furthers inclusion and access to all people within the United Church of Christ and the larger society in ways similar to United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries, a recognized Historically Underrepresented Group of the United Church of Christ, but the Mental Health Network and those it serves do not have a voice or a vote at the General Synod, and

Whereas, the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries has voted to support this request.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ recognizes that one in four people across the world experience some variety of a mental health challenge or brain disorder during their lifetime, and one out of 25 people live with a severe mental health illness in the United States. Stigma within the Church and the larger society has muted their voices and their experiences, rendering them historically underrepresented in the United Church of Christ.

Let it be resolved that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ recognizes the United Church of Christ Mental Health Network as a Historically Underrepresented Group of the United Church of Christ and directs the United Church of Christ Board to take the necessary actions to incorporate the Mental Health Network into the Historically Underrepresented Groups listings and access.

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.

10. THE COLECTIVO DE UCC LATINX MINISTRIES REQUESTS TO BE

RECOGNIZED AS A HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED GROUP

Moderator Williams called on the Rev. Michael Vollbrecht of the Kansas Oklahoma Conference to present the recommended actions from Committee #7.

Rev. Michael Vollbrecht moved, on behalf of Committee #7, to recommend that the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopt the resolution as amended by Committee entitled The Colectivo De UCC Latinx Ministries Requests to be Recognized as a Historically Underrepresented Group. Michael Vollbreck also spoke to the resolution.

Discussion

Five people spoke in favor of the resolution.

19-GS-35 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the resolution The Colectivo De UCC Latinx Ministries Requests to be Recognized as a Historically Underrepresented Group.

(Vote: 652 Yes; 6 No; 1 Abstentions – 659 electronic submissions registered)

THE COLECTIVO DE UCC LATINX MINISTRIES REQUESTS TO BE RECOGNIZED AS A HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED GROUP **A Prudential Resolution**

Text of the Resolution

Whereas, it has been documented and affirmed that the Latinx community in the United States is not a homogenous group of people, but is comprised of twenty different cultures linked by a common language, bound by a history of oppression and diaspora, and connected by a powerful and undeterred faith in God;

Whereas, racial discrimination against Latinx communities is rampant throughout the United States, yet discussions of White Privilege within the UCC are focused on the racial duality of black and white, without mention of the marginalization of the Latinx community;

Whereas, it has been documented and affirmed that Latinx population in the UCC is disproportionately underrepresented at the association and conference settings within the wider church;

Whereas, in 2015 the Executive Committee of the Council for Hispanic Ministries voted unanimously to suspend its Bylaws and governing structure and replace it with a UCC Latin@/Hispanic Transition Team to study and report on the status and needs of the Latinx community in the UCC;

Whereas, the Transition Team recommends that a new nationally based body be formed within the UCC to focus on a covenanted common mission in ministry with Latinx communities;

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

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:

The Officers of the Church, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.

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.

4. **THANK YOU TO LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE OF THE WISCONSIN CONFERENCE**

Assistant Moderator Lowes provided thanks to the General Synod Local Arrangements Committee.

5. **WELCOME TO GENERAL SYNOD THIRTY-THREE FROM THE KANSAS -OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE AND MISSOURI MID-SOUTH CONFERENCE**

Edith Guffey, Conference Minister of the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference, and Ginny Brown Daniel, Conference Minister of the Missouri Mid-South Conference, welcomed delegates to the Thirty-third General Synod in Kansas City in 2021.

6. **INSTALLATION OF GENERAL SYNOD TWENTY-THREE MODERATOR AND ASSISTANT MODERATOR**

Rev. Penny Lowes was installed as Moderator of the General Synod. Bob Sandman was installed as the Assistant Moderator of the General Synod.

7. **THANK YOU TO MODERATOR WILLIAMS FOR SERVICE AS MODERATOR**

United Church of Christ Board Chair Frank Bolden thanked Moderator Williams for his service.

8. **FINAL THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION**

Musician Sandy Champion shared her musical composition as a reflection on the General Synod.

9. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THANKS**

Assistant Moderator Lowes offered the following announcements:

- Pass the table signs and stands to the end of the table.
- Registration totals:
 - 811 total delegates (including associate delegates),
 - 1893 guests, staff, and youth participating in Youth@Synod
 - 4000 (approx.) attended Sunday community worship
- Offering totals (before on-line donations):
 - Friday Worship: \$9500
 - Sunday Worship: \$18,000

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moderator Williams expressed thanks and appreciation for everyone's participation and commitment to the denomination and the United Church of Christ. Yvette Wynn, Incoming Chair of the United Church of Christ Board, moved the adjournment of the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ at the conclusion of the evening worship service.

17-GS-38 VOTED: The Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ votes to adjourn at the conclusion of the evening worship service.

Moderator Williams gaveled the final business session of the Thirty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ to a close.

11. **WORSHIP**

LIST OF VOTING DELEGATES

California Nevada-N.

Carol Barriger
Trust Hilton
Alesana Sunia
Bladimer Paeste
Barbara Colliander
Mary Kelly
Diane Johnson
Oomai Sunia
Theron Jones
Casey Ream
Jubilee Taufete'e

California-Nevada-S.

Cynthia Hoeger
Kevin Chapman
Francine Franks
Lorraine Cenicerros
Rudy Van Graan
Heather Branton
Teogenes Tawagon
Libby Tigner
Clayton Heard
Julio Agbon
Matthew Redrich
Christina Siva
Mary Taylor

Calvin Synod

Viktor Toth
Jill A Murrel

Central Atlantic

Robin Lewis
Lauren (Dee) Rogers
Steven Wood
Rebecca Shillingburg
Clifford Barr
Yvonne Hinkson
Derek Ritenour
Taylor Ramage
Janese Murray
Sam Chamelin
John Shillingburg

Central Atlantic (cont.)

Maria Crompton
Imani Hinkson
John Rogers
Dorothy King
Brian Murray
Leroy Christian
Hannah Eastman

Central Pacific

Courtney Payne
Molli Mitchell
Lynne Smouse Lopez
Catherine Alder
Sierra Carlson

Connecticut

Matthew Emery
Karen Halac
Brett Schneider
Christine Sima
Jacquelyn Hall
Kari Nicewander
Mark Diters
Maurice Flowers
Jocelyn Gardner Spencer
Caryne Eskridge
Elizabeth Gleich
Liz Dreher Webb
Abby Gackenheimer
Sara Krhla
Christopher Farrington
Tim Hare
Patrick Collins
David Peters
Margret Hofmeister
Diann Bailey
Sara Ofner-Seals
Chancellur Dixon
Lauryn Flowers
Fredd Ward

Connecticut (cont.)

Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager
Stephen Varga
Xaniyah Sanders
Judith Cooke
Jonathan Chapman
Erika Foster
Amy Huhn
Katrina Manzi
Bethany Winters
Micki Nunn-Miller
Olivia Arsenault
Catherine Gingras
Ede Steele
David Sonnemann
Alan Hurst
Don Francois
Megan Strouse
Jennifer Gingras
Elliott Munn
Matthew McCaffrey
Greg Gray
George Harris
David Shaw
Rhonda Myers

Florida

Maria Burt
Bil Detore
Dyanne Edds
Deborah Chea
Daniel D Best
Lynn Jones
John Havens
George Miller
Robin DeAngelis
Karen Curtis-Weakley
Kathryn Howe
Ed Middleton

Florida (cont.)

Virginia Somerville
Elizabeth LeSueur

Hawaii

Linda Kaaui-Iwamoto
Kerisa Carmelo
Kyle Lovett
Kristen Young
Isaiah Kaaui
Neal MacPherson
Diane Meyer
Suzanne Smith
John Narruhn
Florentino Cordova
Moana Peleiholani-Blankenfeld

Illinois

Dick Cridlebaugh
Carla Banks
Chandler Drahn
Mary Swick
Jim Allen
Jim Fisher
Jeff Coester
Catherine Erwin
Marietta Hebert-Davis
Robin Thomas
D'Angelo Smith
David Roberts-Mosser
Riley Deahl
Michelle Day
Ted Engelsdorfer
Daniel Jares
Margaret Sim
William McCarthy
Ann McCarthy
Judy Kennedy
Charlene Hinckley

Illinois (cont.)

Gloria Cox
Lindsey Hammond
Mike Linder
Mary Newcomb
Amanda McEvilly
David Holston
Katie Karstensen
Brandyn Simmons
Gwendolyn Kirkland
Kim Whisler-Vasko
Jagan Samuvelraj
MariBeth Welch Brainerd
Brian Cope
Jenny Larson
Susan Steinmiller
Wei-Jen Chen
Laurie Hill
Katey (Kate) Alexander
Frank Zavaski
Bill Riegle
Virginia Ericson
Melissa Pletkovich
Michael Jones
Charlene Wordlaw-Porter
Jon Prain
Selena Blackwell
Eric Quinney-Burnard
Roger Dart
Elizabeth Prain
Sue Ladd

Illinois South

Priscilla Self
Maggie Ratcliff
Tim Darmour-Paul
Christy Eckert
Patrick Poole
Clyde Donovan
Norma Patterson

Illinois South (cont.)

Karen Gaines
Dale Fiedler
Chrissy Eckerty
Kristian Avise-Rouse
Carl Kasten
Lori Schafer
Kay Ahaus
Brett Palmer

Indiana-Kentucky

Linda Kuester
Nicole Shaw
Lori Bievenour
Lakota IronRope
Dena Holland-Neal
Walter Ziebell
Sharifa Townsend
Rose Austin
January Simpson
Kent Gilbert
Joyce Smidley
Judith Doll
Sarah Frische-Mouri
Hannigan
Jane Hillman
Susan Sirmic
B. Lee Reberger
Michael Erwin Jr.
Tim Strueh

Iowa

Diana McHenry
Susan Reed
Donald Morgan
Craig Blaufuss
Matthew Schneider-Adams
Tony Dillon Hansen
Dane Brewer
Noah Jensen Tabor

Iowa (cont.)

Laura Wright
Dixie Laube
Aaron Barker
Chloe Brewer
Mary Beth Hartenstein
Susan Sickelka
Jared Walter
Stephanie Hill
Maxine Tone
Allison Acklie
Ellis Arnold
Laura Renault
Mary Brady
Onita Mohr

Kansas-Oklahoma

Gage Church
Ellen Neufeld
Emily Rix
Michael Vollbrecht
Gina Woods
Phil Hodson

Maine

Geoffrey Parker
Lee Ann Betz
Nathaniel Blanchard
Patricia Boyle-Wight
Josh Fitterling
Samuel Cowan
Cindy Maddox
Michaela Flanders
Linette George
Teresa Mack
Danielle Keller
Roy Scribner

Massachusetts

Mike Dunfee

Massachusetts (cont.)

Deborah Washington
Beth Horne
Jonathan Drury
Barbara Hesse
Patti Babcock
William Bray
Bonnie Fleming
Greta MacRae
John Sharland
Christine Burns
Nena Radtke
Tracy Keene
Paul Thomas
Beth Anne Doan
Alford Green
Corey Sanderson
Amelia Becker
David King
Emmalisa Belfiore
Avery Lapis
Korte Yeo
Denson Staples
Matthew Carriker
Wendy Miller Olapade
Emmanuel Kalamu
Hope Coleman-Plourde
Jonathan Guest
Holly Norwick
Peter Johnston
Reid Young
Jacob Sorensen
Philomena Hare
Paul Nesbit
Mary Perry
Jenn Macy
Brian Lapis
Chuck Morkin
Dawn Sorensen
Taj Smith

Massachusetts (cont.)

Linda Mesler
Cassie McKiel
Wendy VanderHart
Mark Longhurst
Katie Omberg
Jonathan New
Emmanuel Akyeampong

Michigan

Angela Jamison
Solana Postma
Judith Booker
Jonathan Riedel
Sara Keinath
Robert Bond
Helena Singer
Jon Propper
Deborah Conrad
Christen Clark
Judith Furman
Paul von Oeyen
Ruth Moerdyk
Dave Engel
Vita Green
Josh Lee
Verona Ivory
Elizabeth Hoy
Ashley Rice
Alana Kelley

Minnesota

Ava Adams-Morris
Zachary Dyar
Jeff Palmer
Colin Elliott
Katia Vantries
Jean Ostrom
Kwame Osei Reed
Chris McArdle

Minnesota (cont.)

Kristina Felbeck
Bonnie Johnson
Leo Ehrenberg
Samuel McCurry
Claire Klein
Desiree Gold
Beth Donaldson
Kathy Itzin
Don (Ole) Olson

Missouri Mid-South

Cayden Stephens
Allison Summers
Jeffrey Mueller
Jeanne Kruger
Sonya Vann
Donna Smith-Pupillo
Elizabeth Pace
Robert VanEss
Christine Tennyson
Stephen Stark
Joseph Rowley
Ronald Hill
Ellen Martin
Tim Fairley
Edward DeLong
Ian Sheridan
Margaret Philip
John Gandy
Tammy Linningham
Geneva McAuley
Andrea Asselmeier

Montana-N. Wyoming

Sophia Heilman
Nicholas Knoblauch
Lynne Spencer-Smith

Nebraska

Karen Hemmerling
Steve Gerdes
Steven Mitchell
Sue Shear
Scott Jones
Alex Wolf
Barry Hemmerling
Corey Allmendinger
Beth Peterson
Marissa Favors
Jessica Palys

New Hampshire

Robert Vodra
Amanda Lape-Freeberg
Stacey Kullgren
Max Gehring
Ruth Gallot
William Jones
Donald Bliss
Norma Brettell
Glenn Vodra
Susan Casey
Lizbeth Good
Lily Nutt
Bruce Kinney

New York

Ryan Howell Jr.
Judith VanKennen
Melva Victorino
Marjorie Purnine
Dylan Gruber
Gary T. Smith
Rebecca Kesting
Hsien-Yu Wang
Janet Wright
Anthony Livolsi
Christopher Foote

New York (cont.)

Martha Gallagher
Vanessa Adams
Cheryl Thomas
Ella Kikkert
Geraldine Howard
Christine Hopkins
Kris Watson
Michele Edwards-William
Shaun Whitehead
Patricia Edwards
Dona Roll
Ralph English
Krista Ulrich
David A. Kaden

Northern Plains

Susan Hall
Gretchen Deeg
Kevin Cassiday-Maloney

Ohio

Heather Giffen
AJ Lacefield
Carl Robinson
Cathy Green
Samuel Buehrer
Jill Deicas
Ceola Littlejohn
Kay Krejci
Carol Burke
Gail Wells
Melody Ward
Jim Nelson
Cinda Pottmeyer
Katie Peterson-Madden
Joyce Wealand Oyler
Brad Jagger
Katie Jackson
Kim Deitrick

Ohio (cont.)

Kristen Leverton
Maren Koepf
Ed Heilman
Daniel Busch
John Cramton
Kearstin Bailey
Kristen Horvath-Broda
Jackie Nehls
Martin Buck
David Plant
Ellie Hocker
Claire Weihe
Julie Bertalan
Melodie Rezac
Jeffrey Campbell
Luke Hawkins
Jason Thompson
Sam Wyatt
Imani Jones
Pat Shatzer
Beau Dansizen
John Pottmeyer
JoAnne Nay
Donaldson Hill
Dominique Jones
Rachel McDonald
Doug Court
Anthony Brown
Michael Howard
Amber Pottmeyer
David Long-Higgins
Jessica Dakos
Joanna D'Agostino
Becky Weihe
Valerie Walker
Tina Davis
Terry Williams
Brian Burke
Kurt Blaufuss

Ohio (cont.)

David Brown
Patricia Battle
Rose McIntyre
Anna Court
Bernhardt Wehman
Cheryl Lindsay
Kendra Pressley
Candida Bauza De Mattos

Pacific Northwest

Jim Castro Lang
Hillary Coleman
Dannette Koloj
Tara Leininger
Wendy Blight
Henry Reinhardt

Penn Central

Phillip Landers
Shirley Keith-Knox
Pamela Wells
Julie Holm
Andrew Boyer
Charlotte Pinette
Tom Hocking
Chris Schwab
Jason Minnich
Karen Umberger
Ruthann Seibert
Terry McGarry
John Pierce
JoAnn Kreeger
Carolyn Herman
Tony Fields
Terry Black
Edward Dickel
Cindy Garis
Ashley Weaber
Jack Davenport

Penn Central (cont.)

Ann Graves
Jean Pierce
Alice Rauch

Penn Northeast

Maria Brace
Douglas Taylor
Gregory Edwards
Christian Creyer
Jameson Baxter
James Robison
Heather Kurtz
Gary Barraco
Suzanne Schaeffer
Brenda Hobson
Michael Geer
John Snyder-Samuelson
Amanda Muschett
Kayli Freeman
Joanne Marchetto
Kendra Kemp
Virginia Schlegel
Jordan Smith
Becky Thomas
Joyce Kohler
Lynn Breedy
Sharon Harfman
Cecilia Baxter
Bruce Stevenson
Douglas Brace
Douglas Lander

Penn West

Anna Geary
Lisa Griffin
Joy Johnson
Melissa McLean
Jill Marie
Matthew Fox

Penn West (cont.)

June Boutwell
Donna Jarrell
Nathan Hart

Pennsylvania SE

Butch Kuykendall
Nicholas Thompson
Edward Livingston
Suzanne Spaulding
Devin Wentzel
Nicholas Shuman
Shawn Van Dyke
Cora Shenk
Pamela Morris
Jayme Babczak
Wendi Wheeler
Patricia Thomas
Janis Edwards
Malaki Nye
Samuel Maruthoti
Melanie Isganitis
Catherine Brunner
Angelee Benner-Smith
Barbara Hughes
Mark Johnson
Sara Hertzog
Paul Hightower
Terry Weirback
Lee Ferrier
Jason Stump
Barbara Pence
Dawn Sowash
Terri McNamara
Sharell Shippen
James Stone
Lisa Baxter

Rhode Island

Nikole Youmans-Nosko

Rhode Island (cont.)

Wayne Gage
Burton Bagby-Grose
Julio Filomeno

Rocky Mountain

Clare Twomey
David Bahr
Martha Jones
Jesslyn McDougal
Kay Grice
Jenny Witcher
Uamuli Su'a
Jan Hepp
Daniel Su'a

South Central

Susan Perry
Andrew Robyler
Peter Bauer
Ray Jordan
Andria Davis
Darnell Fennell
Phil Brockett
Leslie Jackson

South Dakota

Tom Hoy
Dustin Bartlett
Samantha Houser
Pam Bartlett
Toni Buffalo
Tammy Toepke-Floyd
Hunter Rice

Southeast

Thomas Mitchell
JR Finney
Cindy Barto
Carrole Moss

Southeast (cont.)

Jeremy Rutledge
Kris Choi

Southern

Alexander Shearin
Jimmy Gibbs
Dana Karstensen-Bryan
Chantelle Armstead
Aleyah Johnson
Crystal Corbett
Claudia LaVerne Cofield
Samuel Armstead
Gail McAfee
Sara Wilcox
Micah Royal
Rose Wright-Scott
Curtis Putnam
Nancy Allison
Barbara Sutton
Bob Thompson
Kevin Leichman
Betty Graves
Yolanda Adams
Mary Anne Biggs
Lilton Marks
Dannie Williams

Southwest

Pamela Shepherd
Nathan Watts
Scott Rowe
Cydne Bolton
Carson Hawks

Vermont

Alice Kitchel
Yvonne Harrison
Andi Lloyd
Jeffrey Tuper-Giles

Vermont (cont.)

Cheri Ann Brodhurst
Lucia Jackson
Devon Thomas
John Weatherhogg

Wisconsin

Marty Carney
Sue Kaiser
Anna Pundt
Leslie Schenk
Will Vraney
Maddie Loss
Mackenzie Merriman
David Mielke
Patti Steevens
Colie Bettivia
Rebecca Johnston
Jeremy Hylen
Elizabeth Hazel
Phil Milam
Joel Schuler
Gail Holmes
Sarah Gross
Dan Stark
Moises Zahler
Randy Koppenhaver
Donald Quigley
Michelle Freeman
Suzy Luthi
Ken Snart
Ted Drewsen
Jacob Nault
Gabriel McKelvey
Adam Westrich
David Gaeth
Evan Finger
Blair Hull
John Tyler
Olivia Metz

HUGS GROUPS**CAIM**

Cecelia Kraus
Mike Goze
Dena Waloke

CHM

Nancy Rosas
Jeanette Zaragoza-De Leon
Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi
Marilyn Pagán-Banks

COALITION

Phil Porter
Kevin Tindell
Lesley Jones
Mak Kneebone

MRSEJ

Pamelajune Anderson
Darek McCullers
Luther Holland
Ruth D. Harvey

PAAM

Richard HOM
JACOB Thomas
Michiko Reyes

UBC

Zillah Jackson Wesley
Zillah Wesley
Imani Allen
Deborah Dee Brayton

UCCDM

Rebekah Anderson
Paul Fogle
Emily Culp Ashby

UCCDM (cont.)

Christina Fianza

USM

Tauoa Head

USM (cont.)

Lee Tanuvasa
Ailao Tofaeono
Liki Tiatia

UCC BOARD

Maritza Angulo de
Gonzales
Cameron Barr
Caroline Belsom
Traci Blackmon
Deborah Blood
Brian Bodager
Frank Bolden
Emma Brewer-Wallin
Carolyne Call
Rachel Chapman
Michael Cich-Jones
Hannah Cranbury
John Dorhauer
Thaddaeus Elliott
Gabriela Everett
John Folk
Robert Frieberg
Darrell Goodwin
Kevin Graham
Carla Gregg-Kearns
Tim Hachfeld
Don Hart
Richard Harter
Alice Hunt
Wesley Hurt
Nesa Joseph
Penny Lowes

UCC BOARD (cont.)

James Maki

Yesenia Menendez-
Sanchez

Keith Mills

James Moos

Gloria-Ann Muraki

David Nelson

Kevin Omi

Kevin Peterson

Michael Readinger

Inez Reid

Franz Rigert

Carol Shipley

Hannah Snyder-Samuels

Paul S. Tch 

John Vertigan

Harriet Ward

Diane Weible

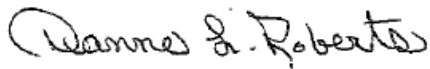
Marsha Williams

Norman Williams

Bill Worley

Yvette Wynn

Respectfully submitted,



Dianne Roberts and Joyce Bathke
Recorders

_____ - Editing Proofreader

Adopted and approved by the United Church of Christ Board of Directors of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ on October __, 2019

Heather Kimmel, Secretary of the Board

The Minutes of the General Synods of the United Church of Christ are available online at _____ and are held in perpetuity by the Archivist of the United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115

APPENDIX A

Thank you, Mr. Williams, Mister Moderator.

Good afternoon.

I am La-Vette LaBoy from the Connecticut Conference and I serve as Chair of the Credentials Committee for this General Synod.

The Credentials Committee is comprised of 10 delegates, in two classes, and our job is to monitor the composition of the Conference Delegations to the General Synod, for their compliance with the diversity requirements as laid down by the UCC Bylaws. Presently there are 7 members of the Committee, with three vacancies due to recent resignations.

The total allotted number of General Synod delegates is currently 675 and 664 General Synod delegates were registered at the time of the committee's final review.

In recent months, the Credentials Committee met via conference call. In the meetings, the Committee reviewed the preliminary delegation data from the General Synod Registrar and identified the delegations that were found to be out of compliance with the diversity guidelines in the UCC Bylaws. Letters with particular recommendations for diversity improvements were distributed to those Conferences and all made a good faith effort to become compliant.

In the final meeting, which took place close to when Conference registrations had been fully finalized, the Committee reviewed the delegate data from the General Synod Registrar and agreed to recommend that the Delegation-As-A-Whole be declared in compliance. That recommendation was made due to the overall age, gender, race and ecclesiastical standing makeup of the Conference delegations, which together, adhered to the before mentioned guidelines.

Specifically, the Credentials Committee is pleased to report that the Delegation-As-A-Whole is in compliance with UCC Bylaw 195, which pertains to the makeup of conference delegations at General Synod, as a result of the following" (1) The Delegation-As-A-Whole is comprised of at least 50% lay persons. (2) The Delegation-As-A-Whole reflects UCC's commitment to affirmative action with representation from different racial and ethnic backgrounds. (3) The Delegation-As-A-Whole is reflective of gender equality. (4) The Delegation-As-A-Whole is comprised of approximately 20% youth and young adults.

Therefore, on behalf of the Credentials Committee, it gives me great privilege to declare the Delegation-As-A-Whole in compliance at the 2019 General Synod.

God Bless.

Thank you, Mr. Moderator.

**THE FIRST REPORT OF
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD
TO THE THIRTY-SECOND GENERAL SYNOD**

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was VOTED: UCCB-17-10-01 to approve the Agenda.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

It was VOTED: UCCB-17-10-02 to approve the consent agenda, which includes the following items of business:

- **UCCB-17-10-02a:** Receive the Minutes of the UCC Board of Directors Committee Chairs August 23, 2017 Meeting via ZOOM
- **UCCB-17-10-02b:** Grant Voice Without Vote to the following staff and others making presentations to the Board of Directors: Joyce Bathke, Wayne Cherry, Lee Foley, Jan Gomoll, Stephen Jones, Ann Kiernozek, Heather Kimmel, Alisa Lewis, Christine Lucarelli, Ron Nowak, Denise Pittman, Kent Siladi, Valerie Smith, Cheryl Williams
- **UCCB-17-10-02c:** Grant Voice Without Vote to Non-Director Members with Special Expertise: Ron Patterson-Special Committee on Development; Shari Prestemon-Special Committee on Development; Andrew Warner-Special Committee on Development; Lawrence D. Bashe-Investment & Endowment Committee; Kristine Shorey Forbes- Marketing Committee
- **UCCB-17-10-02d:** Receive the resignation of Rev. Emily Heath

APPROVAL OF JUNE, 2017 BOARD MINUTES

It was VOTED: UCCB-17-10-03 to approve the June 2017 Board Minutes.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-FIRST GENERAL SYNOD

It was VOTED: UCCB-17-10-04 to approve the minutes of the Thirty-first General Synod.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was VOTED: UCCB-17-10-26 to adjourn the meeting to go into Executive Session.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-03-01 to approve the Agenda.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-03-02 to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes the following items of business:

- **UCCB-18-03-02a:** Approve the minutes of the October 2017 United Church of Christ Board of Directors meeting.
- **UCCB-18-03-02b:** Grant Voice Without Vote to the following staff and others making presentation to the Board of Directors: Dianne Roberts, Wayne Cherry, Cheryl Williams, Stephen Jones, Heather Kimmel, Alisa Lewis, Valerie Smith, Don Clark, Richard Conti.
- **UCCB-18-03-02c:** Grant Voice Without Vote to Non-Director Committee Members with Special Expertise: Ron Patterson—Special Committee on Development; Shari Prestemon—Special Committee on Development; Andrew Warner—Special Committee on Development; Lawrence D. Bashe—Investment and Endowment Committee; Kristine Shorey-Forbes—Marketing Committee.
- **UCCB-18-03-02d:** To adopt the Governance Committee’s recommended changes to the Thirty-second General Synod Standing Rules as proposed and presented with the administrative changes suggested by Heather Kimmel, and under section 2. Proposals for Action, a) Definition, to add the following sentence after the first sentence, “A proposal for action requires a 2/3 affirmative vote for adoption.”
- **UCCB-18-03-02e:** To adopt the Investment and Endowment Committee’s recommendation for the United Church of Christ Board of Directors, acting at its semi-annual meeting March 8-10, 2018, in Cleveland, Ohio, to affirm the action of its Executive Committee taken on May 12, 2017 in regard to the Bulgaria Power of Attorney.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 2017 MINUTES

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-03-03 to approve the October 2017 Board Minutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-03-04 to move into Executive session.

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-03-05 to return to Regular session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-03-06 to move into Executive session.

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-03-07 to return to Regular session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-03-14 to move into Executive session.

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-03-15 to return to Regular session.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-06-01: to approve the Agenda.

GRANT VOICE WITHOUT VOTE

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-06-02 to Grant Voice Without Vote to Wayne Cherry, Cheryl Williams, Stephen Jones, Heather Kimmel, Alisa Lewis, Valerie Smith, Richard Conti, Donyale Copeland, Dianne Roberts and Cynthia Gaffney.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was VOTED: UCCB 18-06-07 The United Church of Christ Board moved into Executive Session to discuss an Investment matter; staff members Heather Kimmel, Cynthia Gaffney, Donyale Copeland and Dianne Roberts to remain.

It was VOTED: UCCB 18-06-08 The United Church of Christ Board moved to return to open session.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-10-01 to approve the Agenda.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-10-02 to approve the Consent Agenda, items UCCB-18-10-02a-UCCB-18-10-02j which includes the following items of business:

- **UCCB-18-10-02a:** approve the minutes of the March 2018 United Church of Christ Board of Directors meeting.
- **UCCB-18-10-02b:** approve the minutes of the June 2018 United Church of Christ Board of Directors Special Meeting.
- **UCCB-18-10-02c:** grant voice without vote to the following staff and others making presentation to the Board of Directors: Cynthia Bailie, Wayne Cherry, Patrick Duggan, Cynthia Gaffney, Malcolm Himschoot, Tracy Howe-Whispelway, Nick Katzakis, Heather Kimmel, Susan Mitchell, Dianne Roberts, Valerie Smith, Trayce Stewart, Cheryl Williams.
- **UCCB-18-10-02d:** grant voice without vote to Non-Director Committee Members with Special Expertise: Ron Patterson—Special Committee on Development; Shari Prestemon — Special Committee on Development; Andrew Warner — Special Committee on Development;

Lawrence D. Bashe — Investment and Endowment Committee; Kristine Shorey-Forbes — Marketing.

- **UCCB-18-10-02e:** correct the 2019 Conference Delegate Travel pool, which was correctly voted by the Finance and Budget Committee but incorrectly recommended to the United Church of Christ Board at the March meeting, to the following:
 - 0 – 499 Miles \$.05
 - 500 – 999 Miles \$.06
 - 1,000 + miles \$.08
 - Hawaii Conference \$1,273 per voting delegate
- **UCCB-18-10-02f:** receive the Group Exemption Compliance Report.
- **UCCB-18-10-02g:** receive the report on Compliance with Bylaw 218. (Board Demographic Analysis)
- **UCCB-18-10-02h:** appoint Nicholas Katzakis, Chief Financial Officer of the National Setting, as Treasurer for the United Church of Christ Board, Local Church Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ), Justice and Witness Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ), and Wider Church Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ).
- **UCCB-18-10-02i:** authorize the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards-United Church of Christ to provide supplementation of small annuities, effective February 1, 2019 based on an income level of \$32,400 with three-fourths of that amount (\$24,300) as the level applicable in determining supplementation for a deceased member’s surviving spouse/partner.
- **UCCB-18-10-02j:** approve the Clergy Housing Allowance under Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code and the regulations promulgated thereunder (“Section 107”) during calendar year 2019 for each ordained minister in good standing with his or her respective denomination and any other “Minister of the gospel” within the meaning of Section 107, who is in the employ of a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ), shall be a sum equal to such employee’s good faith estimate of the amount which will be excludible under Section 107 with respect to the providing of a home by such employee for such year; however, unless and until such employee shall provide in writing the estimate described above, the amount of said Clergy Housing Allowance for such employee shall be a sum equal to one third of such employee’s gross salary compensation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-10-04 to move into Executive session.

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-10-05 to return to Regular session.

ORDER OF THE DAY

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-10-06 to call the order of the day.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-10-07 to move into Executive session.

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-10-08 to return to Regular session.

ADJOURN AND COMMENCE WITH COMMITTEE MEETINGS

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-10-09 to call adjourn and commence with Committee Meetings.

RE-NOMINATION OF GENERAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-10-10 to accept the recommendation of the Re-nomination Committee to re-nominate John Dorhauer to a second term as General Minister & President

Secretary's Note: The bylaws require a 2/3 vote of the UCCB for re-nomination (UCC Bylaws para. 214). On 10/20/2018, the United Church of Christ consisted of 46 members. The Chair instructed the candidate, though eligible to vote, not to vote, reducing the board to 45 members for the purpose of this vote. Vote count: 30 in favor, 3 against, and 4 abstentions. Eight UCCB members were not present for the vote. Accordingly, the recommendation passes by the required supermajority.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

It was VOTED: UCCB 18-10-16 to hold as confidential the above-listed Full Board Executive Session Minutes and the above-listed Executive Committee Executive Session Minutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-10-25 to move into Executive session.

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-10-26 to return to Regular session.

ADJOURNMENT

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-10-27 to adjourn.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-10-30 to move into Executive session.

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-10-31 to return to Regular session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-10-32 to approve the Executive session minutes from March 2018 UCCB Meeting and June 2018 Special UCCB Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-10-33 to move into Executive session.

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-10-34 to return to Regular session.

ADJOURN MEETING

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-10-35 to adjourn the 2018 Fall meeting of the Board of Directors of the United Church of Christ.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-03-01 to approve the Agenda.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-03-02 to approve the Consent Agenda, items UCCB-19-03-02a UCCB-19-03-02h which includes the following items of business:

- UCCB-19-03-02a:** approve the minutes of the October 2018 United Church of Christ Board of Directors Meeting.
- UCCB-19-03-02b:** grant voice without vote to the following staff and others making presentation to the Board of Directors: Cynthia Bailie, Wayne Cherry, Donyale Copeland, Marie Coyne, Patrick Duggan, Cynthia Gaffney, Malcolm Himschoot, Nick Katzakis, Heather Kimmel, Dianne Roberts, Cheryl Williams.
- UCCB-19-03-02c:** grant voice without vote to Non-Director Committee Members with Special Expertise: Lawrence Bashe – Investment & Endowment, Shari Prestemon – Development.
- UCCB-19-03-02d:** to adopt the Governance Committee’s recommendation that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors adopts the Group Exemption Records Retention Policy.
- UCCB-19-03-02e:** to adopt the Governance Committee’s recommendation that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors elects the following people to the UCC Historical Council, each for a term of six years commencing on the date of election and ending at the conclusion of General Synod 2025: Nancy Mack, to serve as chairperson and Julia Speller.

- UCCB-19-03-02f:** to adopt the Governance Committee’s recommendation that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors elects the following people to the General Synod Credentials Committee, each for a term commencing on the date of election and ending at the conclusion of General Synod 2021: Daniel Best, Nicholas Knoblauch, Jordan Smith, Libby Tigner, Melva Victorio.
- UCCB-19-03-02g:** to adopt the Governance Committee’s recommendation that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors approves the proposed amendment to the UCC Board Standing Rule 31 (correcting a typographical error).
- UCCB-19-03-02h:** to adopt the Audit Committee’s recommendation to accept the Office of General Counsel’s Conflict of Interest Report including recommendations for Board members with potential conflicts of interest.

TASK FORCE TO RESERCH PROPOSED GOVERNANCE MODEL FOR CHURCH BUILDING & LOAN FUND

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-03-03 to appoint a task force to research the proposed governance model for Church Building & Loan Fund.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-03-04 to move into Executive session.

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-03-05 to return to Regular session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-03-06 to approve the Second and Third Executive Session Minutes from the October 2018 Board meeting.

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-03-07 to approve the Fourth Executive Session Minutes from the October 2018 Board meeting

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-03-08 to approve the Fifth Executive Session Minutes from the October 2018 Board meeting.

ORDER OF THE DAY

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-03-09 to call the order of the day.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-03-17 to go into Executive Session.

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-03-18 to come out of Executive Session.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-03-20 to appoint a Personnel Committee and one of the tasks of that Committee will be to draft a Personnel and Compensation Policy for the National Staff and recommend that policy to the Board of Directors.

NOMINATION OF ASSOCIATE GENERAL MINISTER CANDIDATE

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-03-21 The Associate General Minister Search Committee recommends that the United Church of Christ Board nominate Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson for election to the position of Associate General Minister by the Thirty-Second General Synod.
Secretary's Note: The bylaws require a 2/3 vote of the UCCB for nomination (UCC Bylaws para. 225). The vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-03-26 to adjourn the 2019 spring meeting of the United Church of Christ Board.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

COMBINED FINANCIAL REPORT

It was VOTED: UCCB 18-10-24 To receive the Combined Financial Report of the United Church of Christ Board and Certain Affiliated Entities dated December 31, 2017.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP IN ACT

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-10-29 to approve the application for membership in ACT – Alliance for Wider Church Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of United Church of Christ).

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-03-19 to table the motion from the Executive Committee regarding GMP salary until the October meeting.

FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

APPROVAL OF CLERGY HOUSING ALLOWANCE

It was VOTED: UCCB-17-10-19 to accept the Finance and Budget Committee's recommendation that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors approve the Clergy Housing Allowance under Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code and the regulations promulgated thereunder ("Section 107") during calendar year 2018 for each ordained minister in good standing with his or her respective denomination and any other "Minister of the gospel" within the meaning of Section 107, who is in the employ of a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ Board Corporation, shall be a sum equal to such employee's good faith estimate of the amount which will be excludible under Section 107 with respect to the providing of a home by such employee for such year; however, unless and until such employee shall provide in writing the estimate described above, the amount of said Clergy Housing Allowance for such employee shall be a sum equal to the one third of such employee's gross salary compensation.

AUTHORIZE PENSION BOARDS TO PROVIDE SUPPLEMENTATION OF SMALL ANNUITIES FOR A DECEASED MEMBER'S SPOUSE/PARTNER

It was VOTED: UCCB-17-10-20 to accept the Finance and Budget Committee's recommendation that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors authorize the Pension Boards - United Church of Christ to provide supplementation of small annuities, effective January 1, 2018 based on an income level of \$30,798 with three fourths of that amount (\$23,103) as the level applicable determining supplementation for a deceased member's surviving spouse/partner.

APPROVAL THE NATIONAL BASIC SUPPORT ALLOCATION

It was VOTED: 17-10-UCCB-21 to accept the Finance and Budget Committee's recommendation to approve the National Basic Support allocation base of \$5,025,000 for 2018 and the funding to the Office of General Minister & President, the Covenanted Ministries and the Pension Boards allocation as follows: Office of General Minister and President (OGMP) \$3,270,170 or 65.08%; Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) \$1,100,214 or 21.89%; Local Church Ministries (LCM) \$63,044 or 1.26%; Wider Church Ministries (WCM) \$301,674 or 6.00%; and the Pension Board \$289,898 or 5.77%.

APPROVAL OF 2018 COMBINED BUDGET

It was VOTED: UCCB-17-10-22 to accept the Finance & Budget Committee's recommendation to approve the proposed 2018 combined budget with \$20,717,580 in revenues and \$20,599,709 in expenses.

APPROVE RATES FOR 2019 CONFERENCE DELEGATE TRAVEL POOL

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-03-11 to accept the recommendation of the Finance and Budget Committee to adopt the proposed rates to be used for the 2019 Conference Delegate travel pool as follows:

0 – 499 Miles	\$.08
500 – 999 Miles	\$.11
1,000 + miles	\$.14
Hawaii Conference	\$1,273 per voting delegate.

APPROVE REVISED GENERAL SYNOD 32 BUDGET

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-03-12 to accept the recommendation of the Finance & Budget Committee to approve the revised General Synod 32 budget of \$1,310,560.

APPROVE GUARANTEE FOR LINE OF CREDIT WITH KEY BANK

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-03-13 to accept the recommendation of the Finance & Budget Committee to approve the guarantee for the existing Line of Credit with Key Bank.

NATIONAL BASIC SUPPORT ALLOCATION

It was VOTED: UCCB 18-10-17 to approve the National Basic Support allocation base of \$5,187,037 to the Office of the General Minister and President, the Covenanted Ministries and the Pension Boards as listed above.

2019 COMBINED BUDGET

It was VOTED: UCCB 18-10-18 to approve the proposed 2019 Combined Budget with a total of \$21,042,842 in Revenues and \$21,042,842 in Expenses.

COMBINED REPORT OF EXPENSES

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-03-22 to receive the combined report of the expenses of the Finance and Budget Committee.

REQUEST THAT THE PRESIDING BISHOP OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA ALLOW THE MEMBERS OF LOCAL CHURCHES OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO JOIN THE ELCA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-03-23 to recommend that the General Minister & President request that the Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America allow the members of Local Churches of the United Church of Christ to join the ELCA Federal Credit Union, in response to the 2017 General Synod Resolution of Support for Establishing Relationships Between United Church of Christ Settings and Community Development Federal Credit Unions.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

ELECTION OF MEGAN HOXHALLI, CHAIR OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

It was VOTED: UCCB-17-10-05 to accept the recommendation that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors elects Megan Hoxhalli as Chair of the Nominating Committee of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ for a term of two years concluding with the current biennium and her term as a member of the Nominating Committee.

ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

It was VOTED: UCCB-17-10-06 to accept the recommendation that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors elects Jamie Binegar as Chair of the Credentials Committee of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ for a term of two years, concluding with the current biennium and Jamie’s term as a member of the Credentials Committee.

ADOPT THE DISTRIBUTION OF CONFERENCE DELEGATES TO THE THIRTY-SECOND GENERAL SYNOD

It was VOTED: UCCB-17-10-07 to accept the recommendation that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors adopts the Distribution of Conference Delegates to the Thirty-Second General Synod, totaling 675.

BACKGROUND: in compliance with the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, the total number of Conference Delegates in any biennium shall not be fewer than 675 or more than 725 and there shall not be fewer than three delegates allocated to any Conference, regardless of membership. The distribution of Conference Delegates to the Thirty-second General Synod is based on Conference membership, as listed in the 2017 United Church of Christ Yearbook.

Total UCC membership = 880,383 ÷ 675 = 1,304 members = 1 delegate

Conference	Members			Delegates
California-N/Nevada	013,963÷	1,304 =	10.27	11
California-S/Nevada	016,473÷	1,304 =	12.24	13
Calvin Synod	001,130÷	1,304 =	01.23	03
Central Atlantic	023,971÷	1,304 =	18.38	18
Central Pacific	006,155÷	1,304 =	04.76	05
Connecticut	062,182÷	1,304 =	48.32	48
Florida	017,852÷	1,304 =	15.23	14
Hawaii	014,598÷	1,304 =	10.57	11
Illinois	070,193÷	1,304 =	51.10	54
Illinois-South	019,922÷	1,304 =	14.80	15
Indiana-Kentucky	023,659÷	1,304 =	17.98	18
Iowa	028,521÷	1,304 =	21.27	22
Kansas-Oklahoma	007,760÷	1,304 =	06.01	06
Maine	016,045÷	1,304 =	12.35	12
Massachusetts	061,928÷	1,304 =	47.17	47

Michigan	025,932÷	1,304 =	19.60	20
Minnesota	025,353÷	1,304 =	19.35	19
Missouri-Mid-South	027,848÷	1,304 =	21.04	21
Montana-No. Wyo.	003,017÷	1,304 =	02.81	03
Nebraska	014,078÷	1,304 =	10.82	11
New Hampshire	017,234÷	1,304 =	13.38	13
New York	031,311÷	1,304 =	23.84	24
Northern Plains	004,144÷	1,304 =	03.39	03
Ohio	085,011÷	1,304 =	64.89	65
Pacific Northwest	007,634÷	1,304 =	06.10	06
Penn Central	034,259÷	1,304 =	27.01	26
Penn Northeast	033,959÷	1,304 =	25.60	26
Pennsylvania SE	041,042÷	1,304 =	31.36	31
Penn West	011,900÷	1,304 =	09.06	09
Rhode Island	005,636÷	1,304 =	04.41	04
Rocky Mountain	011,309÷	1,304 =	09.37	09
South Central	010,288÷	1,304 =	08.49	08
South Dakota	009,018÷	1,304 =	06.88	07
Southeast	007,918÷	1,304 =	08.42	06
Southern	028,228÷	1,304 =	20.66	22
Southwest	006,495÷	1,304 =	05.12	05
Vermont	011,990÷	1,304 =	08.90	09
Wisconsin	042,427÷	1,304 =	33.17	<u>33</u>
				678

**RECEIVE THE 501(C)(3) GROUP EXEMPTION POLICY IMPLEMENTATION
STATUS REPORT**

It was VOTED: UCCB-17-10-08 to accept the recommendation that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors receives the 501(c)(3) Group Exemption Policy Implementation Status Report.

**APPROVE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
OF JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES**

It was VOTED: UCCB-17-10-09 to accept the recommendation that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors approve the proposed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation of Justice and Witness Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ).

**APPROVE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS OF JUSTICE AND
WITNESS MINISTRIES**

It was VOTED: UCCB-17-10-10 to accept the recommendation that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors approve the proposed amendments to the Bylaws of Justice and Witness Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ).

APPROVE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

OF LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES

It was VOTED: UCCB-17-10-11 to accept the recommendation that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors approve the proposed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation of Local Church Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ).

APPROVE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS OF LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES

It was VOTED: UCCB-17-10-12 to accept the recommendation that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors approve the proposed amendments to the Bylaws of Local Church Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ).

APPROVE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES

It was VOTED: UCCB-17-10-13 to accept the recommendation that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors approve the proposed amendments to the articles of incorporation of Wider Church Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ).

APPROVE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS OF WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES

It was VOTED: UCCB-17-10-14 to accept the recommendation that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors approve the proposed amendments to the Bylaws of Wider Church Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ).

APPROVE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD CORPORATION

It was VOTED: UCCB-17-10-15 to accept the recommendation that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors approve the proposed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation of the United Church of Christ Board corporation.

APPROVE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD CORPORATION

It was VOTED: UCCB-17-10-16 to accept the recommendation that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors approve the proposed amendments to the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ Board Corporation.

ELECTION OF MARTI WESTON, HYO-JUNG KIM AND MIKE DENTON TO THE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It was VOTED: UCCB-17-10-17 to accept the recommendation that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors elects the following people to the Office of Communication, Inc.

Board of Directors, each for a term of three years commencing on the date of election and ending upon the election of a successor at the October, 2020 meeting of the UCC Board of Directors: Marti Weston, Hyo-Jung-Kim, and Mike Denton.

**HOLD AS CONFIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES FROM DATES
MARCH 18, 2016; MARCH 19, 2016; AND OCTOBER 20, 2016**

It was VOTED: UCCB-17-10-18 to accept the recommendation that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors continue to hold as confidential Executive Session Minutes from the dates March 18, 2016; March 19, 2016; and October 20, 2016.

RECEIVE THE GROUP EXEMPTION REPORT

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-03-08 to accept the recommendation of the Governance Committee to Receive the 501(c)(3) Group Exemption Policy.

AMENDMENTS TO THE UCCB STANDING RULES

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-03-09 to adopt the proposed amendments to the United Church of Christ Board of Directors Standing Rules.

ADOPT THE POLICY ON CONFERENCE MERGERS

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-03-10 to accept the recommendation of the Governance Committee to adopt the United Church of Christ Board of Directors' Policy on Conference Mergers.

**APPOINT JEAN AVISON CHAIR OF GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING
COMMITTEE**

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-06-03 The United Church of Christ Board accepts the recommendation of the Governance Committee to appoint Jean Avison as the Chair of the General Synod Nominating Committee.

**APPOINT PAMELA JUNE ANDERSON AS VICE-CHAIR OF GENERAL SYNOD
NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-06-04 The United Church of Christ Board accepts the recommendation of the Governance Committee to appoint Pamela June Anderson as Vice Chair of the General Synod Nominating Committee.

**APPOINT LA-VETTE LABOY AS CHAIR OF THE GENERAL SYNOD
CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-06-05 The United Church of Christ Board accepts the recommendation of the Governance Committee to appoint La-Vette LaBoy as Chair of the General Synod Credentials Committee.

APPOINT LAURA YOUNG TO FILL VACANT SEAT ON GENERAL SYNOD CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-06-06 The United Church of Christ Board accepts the recommendation of the Governance Committee to appoint Laura Young to fill the vacant seat on the General Synod Credentials Committee that will expire at the close of the meeting of the General Synod in 2019.

ELECT RACHEL CHAPMAN TO FILL UNEXPIRED TERM

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-10-11 to elect Rachel Chapman (Class of 2023) to fill an unexpired board term.

TO ELECT GLORIA-ANN MURAKI TO FILL UNEXPIRED TERM

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-10-12 to elect Gloria-Ann (Pualani) Muraki (Class of 2023) to fill an unexpired board term.

TO ELECT HARRIET WARD TO FILL UNEXPIRED TERM

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-10-13 to elect Harriet Ward (Class of 2021) to fill an unexpired board term.

TO ELECT MARSHA WILLIAMS TO FILL UNEXPIRED TERM

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-10-14 to elect Marsha Williams (Class of 2023) to fill an unexpired board term.

TO APPROVE SIX INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR ELECTION TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF PENSION BOARDS-UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, INC. WHEN VACANCIES OCCUR

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-10-15 to approve Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter, Rev. Dr. Dawson B. Taylor, Mr. Tommie Burton, Pastor (Kahu) Kenneth Makuakane, Rev. Charmaine Penn Johnson, Rev. Dr. Iese Tu'uao eligible for election to the Board of Trustees of the Pension Boards – United Church of Christ, Inc. when vacancies occur.

VOICE WITHOUT VOTE AT THIRTY-SECOND GENERAL SYNOD

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-03-10 The Governance Committee recommends that the UCC Board of Directors recommends to the General Synod that the following groups be accorded voice without vote at the Thirty-second General Synod, under provisions of Rule IX of the

General Synod Standing Rules: Association of United Church Educators, United Church of Christ Mental Health Network.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE UCC BOARD STANDING RULE 33, AS AMENDED

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-03-11 The Governance Committee recommends that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors approves the proposed amendment to the UCC Board Standing Rule 33, as amended.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CHURCH BUILDING AND LOAN FUND CODE OF REGULATIONS IN ARTICLES II, III, IV, V AND SECTION VI

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-03-12 The Governance Committee recommends that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors approves the proposed amendments to the Church Building and Loan Fund Code of Regulations in Articles II, III, IV, V and Section VI.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISPOSITION AS THE FIRST REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISPOSITION

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-03-13 The Governance Committee recommends that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors, sitting as the Committee on Disposition, adopts the Report of the Subcommittee on Disposition as the First Report of the Committee on Disposition.

NOMINATION OF JUNE BOUTWELL, FAITH BURGESS, PAUL FOGLE, JOANNE MARCHETTO, CAROL REYNOLDS, CHRISTINE SHESLER, AND MARVIN SILVER FOR ELECTION BY THE THIRTY-SECOND GENERAL SYNOD AS MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE, CLASS OF 2025

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-03-14 The Governance Committee recommends the nomination of June Boutwell, Faith Burgess, Paul Fogle, JoAnne Marchetto, Carol Reynolds, Christine Shesler, and Marvin Silver for election by the Thirty-second General Synod as members of the General Synod Nominating Committee, Class of 2025.

PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR ELECTION TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PENSION BOARDS – UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, INC.: BENJAMIN RADER AND FRANZ RIGERT

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-03-15 The Governance Committee recommends that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors declares the following person eligible for election to the Board of Trustees of The Pension Boards – United Church of Christ, Inc.: Benjamin Rader and Franz Rigert.

ADOPTION OF THE SECOND REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISPOSITION AS THE SECOND REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISPOSITION

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-03-16 The Governance Committee recommends that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors, sitting as the Committee on Disposition, adopts the second Report of the Subcommittee on Disposition as the Second Report of the Committee on Disposition.

INVESTMENT & ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

**APPROVAL FOR DISBURSEMENT FROM THE HAITI LIMITED TERM
ENDOWMENT FUND FOR PROGRAMMATIC INITIATIVES AND TWO
MISSIONARY APPOINTMENTS**

It was VOTED: UCCB-17-10-23 to accept the recommendation of the Investment and Endowment Committee to approve \$267,000 for disbursement from the Haiti Limited Term endowment fund for programmatic initiatives (\$135,000) and two missionary appointments (\$132,000) in Haiti.

**DESIGNATE THE THOMAS E. DIPKO SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT**

It was VOTED: UCCB-17-10-24 to accept the recommendation of the Investment and Endowment Committee to designate the Thomas E. Dipko Scholarship Fund for Leadership Development for promoting the mission and vision of the United Church of Christ. Income from the Fund will be used to offset the program and travel costs for meetings that connect the ministries of the National Setting with local churches, Conferences and other leaders in the United Church of Christ.

**DESIGNATE THE INCOME FROM RUTH F. PARKER, VIRGINIA KREYER, AND
RICHARD C. NORTHRUP FOR THE SHAPING OUR FUTURE CAMPAIGN**

It was VOTED: UCCB-17-10-25 to accept the recommendation of the Investment and Endowment Committee to designate the income from the Ruth F. Parker, Virginia Kreyer, and Richard C. Northrup Endowment Funds for the Shaping our Future Campaign. The income from these endowments will be used by the National Setting to fund various Shaping our Future initiatives in addition to offsetting operating expenses associated with the campaign.

**RESCIND PREVIOUS DRAW RATE POLICY AND ADOPT NEW DRAW RATE
POLICY**

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-03-16 to accept the recommendation of the Investment and Endowment Committee of the Board of Directors of the United Church of Christ to rescind the previous draw rate Policy and adopt a maximum annual draw rate policy of 4.75% for the budget year 2019.

**DESIGNATE FUNDS FROM SALE OF 941 BABBITT TO SHAPING OUR FUTURE
CAMPAIGN**

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-03-17 to accept the recommendation of the Investment and Endowment Committee of the Board of Directors to designate the proceeds from the sale of property as stated above for the same purpose as the temporarily restricted fund of the Shaping our Future Campaign.

**PROVIDE A LOAN GUARANTEE OF UP TO \$4 MILLION ON A BANK LOAN FOR
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST HOTEL VENTURE LLC**

It was VOTED: UCCB 18-06-09 The United Church of Christ Board accepts the recommendation of the Investment and Endowment Committee to provide a loan guarantee of up to \$4 million on a bank loan for the United Church of Christ Hotel Venture LLC and to comply with any covenant requests related to the loan.

**PROVIDE A \$1 MILLION EQUITY INVESTMENT IN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
HOTEL VENTURE LLC**

It was VOTED: UCCB 18-06-10 The United Church of Christ Board accepts the recommendation of the Investment and Endowment Committee to provide a \$1 million equity Investment in United Church of Christ Hotel Venture LLC.

**APPROVAL OF LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES GUARANTEE OF UP TO \$2.3
MILLION OF LIQUIDATING DAMAGES OF FRANCHISE FEES**

It was VOTED: UCCB 18-10-28 That upon receipt of the request of the Hotel Board, in addition to the \$4 million guarantee previously approved, the United Church of Christ Board approve a Local Church Ministries guarantee of up to \$2.3 million of liquidating damages of franchise fees to the Marriott Corporation for a period of up to 20 years representing the franchise arrangement for rebranding the hotel to a Marriott Fairfield Inn and Suites.

**APPROVAL OF THE \$100,000 DISBURSEMENT REQUEST FROM THE BOARD
DESIGNATED HAITI LIMITED TERM ENDOWMENT**

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-03-24 Recommend that the United Church of Christ Board approve the \$100,000 disbursement request from the Board Designated Haiti Limited Term Endowment for the purchase of two vehicles by Global Ministries Partners in Haiti to continue the work of disaster recovery.

<p>MINISTRY COMMITTEE</p>

**INDEFINETELY TABLE THE MOTION ON THE RESOLUTION “MANUAL ON
MINISTRY, RE-VISIONED”**

It was VOTED: UCCB 18-10-19 to table, (indefinitely a Motion that The United Church of Christ Board of Directors, acting as the General Synod ad interim), the resolution, “Manual on Ministry, Re-visioned”.

APPROVE THE RESOLUTION “ADDRESSING THE STATE OF GLOBAL FORCED MIGRATION

It was VOTED: UCCB 18-10-20 to approve the resolution “Addressing the State of Global Forced Migration” and submit it to General Synod 32 for its consideration.

APPROVE THE RESOLUTION “A RESOLUTION ON ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND THE IGLESIA EVANGELICA UNIDA DE PUERTO RICO”

It was VOTED: UCCB 18-10-21 to approve the resolution “A Resolution on Ecumenical Relationship Between the United Church of Christ and the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico” and submit it to General Synod 32 for its consideration.

“A JUST WORLD FOR ALL: ENGAGING WITH ALL GOD’S CREATION: UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST INTERRELIGIOUS STATEMENT”

It was VOTED: UCCB 18-10-22 to affirm the statement “A Just World for All: Engaging with All God’s Creation: United Church of Christ Interreligious Statement.”

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

It was VOTED: UCCB 18-10-23 to approve the resolution “Reaffirming the United Church of Christ’s Commitment to Interreligious Relations, and Deploring Religious Bigotry,” and submit it to General Synod 32 for its consideration.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

ELECTION OF UCCB VICE-CHAIR

It was VOTED: UCCB-18-10-03: to approve Yvette Wynn as the Vice Chair of the United Church of Christ Board of Directors.

SEMINARIAN SUPPORT TASK FORCE

CHANGE NAME OF TASK FORCE AND EXPAND PARTICIPANTS

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-03-25 to change the name of the group to Financial Health in Ministry and expand the number of people involved.

APPENDIX C

First Report of the General Synod Nominating Committee

By unanimous vote, the Thirty-second General Synod Nominating Committee has selected the following 12 members of the United Church of Christ for nomination for election to the United Church of Christ Board of Directors as members-at-large and is placing their names for election before the Thirtieth-second General Synod, meeting June 21-June 25, 2019 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

These outstanding individuals will join the other 24 members-at-large and the 16 ex-officio members now serving.

Each person that came before the Nominating Committee was carefully and individually considered and references for each candidate were checked. The Committee was blessed with a deep and rich pool of nominees of superior ability, attributes, skills, and experience. With the election of these highly-qualified members of the United Church of Christ, we succeed in exceeding the diversity requirement for the Board of Directors, as outlined in the Bylaws.

The members of the Committee are grateful to God for the many gifted and dedicated members of the Church it had to choose from. It is with high regard that, we present these outstanding individuals for election to the United Church of Christ Board of Directors.

Jean Avison
Chair, The Thirty-Second General Synod Nominating Committee
February 6, 2019

APPENDIX D

BIOGRAPHIC STATISTICS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD

United Church of Christ Board (36 At-Large Positions)	Count
Male	16
Female	20
Clergy	13
Lay Males	10
Lay Females	13
African American	11
Hispanic	2
Native American	1
Pacific Island	3
Asian American	1
Total	18
European American	18
60+	9
50-59	5
40-49	5
30-39	9
19-29	8
Youth	0
Disability	5
LGBT	11

For Election to the United Church of Christ Board of Directors

Jeanette Zaragoza De León is a Latinx woman holding Ministerial Authorization, 50-59, who is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ (UCC). She earned a Bachelor's degree from Lesley College in early childhood education and an M. Div. from Pacific School of Religion. A graduate of the University of Puerto Rico with an M. A. in Translation, in 2016 Jeanette completed all requirements for a Master's in Research in Translation and Interpretation Studies from Universitat Jaume I (UJI), Castellón de la Plana, in Spain, the title of her thesis "The Search for a Mendi-court Interpreter in The Amistad Case in order to Challenge the Institution of Slavery" and in 2018 earned her PhD. Her doctoral thesis received a cum laude, entitled "The Critical Translation and Interpreting Stories of the Amistad Case." Rev. Dr. Zaragoza is trained and certified as a professional court, medical and conference interpreter. Her ministerial calling involves designing multilingual-multi rhythmic worship experiences towards a decolonizing church that invites worshippers to honor their ethnicity. She has extensive international, ecumenical and interfaith experience. Rev. Dr. Zaragoza is a PhD Visiting Researcher at Yale Divinity School and a Faculty Fellow at the Center for Race, Ethnicity and Transnational Migration at Yale University. She submitted her nomination at an invitation from the Council for Hispanic Ministries (El Colectivo of the UCC Latinx Ministries), and was nominated by the New York Conference to serve in the Class of 2025.

Kearstin Bailey is a European American female layperson, 19-29, who is a member of David's UCC in Canal Winchester, OH. She received a B.A. in Political Science from Heidelberg University in 2014 and is currently a Global Mission Intern (GMI) with Global Ministries. Kearstin served as a GMI with the Evangelical Church in Greece for one year, as a GMI with the Reformed Church in Hungary for two years, and as a UCC Young Adult Service Community Intern in Westford, MA for one year. Following her GMI placements, Kearstin itinerated at UCC and DOC congregations across the country discussing her work. She has strong verbal, written and interpersonal skills that have been honed in her international work. In addition, she has creative problem solving skills with a mind for quickly synthesizing information to improve or innovate. Since graduating, she has spent the last five years giving her time and talents to various church related organizations and communities. She has chosen to dedicate her efforts to making the world a more just place for all. Ms. Bailey was nominated by the Ohio Conference to serve in the Class of 2025.

Eleanor (Elly) Chong is an Asian American female layperson, 60+, who has been active in the social and political life of the state. She has run for political office, worked with non-profits, and protested against the Vietnam War. She attended Hawaii public schools, received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees (in Political Science) from the University of Hawaii-Manoa, and had further study at the London School of Economics and Political Science where she earned a M.Sc. in the History of Political Thought. She attends the church she grew up in, Central Union. Her parents, the late Rev. and Mrs. Kim On and Pearl Chong, joined Central Union in 1952 as an intentional move to help integrate the congregation. Her father, a United Church of Christ minister, was chaplain for 33 years at a Congregational prep school, Mid-Pacific

Institute. Over the years she has held many positions at Central Union including Moderator and Trustee. Elly has been privileged to participate in many settings of the United Church of Christ. Her hope is to bring that experience and an open heart to the work of the United Church of Christ Board. Ms. Chong was nominated by the Hawaii Conference to serve in the class of 2025.

Hannah Cranbury is a European American female holding Ministerial Authorization, 30-39 who serves as the interim Senior Minister of First Congregational Church in Riverside, California, having served as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Southern California-Nevada Conference and Pilgrims Pines Camp. Prior to ordained ministry Hannah was a deacon at the Presbyterian Church of Westfield, New Jersey, during high school years and then First Congregational Church of Westfield, New Jersey during seminary. Hannah is a Justice LED Trainer, having completing training in March of 2015. Hannah is also a member of the Clergy Caucus of Inland Communities United for Change (local PICO organization), Riverside Sustainability Commission, and Globally Connected (a refugee assistance program and ESL classes). Hannah currently serves on the United Church of Christ Board of Directors, as an appointee filling a vacated unexpired term in the class of 2019. Ms. Cranbury was re-nominated by the Southern California-Nevada Conference to serve a full term in the class of 2025.

Shernell J. Edney Stilley is an African American female holding Ministerial Authorization, 30-39, who is an Ordained Minister in the United Church of Christ. She received her Bachelor's degree in Corporate Communications from Drexel University (Philadelphia, PA) and her Master of Divinity from Virginia Union University (Richmond, VA). Beginning in May 2019, Shernell will serve as Associate Conference Minister for Congregational Vitality in the New York Conference. In this position, she will provide staff assistance to the Committees on Ministry for Metropolitan and Suffolk Associations. Her programmatic responsibilities for the entire conference, as they pertain to Congregational Vitality, include Faith Reconciliation, Community Re-Discovery, Social Justice Empowerment, Revitalization Strategies, Oversight of New Church Start programs, and Readiness 360. Other programmatic responsibilities include resource person for local church ONA processes and how to become a WISE Congregation. She was selected by the Pension Boards to participate in the Next Generation Leadership Initiative (NGLI) as a member of the 2018-2028 cohort. Rev. Edney Stilley was nominated by the Northern California-Nevada Conference to serve in the class of 2025.

Derrick Elliott is an African American male holding Ministerial Authorization, 40-49, whose Christian foundation was rooted in the Baptist tradition from childhood to young adulthood until the "God is Still Speaking," campaign when, he says, "the United Church of Christ campaign spoke to him." This led him on a journey to become a Member in Discernment with Casas Adobes Congregational Church, UCC in Tucson, AZ and the Southwest Conference in 2013. He was ordained as an authorized minister within the United Church of Christ in 2016. Derrick is currently the Pastor of Desert Heritage Church in Mesa, AZ and also an Air Force Chaplain Reserve Chaplain stationed at Davis-Monthan AFB in the rank of Captain. Prior to serving as an Air Force Reserve Chaplain, he spent twelve years of service in the Louisiana National Guard as an enlisted Administrative Assistant and as a Military Intelligence Officer. He

has been an elementary school teacher, Community Outreach Specialist for Homeless Veterans, a Correctional Chaplain, a Hospital Chaplain, a Youth Worship leader and a member of the Board of Directors for Arizona Interfaith Power & Light. He currently holds a Master of Divinity from United Theological Seminary, along with Master of Education and Bachelor of Art degrees from the University of Louisiana at Monroe. He has completed four units of Clinical Pastoral Education and is in the process of enrolling into a doctoral of ministry program. Rev. Elliott was nominated by the Southwest Conference to serve in the class of 2025.

Julia Gaughan is a European American, cisgender heterosexual woman layperson, 40-49, who is a member of Plymouth Congregational in Lawrence, Kansas. Julia obtained her Bachelor's degree in American Studies and her J.D. from the University of Kansas. After experience with and recovery from mental health crisis, Julia left a litigation career to pursue work as an advocate and educator with a domestic violence center and presently works as the Prevention and Education Manager for her local community mental health center, teaching Mental Health First Aid and organizing trauma-informed care and resiliency-oriented efforts. She has served as Moderator for an 1100-member church, chaired the Vision and Ministry Task Force, serves on the Racial Justice Task Force, and facilitates the Let's Talk White Privilege Curriculum. She has just recently served on the Senior Pastor Search Committee at her home church. In addition, Julia has served on the Board of Kansas Interfaith Power and Light (now known as Kansas Interfaith Action), participated in Bishop Kemper School for Ministry, an Episcopal lay seminary, and served with Family Promise as a community care coordinator. Julia enjoys spending time with her husband and son playing board games, traveling, and watching soccer; writing; and reading as many books as possible. Her skills include: Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, Group Process, Human Resources, Justice Advocacy, Mission Visioning and Planning, Organizational Skills and Public Speaking. Ms. Gaughan was nominated by the Kansas – Oklahoma Conference to serve in the class of 2025.

Eric Jackson is an African American male holding Ministerial Authorization, 30-39 who serves as Senior Pastor of the Brookside Congregational Church, UCC and has served congregations in New Hampshire and New York. Eric has also held a number of volunteer positions within the New Hampshire and New York Conferences. Eric is a member of United Black Christians and a member of the 2026 class of the Next Generation Leadership Initiative of the United Church of Christ. He serves as president of the Manchester NAACP where membership, advocacy, budget, and organizational alignment strengthened, and programming has increased. He is completing his Doctor of Ministry degree at Hartford Seminary and earned his Master of Divinity degree from Drew University's Theological School. Eric is a visionary, strategic thinker, and possesses effective organizational and management skills. Rev. Jackson was nominated by the New Hampshire Conference to serve in the Class of 2025.

D'Angelo Smith is an African American male layperson, 19-29, who is a member of University Church Chicago in Chicago, Illinois, and holds a Master of Divinity degree. His work history includes: Contingency Chaplain, Chaplain Resident, Youth Counselor, Youth & Young Adults Director, Youth Development Worker, and Fields Assistant Director. D'Angelo is active with many justice groups in the Chicago area, such as Assata's Daughters, Black Lives Matter, and

National Youth Pride Services. His skills include church educator, ecumenical and interfaith relations, global mission, group process, justice advocacy, local church development, mission visioning and planning, and public speaking. Mr. Smith was nominated by the Illinois Conference to serve in the Class of 2025.

Kylie Steever is a European American female layperson, 19-29. Kylie was previously elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the United Church of Christ in 2017, however the Board meeting schedule did not align with her professional work schedule and resulted in her resignation. Since then her employment has changed and now, as an Education Specialist for Black Hills Special Services Cooperative, her schedule will allow her to be available to attend Board Meetings. Kylie's father has been the director at Placerville UCC Church Camp in the Black Hills for 22 years, so she, as a 25-year-old, has spent the vast majority of her life living the church camp life – and loving it! Kylie attributes her passion for youth ministry and youth work to her years growing up at camp. She loves working with kids and youth, especially in faith-based capacities such as Sunday School, youth group, confirmation, and camp. She is honored and humbled to have been nominated again for this position and would be grateful if given a chance to try again now that she has changed her career. Ms. Steever was nominated by the South Dakota Conference to serve in the Class of 2025.

Lewis Zeidner (Lew) is a European American male layperson, 60+ executive who has started, grown and sold businesses and as a result understands the difference between developing a strategic plan and successfully executing on that plan. Lew started his career as a clinical psychologist and was a hospital administrator for 15 years, after which he transitioned into industry, running an M&A department of a fortune 500 company. Lew was named CEO of several of the acquired companies and became experienced in the cultural transitions that go into bringing an acquired team and business into a larger company. Lew subsequently founded and led three start-ups; one grew to \$350M in annual sales within 5 years and the others to \$150M and \$120M in 3 years each. Subsequently, he has been a management consultant focused on helping entrepreneurial business founders prepare for transitions into retirement. Lew spent eight years on the Board of Trustees of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities and became Chair of the Board in 2014. In 2016, he was asked to serve as the President of the Seminary and, as such, has focused on utilizing the deep historical successes of the school to create a foundation for its future in an evolving market for theological education. Lew and his family are long-term members of Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis. Dr. Zeidner was nominated by the Minnesota Conference to serve in the class of 2025.

Second Report of the General Synod Nominating Committee

The General Synod Nominating Committee has completed its work in regard to the selection of candidates for election by delegates in Milwaukee to the key positions of Moderator and Assistant Moderator of the Thirty-third General Synod to be held in Kansas City in 2021. When elected, the nominees will serve in their respective positions for the next two years, their Ex-officio membership on the United Church of Christ Board of Directors among their responsibilities. The Moderator will Chair the Board's General Synod Programming and Planning Committee which advises the Synod Administration on the design of Synod.

By unanimous vote the Committee is recommending the elevation of the current Assistant Moderator, Rev. Penny Lowes, for election as Moderator. Penny is a European American female holding Ministerial Standing. She recently retired from parish ministry and is a member of St. Paul United Church of Christ in Warren, Michigan. Penny is currently the Assistant Moderator of the United Church of Christ Board of Directors with an extensive history of service to the National Setting of the UCC. Penny is a former Chair of the Executive Council, serving as the last Chair of that body prior to the enactment of the new governance structure in 2013.

The Committee has selected and nominates for election by delegates to the Thirty-second General Synod the Mr. Robert Sandman of Windham, Maine as Assistant Moderator of the Thirty-third General Synod. Mr. Sandman is a Hispanic Latino male layperson, whose home church is North Windham Union Church UCC in Windham, Maine. He has an MBA and a Master's Degree in economics. He is currently a professor of business and economics. In addition, he has held positions in printing and publishing at the American Baptist Board of Educational Ministries and as a textbook editor at South-Western Publishing. Bob was previously the moderator of Collenbrook UCC, Lakeview UCC, and the Southwest Ohio Northern Kentucky Association. He taught History and Polity for SONKA. He is currently the Moderator & Wider Church Delegate at North Windham Union Church UCC. For the Maine Conference, Bob is Conference Treasurer and a member of the Maine Conference Anti-Racism Resource Team and the Cumberland Association Church and Ministry Committee. He has been a General Synod Delegate Committee Chair, a corporate member of the Board for Homeland Ministries, a delegate to the Executive Council, and Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Office of General Ministries. His skills include strategic thinking, public speaking, analysis of business and economic data, publishing, and project management.

Jean Avison

Chair, The Thirty-Second General Synod Nominating Committee

February 6, 2019

APPENDIX G

Preliminary Financial Report

The annual audit process for the United Church of Christ Board (“UCCB”) is scheduled to begin scheduled in April 2019 for the calendar year ended December 31, 2018. The audit process refers to the work product resulting from the independent examination of the financial records of the UCCB by a licensed independent certified public accountant.

The financial statements include the combined accounts of the United Church of Christ Board, the Office of the General Minister and President (“OGMP”), Justice and Witness Ministries (“JWM”), Local Church Ministries (“LCM”), Wider Church Ministries (“WCM”), 700 Prospect Corporation and Common Services Corporation (collectively referred to as the Organization), as well as Hotel Venture, LLC (the Organization’s wholly own subsidiary, whose activities are included in LCM), and the Local Church Ministries Church Building & Loan Fund, the Organizations wholly controlled entity, whose activities are included in LCM.

An independent audit is an examination of the financial records, accounts, business transactions, accounting practices, and internal controls of the UCCB by an "independent" accounting firm. "Independent" refers to the fact that RSM as a public accounting firm does not have any business relationships with the UCCB or other than the audit services. Instead, RSM has been engaged by the Audit Committee of the UCCB to be its independent auditor and is retained through a contract for services, and hence is "independent."

During the independent audit, RSM will review the UCCB’s financial statements to evaluate whether the financial statements are prepared in accordance with “generally accepted accounting principles” (commonly referred to as “GAAP”). These accounting principles are created by the "Financial Accounting Standards Board," known as "FASB." While not law, these standards are required to be followed consistently.

The audit process is generally completed within two to three months after the work begins in April 2019 and we hope to publish the preliminary results of the audit of the UCCB for 2018 in June 2019 just prior to the Synod.

APPENDIX H

**REPORT REGARDING THE RE-ELECTION OF
THE GENERAL MINISTER & PRESIDENT**

On October 20, 2018, the United Church of Christ Board nominated for re-election by the Thirty-Second General Synod the Rev. John Dorhauer, General Minister & President of the United Church of Christ, for an additional four-year term as General Minister & President of the United Church of Christ, and submits its nomination for consideration by delegates to the Thirty-Second General Synod, meeting June 21-25 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Heather E. Kimmel
General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
March 22, 2019

APPENDIX I

REPORT REGARDING THE ELECTION OF AN ASSOCIATE GENERAL MINISTER

On March 8, 2019, the United Church of Christ Board nominated for election by the Thirty-Second General Synod the selection of its Search Committee, the Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson of the Florida Conference, for a four-year term as Associate General Minister of the United Church of Christ, and submits its nomination for consideration by delegates to the Thirty-Second General Synod, meeting June 21-25 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Heather E. Kimmel
General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
March 22, 2019

Together As One:

A New Conference of the United Church of Christ



Imagine.....

It is the year 2030, and people are asking “What happened here in southern New England? This part of the world is more just, more compassionate and peaceful than it was ten years ago. How is it that people are listening to one another more deeply, passing better laws, building healthier communities?”

It’s 2030 and our culture feels like *shalom*. It’s that deep-in-the-bones sense of wholeness, of rightness, of sacredness. This wasn’t something that we did. It was a God thing.

No one saw it coming. Nonetheless, something, somehow, changed. Or you might say that *everything* changed. People might not have been able to put their finger on it, but they knew it. It wasn’t just change, it was *newness*. And everyone felt it.

What happened?

Back in 2018 a core group of people believed that a new conference of churches was needed to follow Jesus in new ways that could transform lives, churches, and the surrounding culture. They all agreed on the vision: “We seek to be a conference in which local churches make disciples, live the love and justice of Jesus, embrace adaptive change, and build covenant partnerships with those who work for the common good.”

A wave of conviction ensued. One local congregation after another began wrestling with God’s call in their church. With bedrock legacies to ground them, these churches began shifting away from self-preservation. They began following the Spirit’s call out into the world.

Many churches blazed new paths. Dinner churches sprang up. Artist gatherings promoted beauty. Healing services, yoga classes, and Centering Prayer were integrated. These churches became braver in their public presence. Some began holding prayer circles on the steps of capital buildings, singing hymns in the streets, attending town meetings, and lobbying legislators. Miracles abounded as love multiplied.

Relationships among local churches were strengthened. Powerful new partnerships formed with other faith and community groups. Leaders listened intensely to those who had been marginalized. Staff and money, time and ideas were shared. Deep and lasting connections were made.

More people noticed the shift. As the number of affordable apartments and safe spaces for children to play went up, the number of shootings and opioid deaths went down. Resisting the pull toward ever-deepening division, these southern New England communities built bridges. Constructive anti-racism trainings took place. More and more churches became ONA. Diverse voices were heard. Vulnerability was risked and trust flourished.

Recognizing the perils of climate change, the towns of southern New England moved rapidly to embrace sustainable solutions. Air and water quality improved as solar and wind installations multiplied. Public transit increased. As more people began relocating due to climate disruption, churches organized to welcome and protect this new migrant community. Newcomers were assisted in finding jobs, homes, and support networks.

What was once a growing economic divide was healed. People began engaging in generous responsibility towards all. Quality schools and affordable health care for all was assured.

Remembering Jesus’ call in Matthew 25, the people of the UCC in southern New England worked together to live out His love and justice. Despite inevitable setbacks and mistakes, they linked arms with many others; claimed a bold, progressive Christian public voice; and moved our region closer to the realm of God.

Resolution Report

A Call for the United Church of Christ to Take Actions Toward A Just Peace in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

“Therefore be it Resolved” section:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

CALLS upon United Church of Christ churches and church members to study thoughtfully the *Kairos Palestine* document, as well as other perspectives on the occupied Palestinian territories, to reflect upon the theological truths within the *Kairos Palestine* document, and to take heed of its call for non-violent measures pressuring Israel to end the occupation in solidarity with the Palestinian people suffering under occupation;

CALLS upon the United Church of Christ Board, the Pension Boards – United Church of Christ, Inc., United Church Funds, conferences, local churches, members, and other related United Church of Christ entities to divest any direct or substantive indirect holdings in companies profiting from or complicit in human rights violations arising from the occupation of the Palestinian Territories by the state of Israel, including, but not limited to, Caterpillar, Inc., Motorola Solutions, Hewlett-Packard Company, G4S, and Veolia Environmental and its subsidiaries until such time as these companies no longer profit from or are complicit in said human rights violations;

URGES the United Church of Christ Board, soliciting input from stakeholders in this issue, to develop and publish standards by which faith-driven investment, divestment, and re-investment decisions will be made in the future;

CALLS upon all entities of the United Church of Christ to boycott goods identified as produced in or using the facilities of illegal settlements located in the occupied Palestinian territories, including, but not limited to, Ahava skin care products, SodaStream products, and Hadiklaim dates, and upon church members to join boycotts of such goods in their local communities; and for such boycotts to end when these companies cease operations in the illegal settlements;

CALLS upon the United Church of Christ Officers and church members to persist in the request to Congress, previously made by a number of religious leaders, to ensure that the U.S. aid to Israel violates neither the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act, which prohibits assistance to any country that engages in a consistent pattern of human rights violations nor the U.S. Arms Export Control Act, which limits the use of U.S. weapons to “internal security” or “legitimate self-defense”,

COMMENDS United Church of Christ leadership for continuing to dialogue with major Jewish organizations and call for United Church of Christ-wide participations in a rigorous dialogue among the three Abrahamic faiths at all levels – in particular between local congregations – that will be resources with materials for the Wider Church Global Ministries Middle East and Europe office in order to identify ways in which groups of congregations of different faiths can work in

concert to promote sacred reconciliation among all people who are affected by the conflict in the Middle East and to influence public policies in ways that will promote peace and social justice for Palestinians and Israelis and end violence in all its forms;

CALLS upon the United Church of Christ Board to monitor the implementation of this resolution by all United Church of Christ national entities and to urge that those who manage the United Church of Christ Board's own invested funds and who provide United Church of Christ Board employee health and pension benefits be in compliance with this resolution; and

ASKS the General Minister and President to provide an annual report to the whole church on the implementation of this resolution, including a summary of interfaith dialogue at various levels, along with examples of interfaith, congregation-to-congregation peace efforts.

Covenant Partners who participated in fulfilling the terms of the resolution:

Wider Church Ministries

Justice and Witness Ministries

UCC Board

United Church Funds

UCC Pension Boards

Central Atlantic, Maine, Minnesota, Pacific Northwest, Penn West, and Southwest Conferences

[This report highlights actions by the national setting of the UCC only, and not affiliated ministries, conferences, or local churches. A full report of actions taken by all of these various named settings, as submitted to General Synod in 2017, is available online here: <http://uccfiles.com/synod/g2017-TowardJustPeaceRevised.pdf>].

Actions taken in support of the resolution:

Study thoughtfully the *Kairos Palestine* document:

- Global Ministries promotes and provides resources related to the *Kairos Palestine* document
- 2016 webinar on *Kairos Palestine* document as part of Global Ministries Middle East Initiative

UCC Board to develop and publish standards by which faith-driven investment, divestment, and re-investment decisions will be made:

- Human rights screens and responsible investing guidelines developed by UC Funds Board and adopted by UCC Board

Boycott goods identified as produced in or using the facilities of illegal settlement in the occupied Palestinian territories

- Nov 2016 action alert on PayPal with United Church of Canada
- May 2016 Witness for Justice contribution “Of Blessings and Boycotts”
- Sept 2016 Ecumenical statement of a joint NCC/WCC consultation on Palestine/Israel in which the UCC participated

Action alerts to Congress on US aid to Israel:

- Aug 2015 JPANet alert asking for human rights hearings on US aid to Israel
- Economic leverage action
- Feb 2016 and Dec 2015 ecumenical letters to the Administration and State Dept regarding Israeli violations of human rights and adherence to the US Leahy Law
- May 2016 ecumenical statement calling for Congress to end military aid to countries in the Middle East and enact an arms embargo to the region, proposing bolstered diplomatic and developmental efforts instead
- Feb 2017 ecumenical letter to Congress and the President on Israel/Palestine including a call for the application of Leahy Law vetting process

Continuing to dialogue with major Jewish organizations and call for rigorous dialogue among the three Abrahamic faiths:

- National Council of Churches – National Council of Synagogues table on Pastoral issues discussion in Nov 2016 about issues related to Israel/Palestine
- Resources have been prepared for the interpretation of this resolution: “What the UCC General Synod Adopted on ‘Just Peace in Israel/Palestine’” and “FAQs on the resolution”

Other:

- June 2016 Collegium statement defending economic leverage as a First Amendment right
- Global Ministries has facilitated several trips of UCC leadership to Israel/Palestine including a trip with UCC PB and UCF leadership to engage in questions of economic leverage/investment/divestment
- April 2016 participation in the Atlanta summit at the Carter Center bringing together Palestinian and US church leaders
- December 2017 action alert regarding the decision to move the US Embassy to Jerusalem
- October 2018 ecumenical statement regarding the Trump Administration’s stance towards Israel and its reversal of decades of US policy
- Dec 2018 and Feb 2019 action alerts regarding the Israel Anti-Boycott Act introduced in Congress and affirming the right to use economic leverage

Impact of the actions:

- Increased education and awareness
- Growth of local I-P networks and Palestine-Israel Networks

Possibilities for future action:

There remain many possibilities for future action as the occupation of Palestinian territories by the state of Israel has not ended. New companies and goods are being identified for divestment, boycott, and/or reinvestment. In addition, as 27 state legislatures and Congress (both the Senate and the House of Representatives) have either adopted or are considering laws criminalizing or restricting participation and/or support of aspects of boycott, divestment, and/or sanctions as they relate to Israel/Palestine, there are many opportunities to voice opposition to such legislation as a violation of First Amendment rights, and lifting up historical church use of economic measures to promote justice in a variety of cases. The issue of the use of economic measures in the case of Israel/Palestine remains front and center. Education, advocacy, and action are needed now as ever.

Resolution Report

Transition from Fossil Fuels to Renewable Energy

In the 30th General Synod, which met in 2015, a resolution on transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy called upon the Minister for Environmental Justice to report back to all future General Synods on the progress made on the imperatives of the resolution. In this report, I summarize that progress in relation to three entities named in the resolution: the national task force, conference task forces, and the Minister of Environmental Justice.

In accord with the request that the Minister for Environmental Justice establish a national task force to advance progress on the imperatives of the resolution, I can report that this was accomplished before the 2017 General Synod. Since then, the task force has continued to grow and flourish. The formal name of this group is the UCC Council for Climate Justice. It is currently comprised of 64 members who represent all of the geographic conferences of the UCC. The group has co-sponsored marches and vigils. It has created partnerships between the UCC and numerous environmental organizations. It has spearheaded a national interfaith campaign for a thousand sermons in solidarity with 21 youth suing the federal government over climate change. Most recently, it has been named as an endorser of the Green New Deal in a resolution that will be considered by multiple conferences before potentially being brought before the 2019 General Synod.

In accord with the request that conferences establish task forces to pursue the mandates of the resolution, I can report that the following conferences have task forces or networks that relate to climate justice as well as broader environmental justice concerns: Central Pacific, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Penn Central, Pacific Northwest, and Southern.

In accord with the request that the Minister for Environmental Justice be integrally involved in the work of studying, monitoring, and reporting on a range of issues related to fossil fuels, I can report that I have achieved this through an environmental justice newsletter and blog called the Pollinator. Through this platform of communication, I and other writers have reported on matters such as energy efficiency practices for churches, legislative issues, campaigns to address oil pipelines, and various webinars on topics ranging from coal ash pollution to carbon tax proposals. Furthermore, I have conducted two denominational surveys: one on opinions related to climate change and another on church environmental practices.

Resolution Report

Bring Down the Wall in the Caribbean: Ending the United States Embargo on Cuba

“Therefore be it Resolved” section:

Therefore, be it Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ give thanks to God for the progress made since 2015 by the governments of Cuba and the United States toward demonstrating love of neighbor through the normalizing of diplomatic and economic relations; and

Be it Further Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ support the initiatives of United Church of Christ congregations and others in developing friendships across the divide separating our countries, encourage additional delegations from our churches to visit Cuba, and invite and host Cuban clergy and lay leaders as our guests, in order to strengthen our bond as the body of Christ and mutually encourage one another to pursue reconciliation and justice between both countries leading to new policies; and

Be it Further Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ continue to advocate for further United States administrative actions and congressional legislation in order to secure the full normalization of relations between our two countries, including but not limited to the consideration and passage of legislation that lifts travel and trade restrictions currently in place; and

Be it Further Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ heartily supports honest and respectful negotiation between our governments to end the embargo, to restore mutual dignity, and to resolve political differences; and

Be it Finally Resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourage every setting of the United Church of Christ to further educate on the history of Cuba, of United States-Cuba relations, and the life of the church in Cuba, to attend to the testimony of our Cuban neighbors, and to glean wisdom and insight from those who have lived and ministered without access to social privilege for many years. May we be evangelized anew as their story, their determination, and their faithfulness remind us that the authority of the church is not assumed through social privilege, but is granted under the Spirit’s direction. “Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord” (Zechariah 4:6).

Covenant Partners who participated in fulfilling the terms of the resolution:

WCM/Global Ministries

Justice and Witness Ministries

Actions taken in support of the resolution:

- Action alert (June 22, 2017) and letters (Jan 2019 letter to Pres Trump, March 2018 letter to Congress)
- Caribbean Initiative from June 2017-Dec 2018
- October/November 2017 Global Ministries delegation visit
- National Council of Churches - US meeting in Cuba in August 2018
- Ecumenical justice delegation in Sept 2018
- Cuba workshop at Ecumenical Advocacy Days 2019

Impact of the actions:

- Increased education and awareness by UCC Conferences and congregations on issues regarding the situation in Cuba.
- Increased participation by UCC Conferences and congregations on advocacy for Cuba, either personally or through the Caribbean Initiative and Mission Update materials.

Possibilities for future action:

Continued engagement as the Trump administration has been steadily un-doing the progress made under President Obama at normalizing relations between the US and Cuba.

Resolution Report

Title of Resolution:

**A CALL FOR THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO ADVOCATE FOR
THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN LIVING UNDER ISRAELI MILITARY OCCUPATION
A Resolution of Witness**

“Therefore be it Resolved” section:

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

Calls on the State of Israel to guarantee basic due process rights and exercise an absolute prohibition against torture and ill-treatment of detained children (defined as persons under 18 years of age) ensuring that, from the moment of arrest, all operations and procedures are carried out in accordance with international juvenile justice standards, specifically the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and

Requests the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ to communicate this call to the Prime Minister of Israel and the Israeli Ambassador to the United States, noting that among the practices in Israel’s military detention system that require change are the use of nighttime arrests in the child’s home, physical and verbal abuse, blindfolds and restraints, strip searches, solitary confinement, coerced confessions and confessions written in Hebrew, as well as the separation of detained children from their parents and legal counselors (including the transfer of Palestinian children to prisons within the State of Israel that their parents are not permitted to visit);

Calls on the government of the United States to adhere to its own established law – in this case, the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act – by withholding military assistance from the State of Israel due to its practices of arrest and detention of Palestinian children, requiring Israel to guarantee basic due process rights and exercise an absolute prohibition against torture and ill-treatment of detained children, ensuring that, from the moment of arrest, all operations and procedures are carried out in accordance with international juvenile justice standards, specifically the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and **REQUESTS** the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ to communicate this call to the United States Senate, as well as the President, the Vice President, and the Secretary of State of the United States;

Calls on the United States Senate to join with 194 other nations in ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child so as to bring stronger international pressure to bear on Israel to comply with the Convention’s provisions, in particular Articles 37 and 40 of the Convention governing the treatment of children held in detention and **REQUESTS** the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ to communicate this call to the United States Senate, as well as the President, Vice President, and Secretary of State of the United States;

Expresses gratitude to Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for its advocacy on behalf of children in Palestine and the State of Israel;

Encourages continued partnership with local, national and global ecumenical and interfaith partners, as well as with Palestinian and Israeli organizations that are advocating for the rights of children and providing educational, social, and psychological support for children and their families adversely affected by the occupation; and

Encourages respectful dialogue among people of all faiths about this issue that has impacted generations.

Calls on all settings of the United Church of Christ to learn about the plight of children in Palestine and the State of Israel, as well as to support implementation of the resolution from Thirtieth General Synod entitled “A Call for the United Church of Christ to Take Actions Toward a Just Peace in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict,” using as an implementation guide the document “Promoting a Just Peace in Palestine-Israel: A Guide for United Church of Christ Faith Leaders,” produced by the United Church of Christ Palestine Israel Network.

Covenant Partners who participated in fulfilling the terms of the resolution:

*Wider Church Ministries/Global Ministries
Justice and Witness Ministries
Office of General Ministries*

Were sufficient resources available to take effective action?

Yes.

Actions taken in support of the resolution:

- ✓ *Letters have been sent to the respective governmental officials, in fulfillment of the resolution’s direction, in Feb. 2019, as follows:*
 - *President Trump*
 - *Vice President Pence*
 - *Sec. of State Pompeo*
 - *Leadership of the Senate, including relevant committee majority and minority leaders, and Senate Foreign Relations Committee*
 - *Prime Minister Netanyahu*
 - *Israeli Ambassador to the US Dermer*
- ✓ *Development of a dedicated webpage for the resolution, educational materials, advocacy materials, and other resources;*
- ✓ *Support of and engagement with the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and Defense of Children International-Palestine’s “No Way to Treat A Child” campaign;*

- ✓ *Frequent advocacy opportunities with Congress and elected officials in support of the resolution, including the Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children Act, H.R. 4391, introduced by Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN) in the US House of Representatives in Nov. 2017, and related hearings in Congress:*
 - *UCC's Justice and Peace Action Network Action Alert (May 2018; Dec. 2017)*
 - *Ecumenical 3rd Thursday Alerts (Dec. 2017; March 2018; June 2018)*
 - *An ecumenical letter of support and gratitude to Congressional members who were co-sponsors of HR4391.*
- ✓ *Signed an ecumenical letter to the President in Dec. 2018 (a statement that was originally issued in Feb. 2017) that focused on peace, justice, and equality, specifically lifting up US law as it relates to foreign military aid and human rights violations, as well as the two-tiered system of laws and court systems in the West Bank—military rule for Palestinians, and civil law for Israeli settlers.*
- ✓ *Participation in the publishing and production by the UCC Palestine/Israel Network (PIN) of a "How Are the Children?" webpage and video curriculum on this issue, including interviews of John Dorhauer, James Moos, Traci Blackmon, and Peter Makari in the video.*

Impact of the actions:

- * *Awareness and engagement of members of the church has increased*
- * *Support for Congressional legislation in support of the position of the resolution has been conveyed and expressed*
- * *The UCC has been seen as a key actor in promoting the rights of children, and in opposing Israeli occupation*

What follow-up action is needed?

Continued advocacy is anticipated, especially as the No Way to Treat A Child resolution is to be reintroduced in the new Congress in 2019.

If no action was taken in support of this resolution, explain why.

N/A

*Respectfully submitted:
Peter Makari
Executive, Middle East and Europe
Global Ministries
Feb. 14, 2019*

Resolution Report

Commemorating 100 Years since the Armenian Genocide

“Therefore be it Resolved” section:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ marks the occasion of the centennial commemoration of the Armenian Genocide with lament for the lives that were lost, and for the lack of recognition by governments of the world, most notably Turkey and the US, of the historical event of the Genocide;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ gives thanks for the faithful witness and presence of the Armenian Christian community, and offers prayers for its continued strength particularly as it is affected by the ongoing crisis in Syria, where many Genocide survivors resettled;

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ reiterates its abhorrence when peoples and communities are made victims of violence, particularly when based on race, ethnicity, creed, or any other aspect of identity. Taken to the ultimate manifestation, such victimization constitutes genocide, a crime that should be prevented, halted, recognized, and acknowledged, in order to protect the communities, and offer recognition of the injustice it represents.

Covenant Partners who participated in fulfilling the terms of the resolution:

- WCM/Global Ministries
- JWM

Actions taken in support of the resolution:

- Global Ministries Co-Executives and UCC and Disciples General Ministers and Presidents send a letter of solidarity to Armenian partners, members, and friends on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the Armenian Genocide. (April, 2015)
- Global Ministries signed on to a letter to Senate and House leadership supporting Congressional allocations for an Atrocities Prevention Fund, consistent with the Genocide Prevention Act. This advocacy is based on the resolutions adopted at General Synod on the Armenian Genocide, which also speaks about our opposition to violence based on any aspect of identity. (August 2016)
- A UCC Justice and Peace Action Network action alert was issued entitled, “On Armenian Martyrs' day, Urge Congress to do more to Prevent Genocide,” and was distributed through the JPANet and Global Ministries. The action was in support of the bi-partisan

Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act in the Senate that was proposed to “enhance our Nation's capacity to prevent and address the drivers of mass atrocities and violent conflict as part of its humanitarian, development and strategic interests.” The UCC’s alert urged “the U.S. to do more to safeguard communities targeted and threatened with violence and forced dislocation, as the Armenians of Anatolia were one hundred years ago. We believe that the Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act will help address the root causes and drivers of violent conflict, not only saving lives and resources, but protecting U.S. and global security.” (The bill stalled in the Senate.) A similar bill was passed in the House.

- Multiple presentations on our church response to a century of displacement and refugees in the Middle East have been made in various contexts (Conferences, local churches, committees, Global Ministries Board meetings, international conferences), including highlighting the Armenian Genocide as the first case of response.
- Newsletters and essays by Armenian partners and mission co-workers of Armenian heritage serving under Global Ministries’ appointment have raised the issue of the Armenian Genocide (Nov. 2015, April 2016, April 2018)
- Highlighting Armenian partners and our church history with the Armenian community during Global Ministries’ Middle East Initiative’ focus on Armenia and the Armenians (Oct. & Nov. 2015), particularly through webinars and Bible Studies in those months.

Impact of the actions:

- The UCC was on record regarding the Armenian Genocide, and advocated for US recognition of the Genocide.
- The UCC, through Global Ministries, shared the resolution (and the Disciples General Assembly parallel version) with Armenian partners, who were grateful for the expression of care and solidarity.
- The UCC is enabled to advocate wholeheartedly for US recognition of the Armenian Genocide, and in cases where US policy and practice have been involved in violent victimization of groups of people based on identity.

Possibilities for future action:

Continued advocacy and awareness raising on the Armenian Genocide, as well as on other identity-based violent victimization.

Resolution Report

A Call for Peace, Justice and Reunification in the Korean Peninsula

“Therefore be it Resolved” section:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Thirtieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, reminded that the Twenty-Fourth General Synod in 2003 resolved to advocate for “Peace and Reconciliation in the Korean Peninsula,” being grieved that the Korean people remain divided and disrupted by recurring violence and hostility more than 60 years after the end of the Korean War, faithfully joins our partners the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea and the National Council of Churches in Korea, as well as responds to the World Council of Churches 10th Assembly, in recommitting our communion to work for peace and justice; and committing to work for reunification in the Korean peninsula;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Thirtieth General Synod, recognizing that 2015 is the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Korea from occupation at the end of Second World War, and yet that the peninsula remains occupied by militarization and nuclear weapons, and believing that with “God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26), advocate that the U.S. government and international community commence a new process of peace-building across the Korean peninsula, that includes a commitment by all parties to replace the Armistice Agreement of 1953 with a permanent peace treaty, finally bringing an end to the state of war; and a mutual commitment to end provocative military exercises on the peninsula, to reduce military expenditures, and to eliminate nuclear weapons on the peninsula, establishing a model for peace and demilitarization in Northeast Asia;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Thirtieth General Synod, trusting that Christ “has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us” (Eph. 2:14), rededicates itself to accompany our Korean partners in their efforts, working with the governments in both North and South Korea, with the churches and Christians in both North and South Korea, and through religious, humanitarian and advocacy initiatives, to seek the reconciliation and restoration of families and communities long divided by conflict and hostility, so that social, spiritual and psychological healing can occur among the people of Korea;

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Thirtieth General Synod calls upon its members and congregations to accompany our partners in Korea by praying for peace with the peoples and churches of Korea, recognizing the Sunday before August 15, Korean Independence Liberation Day, as the “Sunday of Prayer for the Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula”; by expressing solidarity through relationship-building trips, in partnership with Global Ministries as their ecumenical partner, to

churches in North and South Korea; by supporting efforts such as the World Council of Churches' Tozanso Process and complementary initiatives to foster dialogue, reconciliation, and mutual support between the North and South; and by advocating that the U.S. Congress and Administration change U.S. foreign policy and military strategy and pursue policies of peace and reunification.

Covenant Partners who participated in fulfilling the terms of the resolution:

Wider Church Ministries/Global Ministries

Justice and Witness Ministries

Actions taken in support of the resolution:

- Support for the various peace efforts of the National Council of Churches in Korea (NCCCK), including the participation in and welcoming of various delegations to the US and South Korea. Of particular note is the Korea Peace Treaty Campaign which has been going on since 2016.
- Dissemination of the prayer prepared by partners in Korea for the Sunday of Prayer for the Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula every year since August 2015, as well as the prayer created for the first Trump-Kim summit held in 2018 in Singapore.
- UCC has signed on to and created various statements throughout the years including one after the Trump-Kim summit in 2018 called, "Peace is a Process."
- Action alerts have been sent out to the wider church for action on various issues, most recently in 2018 around the Winter Olympics happening in South Korea called, "In the Olympic Spirit, A Call for Peace in Korea."
- Planning workshops on Korea for Ecumenical Advocacy Days
- Ongoing participation with the Ecumenical Forum for Peace, Reunification and Development Cooperation on the Korean Peninsula (EFK), which includes face-to-face meetings between the international Christian community and the Korean Christian Federation (KCF) of North Korea
- Engagement with congregations of Korean-American members, with conferences and regions in Korea partnerships, and with other advocates on a variety of ecumenical initiatives supporting Korean peace and reunification.

Impact of the actions:

These actions have increased awareness among UCC members and churches about the issues facing our partners and concern around nuclear weapons and the need for peace. Collective advocacy over the years with U.S. policymakers has raised awareness among officials of ecumenical engagement in South and North Korea and of support among churches for U.S. policies that contribute to peace and reunification on the Korean peninsula.

Possibilities for future action:

The dial has moved significantly towards peace since the election of President Moon in South Korea and the willingness President Trump has shown to upend the establishment thinking in regards to North Korea. Due to the commitments of our Korean partners to peace and reunification, hearts and minds in South Korea have changed and we commit to continuing to walk with them through this time until there is peace, reconciliation, and reunification on the Korean peninsula.

Resolution Report

ON BECOMING AN IMMIGRANT WELCOMING CHURCH, Resolution of Witness

“Therefore be it Resolved” section:

Therefore be it resolved that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ in Baltimore, Maryland in 2017 declares itself an Immigrant Welcoming Denomination.

Be it further resolved that the Thirty First General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages the development of U.S. policy dedicated to facilitating the respectful welcome and inclusion of all immigrants;

Be it further resolved that Thirty First General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages the National Setting, Conferences and Associations to call on their members to become active Immigrant Welcoming Congregations;

Be it finally resolved that the Thirty First General Synod of the United Church of Christ asks the National setting to provide resources such as, "Becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation -The Journey is Made by Walking," to assist congregations in this process.

Covenant Partners who participated in fulfilling the terms of the resolution:

Wider Church Ministries, Justice & Local Church Ministries, UCC Conferences, local UCC churches, Church World Service, ACT Alliance, grassroots networks

Actions taken in support of the resolution:

- One-third of a program associate position on national staff was added to facilitate coordination and programming for refugee ministries. Immigration policy is one of the assigned areas for attention from national staff in the Washington DC office.
- The UCC was a signatory and implementer of the Church World Service/National Council of Churches’ “Ecumenical Declaration: Protecting Welcome, Restoring Hope.”
- Local churches and UCC Conferences declared themselves Immigrant welcoming, both in developing formal processes and informally through the actions of local church leadership.
- A Refugee Accompaniment national network was strengthened for regular communication on advocacy and welcome of refugees and asylum seekers with the intention of this becoming a communications network for sharing best practices.
- An August 2018 #Pray4Refugees Campaign was developed and implemented within the UCC to integrate advocacy and welcome in anticipation of the presidential cap of number of refugees allowed into the United States for the upcoming fiscal year. This provided a model for other denominations.

- Multiple and ongoing opportunities were provided by the national staff in Wider Church Ministries and Justice and Local Church Ministries for constituent access and encouragement for advocacy and public witness related to the presidential travel ban from Muslim majority countries to the U.S., refugee numbers, asylum seekers support, deportation concerns, and comprehensive immigration reform.
- The UCC National Collaborative on Immigration met online occasionally during this period with communications shared with the network on a regular basis on local church initiatives and advocacy related to immigration, asylum, and refugees.
- An August 2018 event coordinated by the Southwest Conference “At the Border, For the Border” created the opportunity for activists to gather in Arizona for public witness related to immigration.
- Multiple UCC news articles told stories and helped identify local UCC churches involved in hospitality for asylum seekers and refugees and in providing Sanctuary in protest of deportations.
- Initiatives were made to connect UCC churches with local refugee resettlement offices for advocacy and welcome. A list of these churches was developed through anecdotal stories.
- A web presence was created for support and advocacy related to congregational and individual support of those seeking asylum in the U.S. This web presence highlighted worship, accompaniment, advocacy and public witness as different points of entry to action.

Impact of the actions:

Refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants are part of the identity narrative of the national United Church of Christ. Many constituents have participated in public witness and have become involved in trying to influence national legislation and presidential executive orders. While the immediate outcome of has not created welcome, a constituency empowered to understand social action as part of faith will have long term positive effects. Local churches have created processes and have engaged as Sanctuary and Sanctuary-supporting, as shelters for asylum seekers, and as welcome teams for refugees resettling in the U.S.

Possibilities for future action:

Some UCC conferences have identified churches and individuals involved in immigration networks, but no formal list of Immigrant Welcoming churches has been collected nationally. While the U.S. government is systematically destroying the public-private partnership of the refugee resettlement system, churches are in the midst of shaping the system that comes next. This will need additional attention and resources. This is a critical time in creating systems, that do not currently exist, for the support and success of those seeking asylum in the U.S. These systems are emerging and need encouragement and coordination and resources.

APPENDIX R

2019 REPORT TO GENERAL SYNOD WITH ATTENTION TO: “AFFIRMING AND SUPPORTING AUTHORIZED MINISTRIES OF UNDERREPRESENTED CLERGY IN LOCAL CONGREGATIONS: A CALL FOR GREATER REPRESENTATION AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE”

Carried to General Synod XXXI by Central Atlantic Conference, this resolution was followed in committee and on the floor by national staff including MESA and CARD. The resolution was amended on the floor with the addition of “ageism” and rewording around “disabled.” Implementation specifics were not changed, and the title remained. The resolution passed.

Primary implementation of this resolution is expected among congregations, with tracking at the conference level.

National setting responsibilities include communication with conferences and statistical assessment of progress, as follows.

Communications

In July 2018 the text of the resolution was circulated in a *MESA Memo* to conference staff, accompanied by a personal reflection essay by one Synod delegate who voted in favor of the resolution.

In December 2018 MESA released four new videos (in production since 2016) dealing with overcoming bias for search committees. These “Stretching Beyond” videos were viewed by conference staff at the Authorizing Ministry for the 21st Century (AM21) event in San Diego. In January 2019 the videos were published electronically via CARD’s blog *Vital Signs and Statistics*.¹ In February 2019 the videos were mailed on thumb drive to all conference Search and Call staff. Included was a copy of the General Synod resolution.

MESA is hearing informal reports of conferences utilizing the “Stretching Beyond” videos in local church and conference settings for educational purposes, much as the prior “Sailing on Faith” video produced by Parish Life and Leadership (PLL) was used beginning in 2005. Use of the text of the resolution itself is unreported.

¹ <https://carducc.wordpress.com/2019/01/21/new-parables-paint-picture-of-overcoming-implicit-bias/>

Statistical Assessment

Recent analysis of employment data from the UCC Data Hub and search and call data from the UCC Ministerial Profiles portal compared nationwide figures at the end of 2018 to nationwide figures at the end of 2016. This research showed mixed improvement in the increased representation of historically under-represented clergy within UCC congregations:

“While there were increases at the end of the observed time period among those serving local churches in the representation of people who identify as female or gender variant, people with identifiable disabilities, and people who are non-heterosexual, there generally were decreases among racial/ethnic minorities.”²

Current status of implementation of this resolution is **partial**. Full implementation will involve conferences setting goals and conducting assessments over time across congregations. Goals and assessment will direct efforts and measure impacts around both representation and economic justice in the search process.

MESA would like to hear from conferences what help or resources they would like to make it possible for them to implement this resolution on a conference (or association) scale. A survey will be conducted in 2019 for purposes of listening to this input.

Report by Malcolm Himschoot, MESA Team, 4/12/19

² The full report “Analysis of Demographics in Search and Call” can be found through the Center for Analytics, Data and Research webpage: http://www.ucc.org/research_statistics-and-reports.

Report on Salaries of the Covenanted Ministries

In 1981 the General Synod requested that salaries of \$50,000 and over be reported to the General Synod. Although the realities of what a \$50,000 salary means has changed since the initial Synod action, the action has remained in place and salaries of \$50,000 and over have been reported to the Synod with no consideration of inflation

In 2002, the Executive Council acting as the General Synod ad interim, in a spirit of openness, but recognizing the inflationary factors since 1981, requested that the report of salaries to the General Synod include the salaries of the Officers of the United Church of Christ and the salary grid with the number of employees in each salary grade for the four Covenanted Ministries.

Base Salary Information for the Officers of the United Church of Christ

General Minister and President..... \$138,933
 Associate General Ministers.....\$135,737

2018 Compensation Grid

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Midpoint</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u># of employees</u>
G13	\$115,477	\$155,883	\$196,289	1
G12	\$96,343	\$130,108	\$163,874	2
G11	\$76,197	\$102,871	\$129,546	4
G10	\$60,891	\$82,274	\$103,659	10
G9	\$50,760	\$68,548	\$86,326	16
G8	\$44,008	\$57,176	\$70,344	30
G7	\$39,843	\$49,860	\$59,877	18
G6	\$34,778	\$43,444	\$52,111	5
G5	\$30,276	\$37,817	\$45,358	18
G4	\$26,337	\$32,978	\$39,618	2
G3	\$23,073	\$28,813	\$34,553	2
G2	\$20,035	\$25,099	\$30,164	0
G1	\$17,445	\$21,835	\$26,225	0

APPENDIX T

**Report to Synod 32 on Financial Support for UCC Members in Discernment
June 2019
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Rev. Carrie Call, PhD (Chair of the Task Force)**

In June 2013 at the 29th General Synod, a resolution came to the floor regarding the creation of a new all-church offering that would go toward reducing the financial difficulties of Members in Discernment, especially regarding educational (seminary) costs. The discussion at that time was spirited and the resolution passed, although two amendments were added. Implementation of the resolution was assigned to the Collegium of Officers and Synod requested a report by Synod 2015. Between 2015 and 2019 the implementation of the resolution went through a series of discussions at the UCC Board and lost steam – due in part to the daunting complexity of the issue as well as the challenge of implementation across diverse conferences.

In 2017 the UCC Board appointed a new Task Force: *The Members in Discernment Financial Support Task Force*. Since 2017 the Task Force has delved into this issue, which is a complex one with many shifting variables. This issue raises passionate responses from a variety of perspectives and has been the topic of in-depth discussion several times at Board meetings.

The direction of discussion shifted after the national Lilly Endowment *Gathering First Fruits: National Summit on the Economics of Ministry* in January of this year. At that gathering some of us – including Rev. John Dorhauer - learned in painful detail of the depth and breadth of the financial struggles not only of Members in Discernment but also a majority of our clergy as a whole. This is true across denominations. Financial stress is rampant, and indebtedness is heavy (practically and

psychologically) for many clergy – amplified by shame, isolation and silence. The Lilly Endowment is committed to meeting this challenge through robust, evidence-based programs enacted by denominations in their conferences, associations, partner organizations (such as the UCC Pension Boards, which has a program) and seminaries (all of which have programs). Preliminary results are excellent. In response to this commitment and because of the seriousness of the financial stress of members in discernment and authorized ministers, the UCC Board voted in March 2019 to change the Task Force to focus on this broader issue and to encourage the Task Force to work with our Pension Board to create plans of action. The new name is ***The Financial Health in Ministry Task Force***. This task force will be larger than the previous body and we will take our work seriously. Those who wish to help with the work of the Task Force or who have questions may contact me. We commit to reporting back to you at Synod 33 in two years. Thank you.

Report to General Synod on United Church Funds' Progress on "Urging Divestment – Along with Other Strategies – from Fossil Fuels Companies to Address Climate Change" (13-GS-25)

United Church Funds is an associated ministry of the United Church of Christ, investing on behalf of churches and institutions of the UCC, with a vision of "Investing for a Just World for All." As part of this vision, United Church Funds works to make the corporations in which we invest more sustainable and less harmful to communities and creation.

The 29th General Synod approved a resolution calling on all settings of the church, from the individual member to the national ministries of the UCC, to engage in the full spectrum of activities that lessen dependence on fossil fuels, notably including the socially responsible investing tactics of shareholder activism and divestment of fossil fuels companies. This report is a partial accounting of the work United Church Funds has accomplished since the 31st General Synod, in 2017.

Public Witness –

United Church Funds continues to be part of the #WeAreStillIn campaign which included more than 1000 corporations, states, universities, and investors that declare that the White House's shirking of our environmental responsibility does not speak for us. We will continue to seek ways to contribute to the international commitments of the Paris agreement.

Shareholder Engagement –

United Church Funds leverages its membership in several organizations to amplify the power of our shareholder actions, including the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility, the CDP (formerly the Carbon Disclosure Project) and the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI).

United Church Funds is a member of the Carbon Action 100+ initiative - a joint effort of the PRI and Ceres, a climate focused organization – that seeks to organize investors into engagements with those systemically important carbon emitting corporations. The initiative ranked the top 100 companies on the basis of their scope 1 emissions (directly controlled by the company) to their scope 3 emissions (not owned or controlled by the company but related to the company's activities). Investors engage these companies to push for improved emissions controls. United Church Funds is proud to be a part of this initiative and is actively engaging companies on this list along with other investors.

In addition to these engagements, United Church Funds continues to pressure financial institutions in which we own shares to choose projects and partnerships with potential ecological impacts in mind. As such, United Church Funds was proud to be a part of the multipronged approach to resisting the Dakota Access Pipeline Project and its questioning its funders' policies and practices in 2017 and 2018. UCF engaged with the banks that funded the Dakota Access Pipeline as well as Marathon Petroleum on how to foresee and avoid environmental and social risks when entering partnerships in pipelines or other climate and community sensitive projects.

United Church Funds continues to believe that shareholder engagement is a vital part of the response to climate change and we are committed to using this strategy.

Optional Investment Fund Free of Fossil Fuels –

In 2015, United Church Funds opened a 13th fund in which our clients could invest. The **Beyond Fossil Fuels Fund** eliminates fossil fuels companies from a global universe of equities. Investors can also opt for the **Beyond Fossil Fuels Balanced Fund**, which is a balanced fund made up of the equities in the Beyond Fossil Fuels Fund, and a divested portion of the Fixed Income Fund.

As of May 2019, there are 95 accounts in the Beyond Fossil Fuels Fund or the Beyond Fossil Fuels Balanced Fund, and there are \$125 Million invested in these funds. United Church Funds is proud to have built something that fills a need for our clients and continues to grow with sound investment performance.

Climate Responsiveness in UCF's Established Funds –

United Church Funds administers 11 other funds which have also been examined for climate responsiveness. Since the last General Synod, we have slightly changed our coal and tar sands investment screen and do not invest –

- 1. In those companies that derive more than 20% of their potential emissions (based on reserves) from the extraction of thermal coal, or 20% or more of total potential carbon emissions of the thermal coal reserves owned by a company; and*
- 2. those companies that derive more than 20% of their potential emissions (based on reserves) from the extraction of oil in tar sands, which is the resource-intensive process of extracting synthetic crude oil from highly viscous bitumen.*

In addition, we have instituted an industry-neutral environmental screen which eliminates the worst performing environmental actors in the corporate space, even if these are not the most carbon-intensive companies.

Screening is not the end of our responsibilities. Influencing the decisions our investment managers make around portfolio construction is also an important aspect of our work. To that end, we are very glad that UCF's core fixed income manager, the Pension Boards-United Church of Christ Fixed Income Team, now boasts that they have over \$52 million invested in sustainable fixed income: 27% of the fund's overall assets are green and 6% are social.¹

In addition, one of our investment managers is, by nature, free of fossil fuels companies. Community Capital Management invests in municipal bonds – which benefit low- and middle-income housing projects along with other benefits to communities.

Solutions Investing –

United Church Funds considers how to move toward climate solutions-based investing. In one example, the UCF Investment Committee recently approved an allocation to a private equity manager that measures the impacts of its investments, including carbon saved.

In addition, United Church Funds is extremely excited to be nearing completion on the Just World Fund. This fixed income fund will give our clients access to solutions-based investments and recognizes global and domestic development as an investable asset. UCF believes that investors will benefit from an opportunity to invest in inclusive finance (impact investment) and provide financial capital products to those traditionally excluded. Investments will attempt to address: global economic justice, fair and adequate housing, human rights to water and nutrition, and solutions for environmental security. One of the first vehicles the Just World Fund will invest in targets poverty through access to solar lighting and fuel efficient cookstoves to families living in the developing world. These social initiatives are just two of the strategies deployed within the Just World Fund which will serve the dual purpose of addressing inequality and providing environmental solutions.

United Church Funds is proud to continue to partner with the United Church of Christ to invest in environmentally responsible ways. We appreciate the work of our clients and other stakeholders to pursue results together and protect Creation.

¹ As of March 31, 2019.



**REPORT OF THE PENSION BOARDS-UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, INC.
TO THE THIRTY-SECOND GENERAL SYNOD AND THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD OF
DIRECTORS CONCERNING ITS RESPONSE AS OF JUNE 2019 TO THE GENERAL SYNOD 29
RESOLUTION URGING DIVESTMENT – ALONG WITH OTHER STRATEGIES – FROM FOSSIL FUEL
COMPANIES TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE**

Introduction

The Pension Boards-United Church of Christ, Inc. (PBUC) is pleased to present this report on its response to the call for urgent action on climate change to the Thirty-Second General Synod of the United Church of Christ (UCC), meeting June 21-June 25, 2019 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

PBUC began its work on climate change 27 years ago as part of a coalition of investors at the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) utilizing direct engagement with publicly traded companies across all business sectors of the market.

As a result of the passing of the *Resolution Urging Divestment – Along with Other Strategies – From Fossil Fuel Companies to Address Climate Change* by the Twenty-Ninth General Synod in 2013, and in concert with a growing coalition of investors beyond ICCR and the publication of research and conclusions by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), PBUC launched a campaign to address climate change in 2014.

These six major steps have been taken since the Thirtieth General Synod in 2015:

1. PBUC has taken powerful steps toward a low-carbon future economy with the investment of \$265 million in sustainable bonds aimed at the development of alternative energy and increased energy efficiency. This multi-million-dollar investment publicly proclaims that PBUC has not only supported the principles of the resolution but contributed to the development of a low-carbon future economy – the solution to climate change.
2. PBUC introduced the Northern Trust Global Sustainability Index Fund (GSIF) option for members in the accumulation (pre-retirement) phase of their Annuity Plan accounts (Now at 19 million \$ in assets). This fund option invests in “best in class” publicly-traded companies, based on MSCI Global Sustainability standards across all asset classes. As this

investment grows, opportunities will develop to further customize the fund to make it even more sustainable and climate-sensitive.

3. In response to the urgency of climate risks, ICCR members, across all faith bodies, filed 250 resolutions with 163 companies this year. Many of these shareholder resolutions dealt primarily with climate change, while an additional number addressed climate change indirectly through lobbying, executive compensation, sustainability, food, water, or the environment. Issues addressed this year included science-based targets to reduce greenhouse gases; business planning for a 1.5-degree C and under future; and, increased commitment to sustainability reporting.
4. Because of a strategic planning process and church-wide consultation with a broad range of stakeholders, PBUCC developed the Faith and Finance Initiative to focus on positive ways to initiate dialogue and respond to the UCC's social justice concerns. A Faith and Finance Advisory Group was formed, whose members include a collegium executive, conference minister, and PBUCC trustees and staff. This group met regularly to receive counsel and wisdom on matters related to the intersection of faith and finance in the UCC. There is also a staff Working Group on Faith and Finance. Please read the Policy on Faith and Finance for more information: http://bit.ly/PBUCC_FFP. And see our Faith and Finance e-newsletter:
5. PBUCC's Investment Committee voted to eliminate holdings in thermal coal and tar sands reducing its portfolio's carbon footprint by 60%.
6. PBUCC became a signatory to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment and requires its investment managers to be signatories as well. Signatories are required to maintain a commitment and significant action plan on climate and other human rights issues through investment practices and reporting.

In addition to the above actions, the resolution calls for 11 specific actions by all stakeholders within the church. The Pension Boards has responded to all 11 as set forth below:

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)

1. **Make lifestyle changes to reduce the use of fossil fuels (line 18):** The Pension Boards was a recipient of the Interchurch Center Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Award for the environmental integrity and efficiency of its offices at 475 Riverside Drive in New York City. The Board of Trustees has voted an official resolution and commitment to seek ways to reduce their carbon footprint as it relates to their own lives and communities.
2. **Demand action from legislators (line 20):** The Pension Boards directly influences and encourages demands upon legislators through shareholder advocacy calling for companies

to disclose political spending, participation in business association initiatives and fundraising, and to end lobbying for a reduction in environmental regulation.

3. **Publicly witness to dangers of climate change (line 22):** The Pension Boards has an active campaign of information sharing on the dangers of climate change on the PBUCC website (www.pbucc.org); through its *News & Views* newsletters, social media, the ICCR website, and numerous publications and papers; through membership in the Ceres Investor Network on Climate Risk; and through participation in the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), which reports carbon disclosures and impact of 500 U.S. companies with goals for reduction.
4. **Engage in shareholder actions including divestment (line 23):** The Pension Boards engages, along with our partners at United Church Funds (UCF), ICCR (300 ecumenical partners), Ceres, and USSIF in vigorous shareholder actions and positive investment. PBUCC makes investment decisions based upon the best interest of the more than 22,000 clergy and lay church workers in its plans and programs and fulfills its commitment to addressing climate change through direct witness to publicly-traded companies and in all the ways enumerated in this report. PBUCC has eliminated thermal coal and tar sands from its investment portfolio.
5. **Make shareholder engagement a top priority for five years (line 26):** Shareholder engagement remains a top priority, as it has been for over 40 years. The effectiveness of shareholder advocacy is measurable and demonstrable, such as the absence of oil and gas exploration by public American companies now in the Amazon Basin and as documented in many studies of numerous issues touched by this work. PBUCC and UCF are the sole UCC ministries still engaged – along with 300 ecumenical partners and other NGOs – in meaningful and powerful direct witness to companies concerning the social justice witness priorities of the United Church of Christ.
6. **Fossil fuel-free investment option (line 34):** PBUCC is currently offering a “best in class” investment option to members in the accumulation phase – The Northern Trust Global Sustainability Index Fund (GSIF).
7. **Updates to UCC database (line 38):** The first update was made in October 2013. No database is provided for this purpose at this time.
8. **Research to identify “best in class” and only hold fossil fuel investments that are... (lines 42, 46):** Currently, there are numerous socially-responsible investing (SRI) indices in various stages of development to measure the environmental, social, and governance (ESG) performance of a publicly-traded company. All these indices utilize differing criteria and methodologies for ranking such performance.

In addition, there are various strategies for obtaining investment goals and benchmarks within an investment strategy incorporating ESG factors. Several considerations are important from the PBUCC perspective in analyzing these trends. Our first priority is to meet our obligations to members whose investments represent earned compensation paid on their behalf into their Annuity Plan accounts during their working years for retirement purposes. Any investment decision must begin there.

Utilizing an independent, well-researched and continuously updated, objective measurement of ESG factors is essential in any “Best in Class” evaluation. We have also charged our investment managers with the task of identifying investment opportunities from an ESG perspective along with other performance indicators, and our GSIF option is based upon a recognized MSCI Sustainability Index.

9. **Report to UCC Board on annual basis (line 55):** A formal report was made at the March 2014 meeting of UCC Board, to the Council of Conference Ministers Cabinet in October 2013, and to the Council of Conference Ministers in March 2017, and the UC Board in 2019. A report to The UCC Board was made in 2015, 2017 and 2019.
10. **Report quarterly to public (line 59):** Regular reports are included in *News & Views* newsletters, social media, and the PBUCC website; the CSR Director reports on activities to the PBUCC Trustees and other church and partner groups; and are also featured on the ICCR website. Disclosure of our full investment activity and holdings is available publicly online.
11. **Hearing at next five Synods (line 64):** The first report was made at the Thirtieth General Synod in Cleveland, Ohio, in 2015; the second was presented to the Thirty-First General Synod 31, June 30-July 4, 2017, in Baltimore, Maryland. The third is being presented at the 32nd General Synod in June of 2019 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Miscellaneous Actions in Addition to the Specific Calls in the Resolution

- PBUCC actively supports the Paris Agreement on climate risk and has urged public officials and companies to maintain steadfast commitment to its principles and calls for action. “We are still in.”
- PBUCC has publicly stood in opposition to DAPL and its intrusion into sacred Native American lands and water rights. PBUCC and other members of ICCR, through the Advocacy Subcommittee, Indigenous Peoples Working Group, participated in several calls and face-to-face meetings with tribal representatives from Standing Rock in support and solidarity on the rights of Indigenous Peoples related to climate issues.

- PBUCC supported and advocated for passage of resolutions on the environment at General Synod 30, and seeks open dialogue, transparency, and partnership with other ministries on environmental issues.
- PBUCC supports and lifts Pope Frances’s encyclical letter on creation and climate *Laudate Se* as an inspirational call to all faith communities and secular groups to seriously address climate change.

Please refer to the *Policy on Faith and Finance* (http://bit.ly/PBUCC_FFP) for more specifics on our overall program. See also the *Resolution Urging Socially Responsible Investment Practices*, cosponsored by UCF and PBUCC, adopted by General Synod 30 in 2015: http://bit.ly/PBUCC_SOC_RESP.

See our brochure and congregational resource, *A Just World for All*; and, our Pastoral Letter to the Wider Church on the Faith and Finance Newsletter and bold action on climate change now.

See our e-newsletters on Faith and Finance.

We encourage and invite dialogue and questions concerning our strong commitment to addressing climate change and in working and investing in a low-carbon future economy. Thank you for your kind consideration of this report.

For more information, please contact Rev. Rick Walters at rwalters@pbucc.org.

Operating at the intersection of Faith and Finance



**THE SECOND REPORT OF
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD
TO THE THIRTY-SECOND GENERAL SYNOD**

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-06-01 Approve the Agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-06-02 Approve Consent Agenda which contains the following items of business, and granting voice without vote to the following additional persons: Dale Bonds, Ron Patterson, Charles Buck and Karen Georgia Thompson

- **UCCB-19-06-02a:** Approve the minutes of March 2019 United Church of Christ Board meeting
- **UCCB-19-06-02b:** Grant Voice Without Vote to Staff and Others Advising the UCC Board: Donyale Copeland, Cynthia Gaffney, Nicholas Katzakis, Heather Kimmel, Alisa Lewis, Dianne Roberts, Valerie Smith, Cheryl Williams

ELECTION OF UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD CHAIR

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-06-03 Elect Yvette Wynn as Chair of the United Church of Christ Board for the 2019-2021 biennium.

ELECTION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD VICE CHAIR

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-06-04 Elect Rev. Dr. Cameron Barr as Vice-Chair of the United Church of Christ Board for the 2019-2021 biennium.

ELECTIONS TO UCF BOARD

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-06-05 Approve the election of Jiakai Chen, Rev. Stephen R. Silver, and Bryan A. Thomas to the Board of Directors of the United Church Funds, Inc. Class of 2025.

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-06-07 Approve the election of Nesa Joseph to the Board of Directors of the United Church Funds, Inc. Class of 2021 and the election of Brian Holeman to the Board of Directors of the United Church Funds, Inc. Class of 2023.

ELECTIONS TO CBLF BOARD

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-06-06 Approve the election of Donald G. Hart, Michael Headen, Rev. Laurie Manning, Rev. Freeman L. Palmer, and Rev. Ryan P. Sirmons to the Board of Directors of Local Church Ministries Church Building and Loan Fund.

ELECTIONS TO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-06-08 Elect Thaddaeus Elliott to fill an unexpired United Church of Christ Board term for the class of 2023.

RESOLUTION TO SELL PROPERTY

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-06-09:

RESOLVED that it is in the best interest of United Church of Christ Board, an Ohio corporation, (the "corporation") to sell certain real estate located at 941 Babbitt Road, Euclid, Ohio at a price of \$15,000 pursuant to the attached sales contract dated May 29, 2019, as said property is no longer necessary or appropriate for the current and future needs of the corporation.

RESOLVED FURTHER that the Treasurer has been duly appointed to and qualified in the office of the corporation set forth opposite his name and is the incumbent of such office, that he is the officer of the corporation empowered to act pursuant to the Resolutions herein until such time as his successor may be duly elected or appointed and qualified, and that the authentic signature of such officer appears opposite his name.

OFFICE	NAME	SIGNATURE
Treasurer	Nicholas Katzakis	

Treasurer shall be required for each document to evidence the transaction.

RESOLVED FURTHER that the corporation’s Treasurer be, and hereby is, authorized, directed and empowered in the name and on behalf of the corporation, to do all acts necessary and to execute, perform and deliver to the Purchaser all necessary documents, deeds, lien or other indemnities, contracts, applications, assignments and any other instruments, in connection with said sale, on such terms and in such form as may be required by the Contract or by the parties

thereto and as may be deemed necessary, appropriate or advisable by the Treasurer, his execution thereof to be conclusive evidence of such necessity, appropriateness or advisability; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Treasurer of the corporation be, and hereby is, authorized, directed and empowered in the name and on behalf of the corporation to take all such further action, perform such further duties and execute and deliver or file such additional agreements, documents, applications, instruments, certificates and corporation papers as are contemplated in or by the Contract or as such Treasurer may otherwise deem necessary or desirable in order to accomplish the purpose and intent of the foregoing Resolutions, the taking of such action, the performance of such duties and the execution and delivery of such agreements, documents, applications, certificates, instruments and papers to be conclusive with regard to such necessary or desirability.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-06-10 Move into Executive session.

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-06-11 Return to Regular session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTE APPROVAL

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-06-12 Approve the Executive Session Minutes from March 7, 2019 and March 8, 2019.

WIDER CHURCH PETITION APPROVAL

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-06-13 Approve filing a petition for deviation related to Minnie's Seaside Rest.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD SITTING AS BUSINESS COMMITTEE OF THE THIRTY-SECOND GENERAL SYNOD

GRANT VOICE WITHOUT VOTE TO RESOURCE PERSONS

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-06-14f Grant voice without vote to resource persons to the General Synod as follows:

VOICE WITHOUT VOTE RESOURCE PERSONS

Anderson, David	Coordinator, Committee Process Team
Avison, Jean	Chair, Nominating Committee
Bailie, Cindy	Presenter
Blair, Michael	Introducer of AGM Nominee

Blood, Deb	Presenter
Call, Carolyn	Presenter
Champion, Sandy	Theological Reflector
Daniel, Barbara Kershner	Youth Director
Coyne, Maria	Presenter
Daniel, Ginny Brown	Presenter
Davies, Chris	Presenter – New Church Welcome
Desmond, Matthew	Keynote Speaker
Dilley, Elizabeth	Presenter
Evans, Jack	Theological Reflector
Gabriel, Chris	Presenter
Gardner-Spencer, Jocelyn	“Together as One – A New Conference in the UCC”
Graham, Cleo	“Together as One – A New Conference in the UCC”
Guffey, Edith	Presenter
Guillaume, Sheila	Presenter
Hackenberg, Rachel	Presenter
Hood, Denise Page	Parliamentarian
Katzakis, Nick	Chief Financial Officer
Kendrix, Marilyn	“Together as One – A New Conference in the UCC”
Kimmel, Heather	General Counsel
LaBoy, La-Vette	Chair, Credentials Committee
Lemon, Shameerah	General Synod Registrar
Larson, Corey	Agenda Coordinator
Movement Makers	Honorees
Munro, Frances	“Together as One – A New Conference in the UCC”
Olson, James	Parliamentarian
Remick, Don	“Together as One – A New Conference in the UCC”
Richardson, Tia	Theological Reflector
Rigert, Franz	Presenter
Sanderson, Corey	“Together as One – A New Conference in the UCC”
Schulte, Gary	Speak Out! Coordinator, Floor Secretary
Sigmund, David	Presenter
Siladi, Kent	“Together as One – A New Conference in the UCC”
Smith, Valerie	Synod Administrator
Thompson, Karen Georgia	Presenter/Nominee – Associate General Minister
VanAken, Troy	Introducer of Keynote
Whitcher, Jenny	Introducer of GMP nominee
Williams, Cheryl Joseph	Presenter
Youth@Synod Representatives	

REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISPOSITION

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-06-15 Adopt the Third Report of the Subcommittee on Disposition as the Third Report of the Committee on Disposition.

APPROVE THE THIRTY-SECOND GENERAL SYNOD AGENDA

It was VOTED: UCCB-19-06-16 Approve the Agenda for the Thirty-Second General Synod.

ADJOURNMENT

It was VOTED:UCCB-19-16-17 To adjourn.

APPENDIX X

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISPOSITION

The Committee on Disposition adopted this as the First Report of the Committee on Disposition at the March United Church of Christ Board Meeting through action UCCB-19-03-13.

1 **Motion from the Subcommittee on Disposition**

2 March 8, 2019

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4 The Subcommittee on Disposition moves:

5 To recommend that the United Church of Christ Board of Directors,
6 sitting as the Committee on Disposition, adopts the Report of the
7 Subcommittee on Disposition as the Report of the Committee on
8 Disposition.

9
10 Report of the Subcommittee on Disposition

11 The Subcommittee on Disposition recommends:

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#	Short Title	Full Title	Designation	Recommendation for General Synod
A	Private Prisons	A RESOLUTION TO ABOLISH THE GROWTH AND EXISTENCE OF PRIVATE PRISONS	Witness	To a Committee of General Synod
B	Immigrant Children	PROTECTION OF IMMIGRANT CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES	Witness	To a <u>Plenary</u> of General Synod
C	IEUPR	A Resolution on Ecumenical Relationship with IEUPR	Prudential	To a Committee of General Synod
D	Global Forced Migration	ADDRESSING THE STATE OF GLOBAL FORCED MIGRATION	Witness	To a Committee of General Synod
E	Deploring Religious Bigotry	Reaffirming the United Church of Christ's Commitment to Interreligious Relations, and Deploring Religious Bigotry	Witness	To a Committee of General Synod
F	Follow Me	JESUS SAID, "FOLLOW ME."	Witness	To a Committee of General Synod
G	Plastic Foam	RESOLUTION REGARDING THE USE OF PLASTIC FOAM	Witness	To a Committee of General Synod

#	Short Title	Full Title	Designation	Recommendation for General Synod
H	Denouncing Acts of Violence	DENOUNCING ACTS OF VIOLENCE, HATRED, AND RACISM CARRIED OUT IN THE NAME OF NEO-NAZI AND WHITE SUPREMACIST IDEOLOGIES	Witness	To a Committee of General Synod
I	Opioid Crisis	ON RECOGNIZING OPIOID ADDICTION AS A HEALTH EPIDEMIC, ENSURING ACCESS TO TREATMENT AND PHARMACEUTICAL CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY	Witness	To a <u>Plenary</u> of General Synod
J	Mental Health Network HUG	Mental Health Network as HUG	Prudential	To a Committee of General Synod
K	The Colectivo	Colectivo de UCC Latinx Ministries	Prudential	To a Committee of General Synod
L	STEWARDSHIP OF EXHIBIT SPACE	STEWARDSHIP OF EXHIBIT SPACE AS A RESOURCE FOR A MISSION OF JUSTICE	Witness	To a Committee of General Synod
M	Break the Silence Sunday	Supporting Survivors of Rape and Sexual Violence Through An Ongoing Church-Wide Observance of Break The Silence Sunday (BTSS)	Prudential	To a Committee of General Synod
N	Action Team	Action Team – Mission and GSP&P	Prudential	To a Committee of General Synod
O	Congressional Hearings on Violence	NEHMIA’S LIFE: A CALL FOR CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON VIOLENCE IN AMERICA	Witness	To a <u>Plenary</u> of General Synod
P	Prevent Nuclear War	RESOLUTION Calling on the United Church of Christ to for the United States to Prevent Nuclear War	Witness	To a Committee of General Synod

#	Short Title	Full Title	Designation	Recommendation for General Synod
Q	Basic Unit – SW Conf	Discerning, Articulating, and Resourcing the Nature, Purpose, Composition, Covenantal 2 Autonomy and Definition of ‘the basic unit of life and organization of the United Church of Christ’ for the Twenty-first Century - SWC	Prudential	To a Committee of General Synod
R	Basic Unit - SCNC	Examining, Articulating, and Resourcing the Nature, Purpose, Composition, Covenantal Autonomy and Definition of ‘the basic unit of life and organization of the United Church of Christ’ for the Twenty-first Century - SCNC	Prudential	To a Committee of General Synod
S	Non Binary Gender Language	Resolution on Non Binary Gender Language	Witness	To a Committee of General Synod
T	Oversight & Covenant	Resolution On Oversight and Covenant	Prudential	To a Committee of General Synod
TA1	TA1	TA1: CT, RI, and MASS Merger	Prudential	To a <u>Plenary</u> of General Synod

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---End of Motion---

Background: From Standing Rules of the Thirty-Second General Synod, Paragraph XI

Disposition Options:

- A. Items that are expected to be routine, non-controversial, or dealt with in a special hearing will be reported directly to the plenary session by the Business Committee. This might include, but is not limited to, such items as the budget, amendments to the Constitution or Bylaws, statements of commendation, recognition and celebration.
- B. All proposed pronouncements and proposals for action shall be assigned to committee.
- C. Items that are complicated or controversial that require background discussion and study, that merit and need a hearing process, or that have a system-wide impact will be assigned to a committee. The proposer shall supply a resource person to the committee.
- D. Any proposed business item that reiterates or reaffirms previous action shall normally be referred by the General Synod to the body or bodies implementing such action. A referral for implementation is, in itself, a statement that the General Synod is already on record with the intent of the business item and that the policy base for implementation is already in existence.

- 34 E. Items addressing issues addressed by one of the two preceding General Synods shall be
35 referred by the General Synod to implementing bodies.
- 36 F. If a proposed motion differs significantly from previous policy or action of the two
37 preceding General Synods, it shall be assigned to a committee. The burden of proof is on
38 those submitting the proposal to explain how it is different.
39

40 **Definitions:**

- 41 1. Resolution of Witness: A Resolution of Witness is an expression of the General Synod
42 concerning a moral, ethical or religious matter confronting the Church, the nation, or the
43 world, adopted for the guidance of the Officers, Covenanted, Associated or Affiliated
44 Ministries, or other bodies as defined in Article VI of the Bylaws of the United Church of
45 Christ; the consideration of local churches, Associations, Conferences and other bodies
46 related to the United Church of Christ; and for a Christian witness to the world. It
47 represents agreement by at least two thirds of the delegates voting that the view expressed
48 is based on Christian conviction and is a part of their witness to Jesus Christ. The text of
49 the proposed resolution should be so phrased as not to bring into question the Christian
50 commitment of those who do not agree.
- 51 2. Prudential Resolutions: A Prudential Resolution establishes policy, institutes or revises
52 structure or procedures, authorizes programs, approves directions or requests actions by
53 majority vote.

The Committee on Disposition adopted this as the Second Report of the Committee on Disposition at the March United Church of Christ Board Meeting through action UCCB-19-03-16.

1 **Motion from the Sub-Committee on Disposition**

2 March 8, 2019

3

4 The Sub-Committee on Disposition moves:

5 **The Governance Committee adopts the Second Report of the Sub-Committee on**
 6 **Disposition.**

7

8 Report of the Sub-Committee on Disposition

9 The Sub-Committee on Disposition recommends:

10

11 The Governance Committee receives the items of business submitted to the Thirty-second
 12 General Synod and recommends disposition as follows:

13

#	Short Title	Full Title	Submitter	Designation	Recommendation for General Synod
	Prosecutorial Injustice	A Resolution on Prosecutorial Injustice	MRSEJ	P W	Not to accept, as it could have been anticipated.
	UN International Decade for People of African Descent	Calling on the United Church of Christ to Adopt the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024)	NH	W	Not to accept, as it could have been anticipated.
	Urging Support for Universal Publicly Funded Health Care in United States of America	Publicly Funded Health Care	CPC	W	Not to accept, as it could have been anticipated.

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The Committee on Disposition adopted this as the First Report of the Committee on Disposition at the March United Church of Christ Board Meeting through action UCCB-19-06-15.

1 **Motion from the Sub-Committee on Disposition**

2 May 7, 2019

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4 The Governance Committee, acting as the Sub-Committee on Disposition, receives the items of
5 business submitted to the Thirty-second General Synod and recommends disposition as follows:
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#	Short Title	Full Title	Submitter	Designation	Recommendation for General Synod
	Carbon Dividend	ON SUPPORT FOR THE ENERGY INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT OF 2019	Irvine United Congregational Church, Irvine, CA and five other congregations	Witness	To accept as meeting the “could not have been anticipated” clause, and to send to a Committee of the General Synod
	Supporting the New Green Deal	LET JUSTICE ROLL DOWN -- DECLARING SUPPORT FOR THE GREEN NEW DEAL AND AFFIRMING THE INTERSECTIONALITY OF CLIMATE JUSTICE WITH ALL JUSTICE ISSUES	Pacific NW Conference and Vermont Conference	Witness	To accept as meeting the “could not have been anticipated” clause, and to send to a Committee of the General Synod

7
8 Background: General Synod Standing Rules Paragraph XI 3 c ii:
9 A Resolution or Other Formal Motion that could not have been anticipated or submitted in
10 conformance with the above deadline must be sent via email* to the Office of the General
11 Minister and President **on or before May 31, 2019.**

12
13 *These two resolutions both seem to meet the criteria of “could not have been anticipated” since*
14 *both deal with new legislation in the US Congress. We rejected the one on universal health care*
15 *earlier because the topic of universal health care has been addressed before, and the new*
16 *legislation was continuing a conversation. With both of these resolutions, the topics are new to*
17 *the wider conversation of the country, and have not been addressed by previous General Synods.*

18
19 *Acting now will allow the General Synod to arrange for an Educational Intensive and a*
20 *committee to address the resolutions. Delaying a vote until after the May 31 deadline would not*
21 *allow time to implement those structures, which would help the delegates to be more fully*
22 *informed and for the consideration process to be more complete.*

23
24 *-David Anderson*

APPENDIX Y

Status of General Synod Resolutions from 2013-2017

This document briefly summarizes the work of the National Setting in implementing General Synod resolutions passed in 2013, 2015, and 2017. This document does not include the significant work that has been undertaken by many of our covenant partners on these issues.

VOTE	RESOLUTION TITLE (BY YEAR)	This resolution is being implemented through the following actions:
2013		
13-GS-13	Calling for the United Church of Christ to Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery Which Authorizes the Genocide of Native People and the Theft of Native Lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Participation in Washington Native American Policy Working Group •JPANet action alerts on public policy impacting Native American communities (housing, health care, school funding, violence against women)
13-GS-15	Resolution Supporting Compassionate Comprehensive Immigration Reform and the Protection of the Human Rights of Immigrants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •JPANet action alerts •Hill advocacy •Press conferences •Public witness
13-GS-16	To Recognize the Need for Compassionate Care and Healing to Our Veterans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •MESA supports chaplains who work with veterans •MESA encourages congregations to be more welcoming of veterans
13-GS-17	A Resolution on Ecumenical Relationship Between the United Church of Christ and the United Church of Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Amendments to the United Church of Christ Constitution recognizing and reconciling the ministries of the United Church of Christ and the United Church of Canada were ratified in October of 2018 •The two denominations are in a full communion relationship •Processes for mutual recognition of ministers have been established •The Implementation Committee continues to work toward mutual engagement
13-GS-20	Restructure of Conference Boundaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota Conferences are working together and sharing resources as the Tri-Conference Ministries while maintaining their identities as Conferences •The Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island Conferences are proposing to merge and form a new Conference, to be considered at General Synod 32 •Other Conferences are exploring ways to share resources
13-GS-25	Resolution Urging Divestment - Along With Other Strategies - from Fossil Fuel Companies to Address Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Minister for Environmental Justice maintains webpage with information on fossil fuel divestment •A church-wide survey asks Local Churches to report whether they have divested

13-GS-31	On Making UCC Church Buildings More Carbon Neutral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Minister for Environmental Justice conducts webinars to encourage churches to adopt practices reducing carbon emissions •National Setting is working to monitor and reduce its emissions at 700 Prospect Avenue
13-GS-33	Resisting Actions Seeking to Undermine the Status of Women in Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •JPANet action alerts •Hill advocacy and amicus advocacy •Public witness (including Women's March presence) •Coalition sign-on letters •Washington coalition participation •Convening of UCC Women's Table
13-GS-45	Calling for for an All Church Offering for Supporting the Educational Expenses of Members in Discernment Preparing for Authorized Ministry of the United Church of Christ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The United Church of Christ Board convened the Seminarian Debt Task Force and considered a number of options, including whether to implement a church-wide offering and whether to repurpose existing offerings •The Task Force and the UCCB determined it was necessary to broaden the scope of the Task Force •The Task Force will report to General Synod 32 on next steps
13-GS-46	A Resolution in Support of Outdoor Ministries of the United Church of Christ	This resolution is primarily directed to Conferences, Associations, and other wider church settings own or operate church camps and other outdoor ministry programs.
13-GS-48	Affirmation of Relationship with the United Church of Christ and Fellowship of Affirming Ministries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •TFAM included in new Manual on Ministry •Education of Committees on Ministry about relationship with TFAM and living into implementation of resolution •Further work on resolution will be occurring building on these foundational efforts
13-GS-53	The United Samoan Ministries of the United Church of Christ Request to be Recognized as a Historically Underrepresented Group and Member of the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries	All actions to implement this resolution are complete.
13-GS-60	Resolution Against Bullying and Discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Action alerts, sign-ons and commentaries addressing federal, statewide and local issues and incidents •UCC web page: http://www.ucc.org/justice_justice-for-children_what-can-we-do-to-stop •ONA Coalition web page, "we can make schools and communities safe for LGBT youth" https://openandaffirming.org/issues/bullying-and-suicide/
13-GS-61	Resolution On Advocating for Funding to Construct Quality Affordable Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •JPANet action alerts •Coalition sign-on letters •Ecumenical Advocacy Days workshop
13-GS-62	Advocating for Tax Reform as Christian Stewardship and Public Duty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •JPANet action alerts •Coalition sign-on letters •WISC Faithful Budget toolkit

13-GS-66	A Call to Respond to Violence and Human Rights Violations in Honduras Resulting from Illegal Drug Trafficking and Drug Policy in the United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •DC Office and Global Ministries are working together to offer direct advocacy on Honduras, focusing on the root causes of migration and following the Berta Caceres Act that seeks to protect human rights defenders •JPANet action alerts •Hill visits •Hosting visiting human rights leaders in DC
13-GS-67	Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining in Appalachia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Minister for Environmental Justice continues to monitor this issue for appropriate advocacy opportunities
2015		
15-GS-14	Resolution on Full Communion Relationship Between the United Church of Christ and United Church of Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Amendments to the United Church of Christ Constitution recognizing and reconciling the ministries of the United Church of Christ and the United Church of Canada were ratified in October of 2018 •The two denominations are in a full communion relationship •Processes for mutual recognition of ministers have been established •The Implementation Committee continues to work toward mutual engagement
15-GS-15	Commemorating 100 Years Since the Armenian Genocide	Please see Report to the 32nd GS: Resolution Report: "Commemorating 100 Years Since the Armenian Genocide" posted on the General Synod website.
15-GS-18	Resolution Urging Socially Responsible Investment Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •United Church Funds has developed resources on socially responsible investing for churches. •Pension Boards UCC has developed resources on socially responsible investing options for program members. •The National Setting invests significantly in the UCF Beyond Fossil Fuels fund.
15-GS-19	Resolution to Change the Racially Demeaning Name, Mascot, and Imagery of the Washington National Football League Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Press releases and statements •Continued monitoring of and attention to this issue in the media
15-GS-20	Resolution Marking the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Just Peace Pronouncement by Recommitting Ourselves to be a Just Peace Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Just Peace Steering Committee continues under leadership of Rev. Neuroth •Since 2015, 25 congregations have declared themselves "Just Peace" and several have renewed historical commitments •Three subcommittees will be launched across life of UCC to support Just Peace churches, deepen UCC formation in and theological understanding of peacemaking, and explore new ways to witness out of our Just Peace commitments •DC Office also addresses related issues such as nuclear weapons, drones, and peacebuilding efforts like Global Fragility Act
15-GS-24	Developing Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged Congregations for Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •MHN developed WISE Congregation Toolkit and holds trainings across the country •Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice position created and filled
15-GS-34	A Just and Compassionate Response in the Wake of the Shootings at Emanuel A.M.E. Church in Charleston, South Carolina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Officers visited Emmanuel A.M.E. on multiple occasions

15-GS-37	Dismantling Discriminatory Systems of Mass Incarceration in the United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •JPANet action alerts •Hill advocacy •Coalition sign-on letters •Eumenical Advocacy Days UCC pre-event •UCC Criminal Justice Network •Interfaith working group participation
15-GS-38	Dismantling the New Jim Crow, A Resolution of Witness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The National Setting has distributed three curricula for use in Local Churches: White Privilege: Let's Talk, and Sacred Conversations to End Racism, Part One and Part Two
15-GS-39	A Call for Peace, Justice and Reunification in the Korean Peninsula	Please see Report to the 32nd GS: "A Call for Peace, Justice and Reunification in the Korean Peninsula" available on the General Synod website.
15-GS-48	A Call for the United Church of Christ to Take Actions Toward a Just Peace in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict	Please see Report to 32nd GS: Resolution Report: "A Call for the United Church of Christ to Take Actions Toward a Just Peace in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict"
15-GS-52	Responsible Stewardship of the Outer Space Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Articles on this issue regularly appear in the UCC's environmental justice newsletter and website
15-GS-56	Reaffirming Our Commitment to Full Equality for Persons of Any Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity or Gender Expression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •JPANet action alerts •Hill advocacy •Coalition sign-on letters •Washington coalition participation •Advocacy, action alerts, commentaries supporting Equality Act •Various statewide and local equality and anti-discrimination measures •Collaborative work with Welcoming Church Program Leaders, including the Open and Affirming Coalition in using Building an Inclusive Church toolkit, which advocates for equality
15-GS-61	Transition From Fossil Fuels to Renewable Energy	Please see Report to 32nd GS: "Transition From Fossil Fuels to Renewable Energy," available on the General Synod website.
2017		
17-GS-09	On Enhanced Support of American Missionary Association Founded Churches that Participate in the Merger forming the United Church of Christ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ongoing work to advance recognition of the UN International Decade for People of African Descent
17-GS-10	On Becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Church	Please see Report to 32nd GS: "On Becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Church," available on the General Synod website.
17-GS-12	A Call for the United Church of Christ to Advocate for the Rights of Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Action Alerts •DC Office and Global Ministries offering direct advocacy on Rep. McCollum's bill H.R. 4391 (the Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children Act) •Supporting the UCC's Palestine Israel Network, which has focused on this issue

17-GS-17	Resolution Declaring the Work of the Pattern of Giving in the United Church of Christ Complete and on Proposing a New Framework for Covenantal Giving and Implementing Fundraising Best Practices (Prudential Resolution)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The National Setting and the Council of Conference Ministers have established protocols relating to one another in areas of giving and are working on further protocols relating to giving and the Local Church •It is anticipated that a cost-benefit analysis of the Special Mission Offerings (as called for in the resolution) will be completed by year-end 2019, as will a marketing analysis of the names “Our Church’s Wider Mission”, “Our Church’s Wider Mission – Basic Support”, and “Our Church’s Wider Mission – Special Support
17-GS-23	Bring Down the Wall in the Caribbean: Ending the United States Embargo on Cuba	Please see Report to 32nd GS: "Bring Down the Wall in the Caribbean: Ending the United States Embargo on Cuba," available on the General Synod website
17-GS-27	On Establishing Procedures for Cultural Diversity Training for Authorized Ministers	•MESA supports Committees on Ministries and Conferences in making this training a norm for ministers
17-GS-29	Affirming the Coalition of Immokalee Workers’ Boycott of Wendy’s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Social media messaging •Coalition sign-on letters
17-GS-31	The Earth is the Lord’s – Not Ours to Wreck – Imperatives for A New Moral Era	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Environmental Justice Minister works with the UCC Council for Climate Justice to implement aspects of this resolution •The Council spearheaded a campaign to encourage sermons on climate change •JPANet Action alerts •Hill visits •Coalition sign-on letters
17-GS-34	Affirming and Supporting the Authorized Ministries of Under-Represented Clergy in Local Congregations: A Call for Greater Representation and Economic Justice	•MESA has developed diversity training videos for search committees
17-GS-37	On Recognizing and Studying Gun Violence as a Public Health Emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •JPANet Action alerts •Action toolkit with CHHSM •Hill advocacy
17-GS-39	Resolution in Support of Adult Survivors of Child Abuse and Neglect (A Resolution of Witness)	•The National Setting is committed to the well-being of all children and provides a number of abuse-prevention resources for the use of Local Churches.
17-GS-42	Corporal Punishment of Children in Homes and Institutions	•The National Setting is committed to the well-being of all children and provides a number of abuse-prevention resources for the use of Local Churches.
17-GS-44	Toward Disability Justice: A Call to the Church and Churches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Participation in Interfaith Disability Advocacy Coalition, •Created new position-Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice •Support and participation in Widening the Welcome Conference •JPANet Action alerts
17-GS-47	A More Just Economy: \$15 Minimum Wage, Living Wages and Job Creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •JPANet Action alerts •Hill advocacy •WISC coalition work on Faithful Budget