

Minutes of the
Twenty-third General Synod



Gather
at the
Welcome
Table

H. Roe Bartle Hall **Conference** Center



JULY 13—JULY 17, 2001 KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE TWENTY-THIRD GENERAL SYNOD

**MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-THIRD GENERAL SYNOD
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI**

JULY 13–JULY 17, 2001

**A JOINT GENERAL SYNOD/ASSEMBLY
WITH
THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

Editors

Mary Ann Murray
Terry L. White

Recorders

Dana C. Downs
Michell Farrow
Melisa J. Izzo
Christopher P. Noffke
Diane Schurr
Robert C. Snyder

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DIRECTORY OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES OF THE TWENTY-THIRD GENERAL SYNOD

Moderators of the General Synod

Moderator: The Rev. Nancy S. Taylor (CPC)
Assistant Moderators: Mr. Richard M. Harter (MASS)
and Ms. Linda M. Jaramillo (CPC)

Officers of the United Church of Christ

(The Collegium)

Mr. Dale L. Bishop, Executive Minister,
Wider Church Ministries
Ms. Edith A. Guffey, Associate General Minister,
Office of General Ministries
Ms. Bernice Powell Jackson, Executive Minister,
Justice and Witness Ministries
The Rev. José A. Malayang, Executive Minister,
Local Church Ministries
The Rev. John H. Thomas, General Minister and
President, Office of General Ministries

Parliamentarians

Parliamentarian: Ms. Annie Wynn Neal
Floor Parliamentarian: The Rev. Malcolm C. Bertram

UCC Representatives to Joint Worship Committee

The Rev. Pat DeJong, The Rev. Elizabeth Aguilar,
The Rev. Sarah Fredriksen, The Rev. Ken Iha,
Ms. Judy Rose, assisted by: Mr. Arthur Clyde,
The Rev. June Boutwell, The Rev. Robert Chase, and
The Rev. Cliff Aerie

Bible Storytellers

Ms. Jan Ferguson, The Rev. Richard F. Ward, and
Mr. Omar Vargas

Theological Reflectors

Mr. Dale L. Bishop and Ms. Rita Nakashima Brock

Business Committee (The Executive Council)

Chair: Mr. David D. Anderson
Vice Chair: The Rev. Kekapa P. K. Lee

Class of 2001

Mr. David D. Anderson (WASH)
Ms. June Bumanglag (CYAAM)
Mrs. Thelma Faulk (NY)
The Rev. Charlotte L. Frantz (MINN)
Mr. Juan M. Gaud (PR)
Mr. Ronald Glass (PNE)
The Rev. Sandra S. Hulse (UCF)
Ms. Linda M. Jaramillo (CPC)
Mr. John W. Lardin (MICH)
Ms. Katie Lear (At-Large Youth)
Mr. Karl Limvere (NOPL)

The Rev. Richard W. McBride (CHE)
Mr. E. Chris Montaña (SW)
The Rev. Carol Munro Mosley (CHHSM)
The Rev. Elizabeth C. Nordbeck (CTE)
Ms. Zaida Maldonado Pérez (HC)
The Rev. Bela Poznan (CA, SY)
Mr. Robert Sandman (OHIO)
The Rev. Harold C. Smith (PB)
Ms. Christina Thomas (UCCDM)
The Rev. Randi Walker (Council for Ecumenism)
Mr. Ray Young (MONT-NO. WYO)

Class of 2003

Ms. Beth Anastasia (CAC)
Ms. Jennifer L. Craig (MASS)
Ms. Gretchen Eick (KO)
The Rev. Norman W. Jackson (CAIM)
The Rev. Corey L. Larson (IOWA)
The Rev. Kekapa P. K. Lee (HI)
The Rev. Robert A. Lee (VT)
The Rev. Jennifer Crane Moss (SE)
Ms. Enid Pinkney (FLA)
Mr. Raymond Reid (SOC)
Ms. Arlene Sadler (PW)
Ms. Olgha Sierra Sandman (ILL)
Mr. Jack Silas (CA, NV, S)
The Rev. Iese Tuuao (PAAM)

Class of 2005

The Rev. Elizabeth Aguilar (CHM)
The Rev. M. Winston Baldwin Jr. (NEB)
The Rev. Carol A. Barth-Schuss (IK)
The Rev. Krista Lynn Betz (MOMS)
Mr. J. David Bishop (PC)
Ms. Bernie Bliss (RM)
Mr. William E. Draper (IS)
Mr. Marshall D. Eckblad II (WIS)
The Rev. Mitzi N. Eilts (COALITION)
The Rev. Charles S. Hastings Jr. (SC)
Ms. Robin Peters Henne (NH)
The Rev. Alexander Jamison Sr. (MRSEJ)
Ms. Lauri Janke (SD)
Mr. Brian Lapis (CONN)
Mr. Raymond F. Pierce (RI)
Ms. Marilyn K. Serfass (PSE)
Ms. Reba Walker (COREM)

Representatives from the Boards of Directors of the Covenanted Ministries

Ms. Leigh Greenhaw (LCM)
Ms. Rose Lee (JWM)
The Rev. Marilyn Stavenger (WCM)

Conference Ministers

The Rev. John R. Deckenback (CAC)
The Rev. Timothy C. Downs (SE)
The Rev. John H. Krueger (KO)
The Rev. John M. Schaeffer (MONT-NO. WYO.)

Credentials Committee

Class of 2001

The Rev. Bruce S. Herrboldt (SD)
Ms. Judy Hopkins (IOWA)
The Rev. Eric Kirkgaard (WIS)
Mr. Juan Romon (CONN)

Class of 2003

Anita Chase (CPC)
Betty Hornbach (IL)
Jack Kemp (MINN)
Jonathan Pia (OHIO)
Petra Malleis-Sternberg (SW)

Nominating Committee

Class of 2001

The Rev. Jean Andrews (VT)
Mr. Robert Bock (WIS)
Ms. Winifred Boub (CAIM)
Mr. Ben Broadbent (RM)
The Rev. Mary J. Fairley (MRSEJ)
Ms. Martha Mendóza-Morales (ILL)
Mr. Wilfred Torrez Mercado (CYYAM)
The Rev. Peter Shober (MONT-NO. WYO)

Class of 2003

Mr. Terry Brino-Dean (PSE)
Ms. Sandy Casmeay (MINN)
The Rev. Diane S. Darling (COALITION)
Ms. Sachiko Fajita (HI)
The Rev. Ramon R. Hernandez (MICH)
Mr. Clifford John (UBC)
The Rev. Rosemary McCombs-Maxey (KO)
Ms. Mildred Prune (CHM)
The Rev. Yvonne Samuel (MOMS)

Class of 2005

The Rev. Betsy E. Braw (PC)
The Rev. Doris L. Dunn (UCCDM)
Ms. Margaret Ellis (SOC)
The Rev. Valentino Lassiter (OHIO)
Mr. David R. Mann (COREM)
Mr. Jordan M. Patterson (HI)
The Rev. Tyrone L. Reinhardt (PAAM)
The Rev. Kent J. Siladi (CONN)
Ms. Katie Tabler (IK)

Ex-Officio without Vote

Mrs. Joan F. Brannick (PB)
Mr. Donald G. Hart (UCF)

Tellers

Mr. Douglas Anderson (MASS)
The Rev. Barron Barley (PC)
Mr. Bruce Beckwith (JWM)
Mr. James Bock (MINN)
Ms. Leah Boris (WASH)
The Rev. Barbara Bullock (IOWA)
Ms. Dollie Burwell (JWM)
Ms. Paula L. Campbell (WCM)
Mr. Mark Clark (SW)
The Rev. Sol Codillo (MOMS)
Mr. Aladrian Crowder (CAC)
Ms. Leslie Davis ((IL)
The Rev. Jean Erb (CPC)
The Rev. Denise Esslinger (CONN)
Mr. Rudy Gruenke (OHIO)
Mr. Arnold Hosbach (OHIO)
The Rev. Beth Robey Hyde (RM)
Ms. Samantha Jewell (IK)
Ms. Wylenthia Johnson (ILS)
Ms. Edith Kapiko (HI)
Ms. Ann Lamont (SD)
Ms. Deanna Lewis (KO)
Ms. Suzanne Lewis (FLA)
Mr. James McLarin (RM)
The Rev. Patrick Morris (PSE)
Mr. William Powell (CAC)
Mr. James Robison (PNE)
Mr. John Henry Scott (CONN)
Mr. Aaron Sinay (LCM)
Ms. Brenda B. Square (SC)
Ms. Deborah Trega (WCM)
The Rev. Brandon Woosley (IL)

CONFERENCE SYMBOLS USED IN THESE MINUTES

Note: In many of the lists of names in these Minutes, the individual's Conference membership is indicated by capital letters following the name.

California Nevada, Northern	CA NV, N
California Nevada, Southern	CA NV, S
Calvin Synod	CA.SY
Central Atlantic	CAC
Connecticut	CONN
Florida	FLA
Hawaii	HI
Illinois	ILL
Illinois South	IS
Indiana-Kentucky	IK
Iowa	IOWA
Kansas-Oklahoma	KO
Maine	ME
Massachusetts	MASS
Michigan	MICH
Minnesota	MINN
Missouri	MOMS
Montana-Northern Wyoming	MONT-NO. WYO
Nebraska	NE
New Hampshire	NH
New York	NY
Northern Plains	NOPL
Ohio	OHIO
Penn Central	PC
Penn Northeast	PNE
Pennsylvania Southeast	PSE
Penn West	PW
Puerto Rico	PR
Rhode Island	RI
Rocky Mountain	RM
South Central	SC
South Dakota	SD
Southeast	SE
Southern	SOC
Southwest	SW
Vermont	VT
Washington North Idaho	WASH
Wisconsin	WIS

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MINUTES

TWENTY THIRD GENERAL SYNOD

Gather at the Welcome Table

H. ROE BARTLE HALL CONFERENCE CENTER

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

JULY 13–JULY 17, 2001

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 13, 2001

First Plenary Session

1. GENERAL SYNOD CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING CELEBRATION

Moderator Nancy Taylor (CPC) called the Twenty-third General Synod to order at 2:30 p.m. and invited the assembly to share in an opening celebration. At the conclusion of the celebration, the Moderator began the formal business meeting at 3:50 p.m.

2. INITIAL REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The Moderator introduced the Rev. Eric Kirkegaard (WIS), Chair of the Credentials Committee. Mr. Kirkegaard reported that there were 749 voting Delegates, 78 Associate Delegates and Honored Guests, 55 members of the Business Committee, 520 Visitors, and 27 General Synod staff, for a total of 1,429 persons present at General Synod. Mr. Kirkegaard moved that the Twenty-third General Synod adopt the report of the Credentials Committee.

01-GS-1 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod adopts the report of the Credentials Committee.

3. QUORUM DECLARED

Moderator Taylor declared a quorum was present and the Twenty-third General Synod was in session.

4. ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD AGENDA

Before the adoption of the Agenda, Ms. Taylor reminded delegates that, according to Bylaw 226, the Executive Council acts as the Business Committee and Committee of Reference of the General Synod during its sessions. In this role, the Executive Council prepares the agenda and schedule of all meetings of the General Synod and recommends changes to the schedule as needed. She also pointed out that in order to complete the business of the Twenty-third General Synod, it would be essential to remain on schedule. The Moderator urged

delegates to be succinct in their comments and explained the rules pertaining to the use of the microphones.

Ms. Taylor called on Mr. David Anderson (WASH), Chair of the Business Committee, who drew attention to the agenda on page 11 of the *Program, Worship, and Business Book* (Appendix A). Mr. Anderson thanked the Executive Council for their work over the last two years. He explained the time limits for each committee's report and how the agenda differed from previous General Synod meetings. On behalf of the Business Committee, he then moved the adoption of the Agenda for the Twenty-third General Synod.

01-GS-2 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod adopts the Agenda as printed in the *Program, Worship, and Business Book* and authorizes the Business Committee to make any necessary adjustments.

5. ADOPTION OF THE STANDING RULES

Mr. Anderson directed the delegates to the Recommended Standing Rules printed in the *Delegate Handbook* and moved their adoption.

01-GS-3 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod adopts the Standing Rules as contained in the *Delegate Handbook*.

6. DESIGNATION OF RESOURCE PERSONS GRANTED VOICE WITHOUT VOTE

Mr. Anderson stated that, on occasion, persons who do not have voice at General Synod would be asked to make reports, speak to certain issues, serve as resource people, or introduce nominees. Mr. Anderson moved that voice-without-vote status be granted to these persons.

01-GS-4 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod grants voice without vote to those persons who have been approved by the Business Committee as designated resource persons for the presentation of reports, resolutions, or other concerns that are on the agenda of the General Synod. The privilege of voice for these persons extends only for the time that the particular item of business is under consideration and at the invitation of the appropriate committee Chair, other Synod delegate, or the Moderator and/or Assistant Moderators.

1 David Schoen
2 William Morgan
3 Kathy Houston
4 Ann Kiernozeck
5 David Satcher
6 Ricardo Equivia
7 Lydia Veliko
8 David Vargas
9 Raquel Rodriguez
10 Ella Ben and her interpreter, Elma Coleman
11 Dan Hoffman
12 Bridget Robinson
13 Xialong Zhu
14 Jeni Pia

7. ANNOUNCEMENT OF TELLERS

15
16 Mr. Anderson directed the attention of the del-
17 egates to pages 97–98 of the *Program, Worship,*
18 *and Business Book* to locate the list of persons
19 who had been appointed by the Executive Coun-
20 cil to serve as Tellers for the Twenty-third Gen-
21 eral Synod (see list below). He then invited the
22 designated Tellers to stand to be recognized.
23
24

25 Wylenthia Johnson (IS)
26 Leah Boris (WASH)
27 Leslie Davis (ILL)
28 Suzanne Lewis (FLA)
29 Edith Kapiko (HI)
30 Ann Lamont (SD)
31 Aladrian Crowder (CAC)
32 Arnold Hospach (OHIO)
33 Sol Codillo Jr. (MOMS)
34 Douglas Anderson (MASS)
35 Jim Bock (MINN)
36 Mark Clark (SW)
37 William Powell (CAC)
38 James McLarin (RM)
39 Rudy Gruenke (OHIO)
40 Brandon Woolsley (ILL)
41 Denise Esslinger (CONN)
42 Beth Robey Hyde (RM)
43 Jean Erb (CPC)
44 James Robinson (PNE)
45 Patrick Morris (PSE)
46 Barbara Bullock (IOWA)
47 Deanna Lewis (KO)
48 John Henry Scott (CONN)
49 Samantha Jewell (IK)
50 Aaron Sinay (LCM)
51 Brenda B. Square (SC)
52 Deborah Trega (WCM)
53 Barron Barley (PC)
54 Dollie Burwell (JWM)
55 Paula L. Campbell (WCM)
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8. DESIGNATION OF GROUPS GRANTED VOICE WITHOUT VOTE

Referring to the Executive Council Report that had been placed at the delegates tables prior to the plenary, Mr. Anderson moved that the representatives of the listed groups be granted voice without vote while the General Synod is in session.

01-GS-5 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod grants voice without vote status to the following groups and their stated representatives:

Association of United Church Intentional Interim Ministries
Marjorie MacNeil
Association of United Church Educators
Candi Cain Borgman, Betsy Woodward
Biblical Witness Fellowship
David Runnion-Bareford, Steve Clifford
Christians for Justice Action
Kwame Osei Reed, Donna Schaper
Focus Renewal Ministries
Vernon Stoop, Eugene Ziegler
Ministers in Higher Education
Mark Horton, Sara Smith
Network for Environmental and Economic Responsibility
Donald Clark, Douglas Hunt
Student Ecumenical Partnership
Matt Deal, Megan Hoelle
United Church of Christ Chaplains in Health Care
Joan Jones, Allan Kramer-Moyer
United Church of Christ Expression of Marriage Encounter
Herb and Bonnie Schafale
United Church of Christ Fellowship of Reconciliation
Mark Lukens, Tom Warren
United Church of Christ Parents of Lesbians and Gays
Gordon Sherman, Robert Strommen
United Church of Christ Parish Nurse and Physicians Network
Sheryl Cross, Richard Braun
United Church of Christ Office Support Staff Network
Patricia Peirce
United Church of Christ Urban Ministries Network
Art Waidman, John Selders
Welfare Working Groups
Mary Alice Butofsky, James Stewart

9. INTRODUCTION OF GENERAL SYNOD LEADERSHIP

Moderator Taylor introduced the General Synod leadership, including Assistant Moderators, Mr. Richard M. Harter (MASS) and Ms. Linda Jarmillo (CPC), and the Parliamentarians, Ms. Annie Wynn Neal (SE) and the Rev. Malcolm C. Bertram (MASS).

Mr. Bertram instructed delegates on the role of the Floor Parliamentarian and gave a brief overview of parliamentary procedure. Ms. Neal spoke about her role in

1 supporting the Moderator and Assistant Moderators.
2

3
4 Ms. Taylor identified the members of the Agenda
5 Committee and explained their role. She asked for
6 help in completing the business of the General
7 Synod by Tuesday evening and reminded the delegates
8 that any work left unaddressed would be
9 acted on by the Executive Council after the General
10 Synod.

11 **10. GREETINGS FROM KANSAS-OKLAHOMA AND MISSOURI MID-SOUTH CONFERENCES**

12
13 The Moderator introduced the Rev. Gayle Engel,
14 Missouri Mid-South Conference Minister, and the
15 Rev. John Krueger, Kansas-Oklahoma Conference
16 Minister, who welcomed the delegates and visitors
17 to the Twenty-third General Synod. They, in
18 turn, welcomed the Rev. Robert Atkinson, pastor
19 of Trinity United Church of Christ in Lexington,
20 Missouri, and the Rev. Timothy Murtaugh, pastor
21 of Kingsway Christian Church in Memphis,
22 Tennessee, who served as coordinators of the 750
23 volunteers who worked to prepare the Twenty-third
24 General Synod. A hearty round of applause was
25 invited to express the gratitude of the assembly for
26 all their hard work. The Moderator thanked the
27 Local Arrangements Committee and all of the
28 members of the Kansas-Oklahoma and Missouri
29 Mid-South Conferences who had worked so hard
30 to make the General Synod a memorable event.
31
32
33

34 **11. INTRODUCTION OF GENERAL SYNOD STAFF LEADERSHIP**

35
36 The Moderator called on the Administrator of the
37 Twenty-third General Synod, Ms. Edith A. Guffey,
38 to introduce the General Synod staff leadership.
39
40

41 Registrar

42 Mary Ann Murray

43 Speak Out! Coordinator

44 Richard O. Sparrow

45 Exhibits

46 Ken Daniels, Valerie Smith

47 Service Projects

48 K. C. Ackley

49 AV Coordinators

50 Proclamation, Identity, and Communication
51 Ministry, Bob Chase, Team Leader

52 Recorders

53 Dana Downs, Michell Farrow, Melissa
54 Izzo, Christopher Noffke, Dianne Schurr,
55 Robert Snyder, and coordinator
56 Terry White

57 Registrar Staff

58 Laurinda Hafner, Destiny Shellhammer

59 Stage Manager

Dorothy Lester

Facilities Coordinator

Carol Zygmunt

Worship Committee Chair and Staff

Pat deJong, Chair, and Arthur Clyde

Committee Process Staff

Lorin W. Cope, staff, Sheldon W. Culver, Karen
A. Mosby, Robert O. Ullman

Floor Coordinator

Richard O. Sparrow

Agenda Coordinator

Sheila Kelly

Office Staff

Byron and Pat Light, Christina Chapple

Youth Program

June Boutwell and Ken Brown

Spanish Language Translators

Candita Mattos, Ray Rassi

12. INITIAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Moderator Taylor reintroduced Mr. Anderson, Chair of the Business Committee. Mr. Anderson spoke of the work of the Executive Council over the past two years, noting the written reports in the *Program, Worship, and Business Book*, the *Addendum*, and a report distributed in the assembly hall. He then placed before the Synod the names of the nominees for the General Synod Nominating Committee, class of 2007, and explained the election process.

13. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Assistant Moderator called on the Rev. Peter S. Shober (MONT-NO.WYO), Co-Chair of the General Synod Nominating Committee, to present the Report of the General Synod Nominating Committee. Mr. Shober directed the delegates to page 119 of the *Program, Worship, and Business Book*, pointing out the listing of nominees and their biographical data. He noted that changes were being recommended in the Bylaws related to the filling of unexpired terms. He explained that the Nominating Committee was charged this year with the task of presenting nominees for the positions of Moderator and Assistant Moderators for the Twenty-fourth General Synod, members of the Executive Council, and members of the Boards of Directors for the three Covenanted Ministries.

Moderator Taylor announced that the Twenty-third General Synod received the report of the General Synod Nominating Committee.

14. NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR FOR BOARDS

Following review of Standing Rules 22 and 23 for the Twenty-third General Synod, the Moderator entertained nominations from the floor. There were no nominations and nominations were declared closed.

1 **15. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BUSINESS**

2 The Moderator explained the procedure for intro-
3 ducing new business, referring to the Standing
4 Rules (12.C.2.a; 12.C.3.a.3). This would be the only
5 time in the agenda to introduce New Business, and
6 New Business should be introduced by title only.
7 Items introduced would be referred to the Busi-
8 ness Committee for recommendation. The recom-
9 mendations would be brought to the floor on ei-
10 ther Saturday morning or Saturday evening for
11 action.

12
13 Two items of New Business were offered:

14
15 Resolution: “Support for Research on Embryonic
16 Stem Cells,” offered by Olivia White (SC), John
17 Leung, (SW), and Deborah Streeter (CA NV, N);

18
19 Resolution: “End the Death of Migrants on the
20 United States/Mexico Border by Offering Water
21 in Christ’s Name,” offered by Mark Clark (SW),
22 Norma De Saegher (CA NV, S) and Janelle Luna
23 (CA NV, S).

24
25 **16. INTRODUCTION OF HONORED**
26 **GUESTS**

27 The Moderator called on Mr. Anderson, who
28 moved that previous Officers, Instrumentality Ex-
29 ecutives, and Moderators be designated as Hon-
30 ored Guests and granted voice without vote.
31

32
33 01-GS-6 VOTED: The Twenty-third General
34 Synod grants voice without vote to the following
35 Honored Guests:

36 Former Officers:

- 37 The Rev. Paul and Mary Sherry
- 38 The Rev. Carol A. Joyce and Neal Leubke
- 39 Mr. Charles and Catherine Lockyear

40
41 Past Moderators:

- 42 Ms. Charlotte Pennfield Gosselink
- 43 The Rev. John H. Krueger
- 44 Mr. Kenneth Stewart

45
46 Instrumentality Executives:

- 47 The Rev. Thomas and Sandy Dipko
- 48 The Rev. Earl and Patricia Miller
- 49 Ms. Marilyn Breitling
- 50 The Rev. Yvonne Delk
- 51 The Rev. Mary Sue Gast
- 52 The Rev. Larry Schultz
- 53 The Rev. Scott and Jean Libbey

54
55 Mr. Anderson returned to the lectern and invited
56 the Rev. José Malayang and Mr. Dale Bishop to
57 lead the delegates in a Memorial Tribute to the Rev.
58 David Stowe, former Executive Vice President of
59 United Church Board for World Ministries, and the
Rev. C. Shelby Rooks, former Executive Vice Pre-
sident of United Church Board for Homeland Min-
istries, who have died since the last General Synod.

17. RECOGNITION OF JOAN F. BRANNICK

Moderator Taylor called on Mr. Robert M. Goodchild,
Chair of the Pension Boards—United Church of Christ,
who introduced Mrs. Joan F. Brannick, the Executive
Vice President of the Pension Boards. Mr. Goodchild
spoke of the years of committed service Mrs. Brannick
had given to the Pension Boards, thanked her for her
dedication, and wished her well in her retirement.

18. RECOGNITION OF NEW AND RETIRING
CONFERENCE MINISTERS

Ms. Taylor invited the Rev. Russell Mitman Jr., Penn-
sylvania Southeast Conference Minister, to introduce
those Conference Ministers who had begun their
ministry as Conference Ministers since the last
General Synod and to recognize those Conference
Ministers who had retired since that time.

Conference Ministers who began office since last
General Synod:

- The Rev. Geoffrey Black, New York
Conference
- The Rev. Jane Heckles, Southern California
Nevada Conference
- The Rev. Jane Fisler-Hoffman, Illinois
Conference
- The Rev. Luis Rosario, Puerto Rico
Conference
- The Rev. Eugene Ross, Central Pacific
Conference

Those elected to begin as Conference Ministers in the
fall:

- The Rev. Nancy Taylor, Massachusetts
Conference Minister
- The Rev. David Moyer, Wisconsin Conference
Minister
- The Rev. Kenneth Leischner, Rocky Mountain
Conference Minister

Interim Conference Ministers:

- The Rev. Christine Boardman, Washington-No.
Idaho Conference
- The Rev. Erwin Bode, Massachusetts
Conference
- The Rev. Herman Haller, Southern Conference
- The Rev. Harold Henning, Penn Northeast
Conference
- The Rev. Kenneth Leischner, Penn West
Conference
- The Rev. Jack Seville, Wisconsin
Conference
- The Rev. Lynn Simcox, Rocky Mountain
Conference
- The Rev. Peter Young, Northern Plains
Conference

1 In the Minnesota Conference, the Rev. Karen Smith
2 Sellers serves as Acting Conference Minister, and
3 on September 1, the Rev. Susan Henderson would
4 become Interim Conference Minister in New
5 Hampshire Conference

6 Retired Conference Ministers:

7 The Rev. Fred Trost, Wisconsin Conference
8 The Rev. Paul Westcoat, Penn West
9 Conference
10

11 **19. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RECESS**

12 The Moderator recognized Ms. Edith Guffey, Ad-
13 ministrator of the General Synod, for announce-
14 ments.
15

16 Moderator Taylor declared the first plenary of the
17 Twenty-third General Synod to be complete and
18 in recess at 5:05 p.m.
19

20 **SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 14, 2001** 21 **Joint Plenary Session**

22 **1. MODERATORS WELCOME**

23 Ms. Nancy Taylor, Moderator of the General Synod
24 of the United Church of Christ, and Mr. Paul
25 Rivera, Moderator of the General Assembly of the
26 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), introduced
27 worship leader, the Rev. Kay Bessler Northcutt;
28 Bible Storytellers, Mr. Richard Ward and Ms. Jane
29 Anne Ferguson; and the Rev. Rita Nakashima
30 Brock and Mr. Dale Bishop, who would be reflect-
31 ing on the United Church of Christ and Christian
32 Church (Disciples of Christ) partnership.
33

34 **2. BIBLE STORYTELLING/PRAYER**

35 Ms. Northcutt recalled a story of baptism and then
36 invited delegates and visitors to share with one
37 another their own baptismal or confirmational expe-
38 riences. Following the discussion, Bible storytell-
39 ers Richard Ward and Jane Ferguson told dramatic
40 Bible stories on the theme of "Can God Spread a
41 Table in the Wilderness?" Ms. Northcutt then led
42 the plenary in silent prayer.
43

44 **3. PARTNERSHIP VIDEO**

45 Dale Bishop and Rita Nakashima Brock set the con-
46 text of the partnership between the Christian
47 Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church
48 of Christ and spoke of some of the expectations
49 that each had for the meeting. They then introduced
50 a video that highlighted some of the ways the Chris-
51 tian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United
52 Church of Christ live out mission together.
53

54 **4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

55 Ms. Edith Guffey and Mr. Don Manworren made some
56 comparisons between a United Church of Christ Gen-
57 eral Synod and a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
58 General Assembly. Mr. Manworren then turned the
59 platform back to Mr. Rivera.

60 **5. INTRODUCTION OF MODERATORS AND 61 PARLIAMENTARIANS**

62 Moderator Rivera introduced the Vice Moderators of
63 the General Assembly, the Rev. Lanny Lawler and Ms.
64 Minnie Smith, and the Parliamentarian, Dan Woods.
65 Mr. Rivera reviewed what was before the Assembly
66 and called for adoption of the Order of Business.

67 Moderator Taylor introduced the United Church of
68 Christ Assistant Moderators, Ms. Linda Jaramillo and
69 Mr. Dick Harter, and the two Parliamentarians, the Rev.
70 Mal Bertram and Ms. Annie Wynn Neal.

71 **6. RECOGNITION OF ECUMENICAL AND 72 INTERNATIONAL GUESTS AND OF THE 73 PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNITED 74 CHURCH OF CHRIST IN THE PHILIPPINES**

75 Ms. Taylor called Ms. Jaramillo to introduce the Rev.
76 John Thomas, General Minister and President of the
77 United Church of Christ. Mr. Thomas introduced the
78 Ecumenical Delegates attending the General Synod/
79 Assembly.

80 Ecumenical Delegates:

81 Bishop H. George Anderson, Evangelical
82 Lutheran Church in America
83 Bishop Elmer Bolocon, United Church of
84 Christ in the Philippines
85 Bishop V. Devasahayam, Church of South
86 India
87 The Rev. Stanley Hasteley, Executive Direc-
88 tor, Alliance of Baptists
89 Ms. Dorothy Barnard, Presbyterian Church
90 (U.S.A.)
91 The Rev. Lewis Kain, Reformed Church in
92 America
93 The Rev. McKinley Young, Bishop of the Tenth
94 District of the African Methodist Episcopal
95 Church

96 The Rev. Pat Tucker Spier, Co-Executive of the Com-
97 mon Global Ministries Board, presented the overseas
98 guests.

99 Overseas Guests

100 From Africa:

101 The Rev. M. C. Kuchera, President, United Church of
102 Christ in Zimbabwe
103 Ms. Betty Kuchera, Women's Coordinator, United
104 Church of Christ in Zimbabwe
105 Mr. Thulani Ndlazi, Ministerial Candidate, United
106 Congregational Church of Southern Africa

1 Mr. Romeo Tshuma, HIV/AIDS Counselor, Gays,
2 and Lesbians of Zimbabwe
3 Ms. Anthea Wagner, Children’s Advocate, South
4 Africa
5 Mr. Roger Mwamba, Medical Coordinator,
6 Disciples of Christ in the Democratic
7 Republic of the Congo.

8
9 From Southern Asia:

10 The Right Rev. V. Devasahayam, Bishop in
11 Chennai, Church of South India
12 The Rev. Richard A. Siwu, Vice President for
13 Mission and Ecumenism, The Christian
14 Evangelical Church in Minahasa, Indonesia
15 Ms. Grace Sumarau, Tomohon, Principal,
16 Christian Vocational High School, Evangelical
17 Church of Minahasa Synod, Minahasa
18 Indonesia

19
20 From Latin America and the Caribbean:

21 The Rev. Wilfredo Estrada, Coalicion
22 Ecumenica PRO-Vieques
23 Bishop Ulises Munoz, Pentecostal
24 Church of Chile (IPC)
25 Mr. Ricardo Equivia, Mennonites in
26 Colombia

27
28 From East Asia and the Pacific:

29 The Rev. Joe Steven Berdin, United Church
30 of Christ in the Philippines
31 The Rev. Dr. Huang Po Ho, Director of
32 Research Center, Presbyterian Church in
33 Taiwan

34
35 From the Middle East:

36 The Rev. Dr. Riad Jarjour, General Secretary,
37 Middle East Council of Churches, Syria

38
39 From Europe:

40 The Rev. Tobias Schlingensieben, Evangelical
41 Church of the Union, Germany

42
43 Bishop V. Devasahayam, from the Church of
44 South India, spoke on behalf of the ecumenical
45 and overseas guests.

46
47 In recognition of the one hundredth anniversary
48 of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines,
49 Ms. Tucker Spier gave a brief history of the part-
50 nership between the Common Global Ministries
51 and the United Church of Christ in the Philip-
52 pines. She welcomed Bishop Bolocon, General
53 Secretary of the United Church of Christ in the
54 Philippines, and the Rev. Joe Steven Berdin, also
55 of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines,
56 and invited Bishop Bolocon to address the Synod.
57 The Bishop spoke on the theme “One Faith: A
58 Shared History, a Common Future.”
59

7. COVENANTED MINISTRIES/GENERAL UNITS REPORTS

Mr. Rivera pointed out that both the Assembly and the Synod request their respective national ministries, the Covenanted Ministries and the General Units, to give reports of their work. Ms. Jaramillo explained that this would be done jointly so that the Synod and Assembly would be able to see the work of both churches.

A series of presentations were then made, each highlighted by a video, on the work of the church. The first presentation was made by the Rev. Richard Hamm, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Rev. Bill Edwards, Associate General Minister and Vice President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Rev. John Thomas, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, and Ms. Edith Guffey, Associate General Minister of the United Church of Christ. At the conclusion, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Hamm presented a symbolic wreath as a symbol of how both denominations can weave their faith together.

The second presentation was by the Rev. Pablo Jimenez, National Hispanic Pastor of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and Mr. Don Hart, Executive Vice President of the United Church Foundation. At the conclusion, they jointly presented an hourglass, symbolic of the time the two denominations spend together.

The next segment was given by the Rev. José Malayang, Executive Minister of the Local Church Ministries, and Ms. Christy Newton, Co-Chair of the Common Global Ministries Board. They presented a set of chains that were a gift from the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa in recognition of the solidarity of the two churches with the South African church in the struggle against apartheid and to symbolize the need to work for peace with justice.

The final report was by Ms. Joan F. Brannick, Executive Vice President of the Pension Boards—United Church of Christ, and Mr. Raymond Brown, Interim President of the Division of Homeland Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). They presented a plate and chalice, recognizing whose table it is that draws us together.

The presentation ended with Mr. Thomas introducing the members of the Collegium of the United Church of Christ and the executives of The Pension Boards and the United Church Foundation and with Mr. Hamm introducing the General Unit Presidents of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). There was a period for questions from the floor following the presentations. Questions raised concern about the dichotomy between rich and poor, the ecological crisis, the religious diversity of America, the future of the Ecumenical Partnership between the United Church of

1 Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of
2 Christ), the date for the next common gathering,
3 and AIDS.

4 **8. NEW CHURCH ESTABLISHMENT**

5 Ms. Jaramillo introduced a report on congregations
6 of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and
7 the United Church of Christ that have come into
8 existence or been renewed over the past two years.

9
10
11 The Disciples of Christ Moderators presented the
12 report, “New Congregation Establishment,” ac-
13 knowledging fifty-three new congregations that
14 have come to life since the last Assembly.

15
16 The Rev. David Schoen, Minister and Team Leader
17 for Evangelism Ministry, Local Church Ministries,
18 recognized over one hundred new and renewed
19 United Church of Christ congregations in the past
20 several years. The report was concluded with a
21 video and a parade celebrating the many new
22 United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Dis-
23 ciples of Christ) faith communities.

24 25 **9. RESOLUTION “CALLING ON THE** 26 **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO JOIN** 27 **THE DECADE TO OVERCOME VIO-** 28 **LENCE”**

29 Ms. Jaramillo explained that the Committee of Ref-
30 erence Report would be offered in parts. This would
31 allow opportunity to vote on the resolution, “De-
32 cade to Overcome Violence,” at the same time as
33 our partners, the Christian Church (Disciples of
34 Christ). Ms. Jaramillo then called on Ms. Beth
35 Anastasia (CAC), Chair of the Committee of Ref-
36 erence.

37
38
39 Ms. Anastasia moved that the resolution “Calling
40 on the United Church of Christ to Join the Decade
41 to Overcome Violence” be referred directly to a
42 plenary of the General Synod.

43
44 01-GS-07 VOTED: The Twenty-third General
45 Synod refers the resolution “Calling on the United
46 Church of Christ to Join the Decade to Overcome
47 Violence” directly to a plenary of the General
48 Synod.

49
50 Ms. Anastasia then moved adoption of the resolu-
51 tion and called on the Rev. Henry Simmons, Chair
52 of the Board of Directors of Justice and Witness
53 Ministries, who spoke to the resolution.

54
55 The Disciples held discussion and adopted a simi-
56 lar item, “Calling on the Christian Church (Dis-
57 ciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada
58 to Join the Decade to Overcome Violence.”
59

Ms. Jaramillo moderated discussion by the United Church
of Christ delegates on the resolution and called for the
vote.

01-GS-08 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod
adopts the resolution, “Calling on the United Church of
Christ to Join the Decade to Overcome Violence.”

Calling on the United Church of Christ to Join the Decade to Overcome Violence

WHEREAS the Psalmist wrote, “Seek peace and pursue
it” (Psalm 34:14), and the prophet Isaiah wrote “the wolf
and the lamb shall feed together and the lion shall eat
straw like cattle, they shall not hurt or destroy in all my
holy mountain” (Isaiah 65:25), and Jesus said in the Ser-
mon on the Mount, “blessed are the peacemakers for they
shall be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9);

WHEREAS we recall with thanksgiving the history of
saints and martyrs of the church who gave their lives as
witnesses for God against the powers of violence and, at
the same time, we confess the role that the church has too
often played in adding to the violence and injustice of the
world;

WHEREAS the world’s Nobel Peace laureates have ap-
pealed for a “Decade for a Culture of Nonviolence” and
a “Year of Education for Nonviolence,” with special em-
phasis on children and youth;

WHEREAS the United Nations has designated the years
2001–2010 as the Decade for Nonviolence and a Culture
of Peace for the Children of the World;

WHEREAS the World Council of Churches, meeting at
its Eighth Assembly in Harare, called upon its member
churches to observe a Decade to Overcome Violence from
2001 to 2010, calling on its member churches to provide
a clear witness to peace, reconciliation, and nonviolence,
grounded in justice;

WHEREAS the U.S. Conference of the World Council
of Churches began this observance with a Lenten fast from
violence in 2001, requesting member churches to pray
the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, “Lord make me an
instrument of thy peace”;

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has designated
itself as a “Just Peace” church and many local churches
have designated themselves as “Just Peace” churches;

WHEREAS violence is fracturing our world, destroying
our culture, and takes many forms—from the violence
of war and genocide, to the violence due to the use of
land mines and the proliferation of small arms, to the sys-
temic violence of poverty and racism, to violence in the
home against women and children, to the violence done
to the whole of God's creation, to the violence of hate
crimes and police brutality, to the violence of gangs, to
the violence which erupts in U.S. schools and is found in
our churches;

1 WHEREAS, as Christians, we are called upon to
2 recognize that our cultural addiction to violence
3 is a spiritual challenge that calls us to prophetic
4 witness;

5
6 WHEREAS we have heard the call to nonviolence
7 as an active alternative to violence from modern
8 prophets such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and
9 as a way of living out Jesus' teachings and bear-
10 ing witness to God's promise of peace with
11 justice; and

12
13 WHEREAS the culture of violence surrounds us
14 all and is found in our entertainment, our sports,
15 our worldview, and is embedded in our history;

16
17 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the
18 Twenty-third General Synod calls on every local
19 church to act to overcome violence in our world
20 and especially in its own community by being a
21 witness for peace with justice and reconciliation,
22 through Bible study and theological reflection,
23 and through dialogue and prayerful consideration
24 of how it can be an active participant in the De-
25 cade to Overcome Violence;

26
27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-
28 third General Synod calls on the Conferences and
29 Associations of the United Church of Christ to
30 affirm the commitment of the United Church of
31 Christ to support a Decade to Overcome Violence
32 and to discern how they might become active
33 participants in the Decade;

34
35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-
36 third General Synod calls on the seminaries of
37 the United Church of Christ and the historically
38 related seminaries to include education on issues
39 of violence in the curriculum for the preparation
40 of pastors and in continuing education programs;

41
42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-
43 third General Synod calls on Justice and Witness
44 Ministries to coordinate work in the national set-
45 ting of the church around overcoming violence
46 and to provide leadership training on nonviolence
47 and conflict resolution and violence prevention
48 education, to work with youth and young adults
49 in programs to end violence, to advocate for an
50 end to land mines and the proliferation of small
51 arms, and to work to overcome the institutional
52 and systemic violence of racism and poverty;

53
54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-
55 third General Synod calls on Wider Church Min-
56 istries to explore appropriate ways for the United
57 Church of Christ to participate in the United Na-
58 tions Decade for Nonviolence and a Culture of
59 Peace and to develop necessary resources for such
participation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third
General Synod calls on the Office of General Minis-
tries to coordinate the promotion and information for
the United Church of Christ's participation in the World
Council of Churches' Decade to Overcome Violence;
and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Twenty-third
General Synod calls on Local Church Ministries to pro-
duce the appropriate bulletin inserts and curriculum
resources for local churches to participate in the De-
cade to Overcome Violence.

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

10. SPEAK OUT!

Mr. Rivera announced that there would be ten minutes
for Speak Out!, with five speakers from the Christian
Church (Disciples of Christ) and five from the United
Church of Christ alternating.

The five speakers from the United Church of Christ
were:

The Rev. J. David Menchhofer (SE), who spoke about
the Allen Retreat Center

Ms. Noelle Damico, (JWM), who spoke on the work
of the Justice and Peace Action Network

The Rev. David Gaewski (ME) and two youth delegates
from the Maine Conference, who spoke about
the National Youth Event in 2004 in Maine

Mr. David Inglis (RM), who spoke on restorative
justice

Mr. Earl Menchhofer (IL), who spoke on the need
for evangelism

Speakers from the Christian Church (Disciples of
Christ) spoke on Palestinian peace, the Disciples Men's
International Day of Pancakes, homosexuality, a call
to hug the missionaries who serve the church, and min-
istry for older adults.

11. RESPONSE TO VOTE

Mr. Hamm and Ms. Bernice Powell Jackson introduced
Mr. David Satcher, Surgeon General of the United
States and a member of the National City Christian
Church in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Satcher brought greetings from Washington, D.C.,
and the Office of the Surgeon General. Acknowledg-
ing the earlier vote on the Decade to Overcome Vio-
lence and identifying violence as a serious health prob-
lem in the United States, he called attention to the Youth
Violence Prevention Report, which addresses the is-
sue. While acknowledging the effect of youth violence
on the United States, he encouraged the church not to
lose hope in their struggle against violence.

1 **12. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RECESS**

2 Mr. Rivera called on Don Manworren and Edith
3 Guffey to make announcements and asked Ms.
4 Bessler Northcutt to offer the benediction. At 12:00
5 noon, Moderator Rivera declared the Second Ple-
6 nary of the Twenty-third General Synod ended.
7

8 **SATURDAY EVENING, JULY 14, 2001**

9
10 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

11 Assistant Moderator Dick Harter called to order
12 the third plenary of the Twenty-third General Synod
13 at 7:30 p.m.
14

15 **2. SPEAK OUT!**

16 Mr. Harter welcomed the Speak Out! participants.
17

18 Mr. Jack Silas (CA NV, S) spoke about migration
19 into the Southwest and California and the work of
20 a coalition including the church to provide water
21 at Mexican border crossings.
22

23 Ms. Gretchen Eick (KO) reminded delegates of the
24 1973 General Synod request to send people to
25 support United Farm Workers and the ninety-five
26 delegates who traveled to the Coachella Valley, and
27 she wondered why the Business Committee
28 referred the resolution regarding water at the
29 Mexican border directly to Justice and Witness
30 Ministries rather than allowing the delegates to
31 address it.
32

33 Mr. Stan Duncan (MASS) reminded the Synod that
34 the country of Colombia is experiencing a civil war
35 funded by our tax dollars and noted that the Jus-
36 tice and Witness Ministry table had more informa-
37 tion regarding ways to help heal and save lives in
38 this crisis.
39

40 Ms. Gail Wells (OHIO) pointed out that July 14
41 was John Corbin's twenty-first birthday and asked
42 the delegates to sing "Happy Birthday" to anyone
43 who might be celebrating a birthday during the time
44 of General Synod.
45

46 Mr. Larkin Rossiter (SW) shared his concern
47 regarding the Committee of Reference report
48 referring the resolution calling for water at the
49 Mexican border crossings to an implementing body
50 and asked the delegates to give serious consider-
51 ation to this issue, even though it would not be
52 something to be voted on.
53

54 Ms. Barbara Kershner Daniel (PSE) spoke about
55 the wonderful theological school in Lancaster,
56 Pennsylvania, which was searching for a president,
57 and asked any interested parties to contact her.
58
59

Mr. F. Russell Baker (MICH) reported that on March
13, sixteen clergy had signed a declaration regarding
Maurice Carter, believing that he is experiencing a
miscarriage of justice reminiscent of the South during
the 1960s. He urged delegates to go to the Michigan
Conference table to learn more.

Mr. Kent Meyer (MICH) thanked the Committee on
Reference for referring the resolution from Michigan
Conference regarding Maurice Carter to Justice and
Witness Ministries, but he urged delegates to read and
become educated about the subject.

Mr. Harter thanked the participants in the Speak Out!

3. COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT

Mr. Harter reminded delegates of the new business that
was brought to the body during the first plenary on
Friday and considered by the Committee of Reference
for recommendation. He called on Ms. Anastasia, Chair
of the Committee of Reference, to present the report.

Ms. Anastasia directed the delegates' attention to the
report of the Executive Council, detailing their recom-
mendations regarding new business. She then moved
the adoption of the Committee of Reference Report.

01-GS-09 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod
adopts the report of the Committee of Reference.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE

The Twenty-third General Synod assigns the follow-
ing items of business as indicated:

**RESOLUTIONS REFERRED DIRECTLY TO A
PLENARY OF GENERAL SYNOD:**

Anti-Semitism
Calling on the United Church of Christ to Join the
Decade to Overcome Violence

**RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO A COMMITTEE
OF THE GENERAL SYNOD:**

Committee 1:
Recommendation to the Churches for a New Relation-
ship—Churches Uniting in Christ, Consultation On
Church Union
A Statement on Convergence in Matters of Theology
and Practice between the Alliance of Baptists and
The United Church of Christ

Committee 2:
Resolution on Conflict Diamonds in Sierra Leone
Reparations on Slavery
Epidemic of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
on the Continent of Africa

Committee 3:
Opposition to the SIECUS Declaration # 1
Opposition to the SIECUS Declaration # 2

1 Committee 4:
2 Health Effects and Impacts of Tobacco on
3 Children, Teenagers, and Their Families
4 Juvenile Justice
5
6 Committee 5:
7 Reaffirmation of the Trinitarian Basis for our
8 Ecumenism
9
10 Committee 6:
11 Preservation of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arickara
12 Languages
13 Pastoral Compensation
14 Pension Supplementation for Native American
15 Ordained and Licensed Ministers
16
17 Committee 7:
18 Declare Jubilee: A Call for a New Day in the Spirit
19 of the United Church of Christ
20 News Media Guidelines
21 Mutual Respect within the Faith Community
22
23 Committee 8:
24 Access to Excellent Public Schools: A Child's Civil
25 Rights in the 21st Century
26
27 Committee 9:
28 Program for Essential Conference Ministry Bylaws
29 Recommended Changes to the Bylaws of the
30 United Church of Christ
31
32 Committee 10:
33 Calling on the United Church of Christ to Initiate
34 a Jubilee for Justice for Rural America
35
36 Committee 11:
37 A Pronouncement on a United Church of Christ
38 Ministry and Witness with Micronesians
39 A Proposal for Action on a United Church of
40 Christ Ministry and Witness with
41 Micronesians
42 Calling for a More Just, Humane Direction for
43 Economic Globalization
44
45 Committee 12:
46 Colombia
47 To End the Presence of the U.S. Navy in the
48 Municipality of Vieques, Puerto Rico
49
50 Committee 13:
51 Resolution in Support of the Coalition of
52 Immokalee Workers Boycott of Taco Bell
53
54 Committee 14:
55 Redistributing Tax Rebates to the Poor
56
57 Committee 15:
58 Support for Research on Embryonic Stem Cells
59

RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO IMPLEMENTING BODIES:

Resolution: Justice and Peace in Asia and the Pacific
Resolution: In Support of a New Trial for Maurice Carter
Resolution: To End the Death of Migrants on the United States/Mexico Border by Offering Water in Christ's Name
Resolution: A Christian Response to Developments in Genetic Technology
Resolution: Call for Staffing to Address Ecojustice Concerns
Resolution: Restorative Justice Principles for Reform of the Criminal Justice System

4. AWARDS PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Mr. Harter called on Ms. Bernice Powell Jackson, Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries. Ms. Jackson named people being recognized during the Twenty-third General Synod for their ministry of witness to the gospel in church in society. Awards of Affirmation were conferred on the following leaders in six areas of the world.

In Africa: The Physicians of the Disciples of Christ Community in the Democratic Republic of Congo

In East Asia and the Pacific: The Rev. Jude Samson, President of the Micronesian Council of the United Church of Christ—Congregational

In Europe: the Rev. Rolf Wischnath, General Superintendent of the Cottbus Region of the Evangelical Church in Berlin-Brandenburg

In the Middle East: The Rev. Dr. Riad Jarjour, General Secretary of the Middle East Council of Churches, and Ms. Rosangela Jarjour, General Secretary of the Fellowship of the Middle East Evangelical Churches;

In Latin America and the Caribbean: Ecumenical Coalition for Vieques (Coalicion Ecumenica Pro-Vieques)

In Southern Asia: The Right Rev. V. Devasahayam, Bishop of Madras Diocese, Church of South India.

Local Church Ministries presented the following awards:

The Worship and Education Ministry Team of Local Church Ministries honored the five following distinguished educators:

Ms. Odessa Walker Hooker, Cincinnati, Ohio
Ms. M. Ann Molsberry, Grinnell, Iowa
Mr. James Perry, Dennis, Massachusetts
Ms. Jan Standlea, Lake Oswego, Oregon
Ms. Renia Strychaz, Tiburon, California

1 Pilgrim Press and United Church Resources hon-
2 ored: Lloyd Steffen with its Church and Society
3 Award
4 Maren C. Tirabassi with its Leadership Award

5
6 The first Virginia Kreyer Award was given to: The
7 Rev. Virginia Kreyer of Long Island, New York, a
8 pioneer in UCC Disabilities Ministries

9
10 UCC Disabilities Ministries also honored:
11 Robert Deblois of Sekonk Congregational Church
12 in the Rhode Island Conference
13 Jan Fadley of North Congregational UCC in
14 Columbus, Ohio, Ohio Conference
15 The Church Support Network of Dublin
16 Community Church UCC

17
18 The Antoinette Brown Award was given to:
19 The Rev. Betty Jane Bailey of West Orange,
20 New Jersey
21 The Rev. Maria Teresa Unger Palmer of
22 Chapel Hill, North Carolina

23
24 Justice and Witness Ministries conferred the fol-
25 lowing awards:
26 Local Church Award: Ainsworth UCC
27 Clergy Award: the Rev. Donald Benedict
28 Laity Award: Ms. Roberta Perry
29 Grass Roots Award: Juan Antonio Corretjer,
30 Puerto Rican Cultural Center
31 Youth/Young Adult Award: Marcus Lewis

32
33 More than eighty outstanding women were recog-
34 nized at the Synod as Honored Laywomen.

35
36 Following applause for all those being honored,
37 Ms. Powell led the assembled delegation in a prayer
38 of thanksgiving.

39 40 **5. INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATE FOR** 41 **EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF LOCAL** 42 **CHURCH MINISTRIES**

43
44 Mr. Harter reminded delegates that they would be
45 electing persons to serve as General Minister and
46 President and Executive Minister of Local Church
47 Ministries. He directed the delegates to page 126
48 of the *Program, Worship, and Business Book* for a
49 description of the search process and the names of
50 the nominees.

51
52 He called on Ms. Cheryl Cramer (SC), Chair of
53 the Board of Directors for Local Church Minis-
54 tries, who introduced the Rev. José A. Malayang,
55 the candidate for Executive Minister of Local
56 Church Ministries. Ms. Cramer spoke of the won-
57 derful work that had been done by Mr. Malayang
58 and expressed the hope that the delegates would
59 affirm his work by reelecting him to the position
of Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries.

Mr. Malayang spoke, sharing some of his family
history and the reasons Local Church Ministries has a
special meaning for him. He included his hopes and
vision for the future of the Ministry.

6. INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATE FOR **GENERAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT**

Mr. Harter called upon Mr. Kekapa Lee (HI), Vice
Chair of the Executive Council, who introduced the
Rev. John H. Thomas, candidate for General Minister
and President of the United Church of Christ. Mr. Lee
noted the diversity of gifts that made Mr. Thomas the
Search Committee's choice for President.

Mr. Thomas spoke on the theme of the Twenty-third
General Synod, "Gather at the Welcome Table," how
the United Church of Christ embodies the spirit of the
Welcome Table, and what needs to be done to con-
tinue fulfilling that vocation.

7. REPORT: CONTINUING NEED FOR THE **PACIFIC ISLANDER ASIAN AMER-ICAN** **IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE**

Mr. Harter introduced Mr. John Lardin (MICH), Chair
of the Evaluation and Planning Committee of the Ex-
ecutive Council, to introduce two actions. Mr. Lardin
explained the history of the Pacific Islander/Asian
American Implementation Team and the Hispanic Min-
istries Implementation Team and the need for Synod
action to continue their work. He drew attention to the
reports on pages 125 and 128 of the *Program, Wor-
ship, and Business Book*. He then moved that the
Twenty-third General Synod receive the report of the
Pacific Islander Asian American Ministries Implemen-
tation Team and continue its existence for the 2001-
2003 biennium.

01-GS-10 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod
receives the report of the Pacific Islander/Asian Ameri-
can Ministries Implementation Team and continues its
existence for the 2001-2003 biennium.

8. REPORT: CONTINUING NEED FOR THE **HISPANIC MINISTRIES IMPLEMENTATION** **TEAM**

Mr. Lardin moved that the Twenty-third General
Synod receive the report of the Hispanic Ministries
Implementation Team and continue its existence for
the 2001-2003 biennium.

01-GS-11 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod
receives the report of the Hispanic Ministries Imple-
mentation Team and continues its existence for the
2001-2003 biennium.

9. RESOLUTION: ANTI-SEMITISM

Mr. Harter drew the attention of the delegates to the
resolution "Anti-Semitism," on page 137 of the *Pro-
gram, Worship, and Business Book*. He then called on

1 Mr. Brian Lapis (CONN), member of the Execu-
2 tive Council, who moved the adoption of the reso-
3 lution and spoke to it.

4
5 Jack Kemp (MN) rose to voice two concerns. He
6 suggested that the scope of anti-Semitism was not
7 just Jewish people, but Arabs as well. He wished
8 the United Church of Christ to stand as firmly with
9 Arab sisters and brothers as it does with those who
10 are Jewish. His second point was that anti-Semitism
11 was often a fallacious charge used to oppose a given
12 action, and all need to be alert to which charges
13 are legitimate and which are not.

14
15 01-GS-12 VOTED: The Twenty-third General
16 Synod adopts the resolution "Anti-Semitism."

17 **Anti-Semitism**

18
19
20 WHEREAS, when Jesus was asked what was the
21 greatest commandment, he responded quoting
22 Hebrew scripture, "You shall love the Lord your
23 God with all your heart, and with all your soul,
24 and with all your mind. This is the greatest and
25 first commandment. And a second is like it. You
26 shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two
27 commandments hang all the law and the proph-
28 ets" (Matthew 22:37-40);

29
30 WHEREAS, the shootings that occurred at the
31 Hebrew day care center in California shocked the
32 nation and should be a wake up call for all Chris-
33 tians to denounce anti-Semitism;

34
35 WHEREAS anti-Semitism has been deeply embed-
36 ded in Christian tradition;

37
38 WHEREAS anti-Semitism violates Christ's call
39 to love our neighbors as ourselves;

40
41 WHEREAS Judaism is the foundation of our
42 faith; and

43
44 WHEREAS the delegates to the Sixteenth General
45 Synod (1987) of the United Church of Christ stated,
46 "We in the United Church of Christ acknowledge
47 that the Christian Church has, throughout much of
48 its history, denied God's continuing covenantal
49 relationship with the Jewish people expressed in
50 the faith of Judaism. This denial often has led to
51 outright rejection of the Jewish people and theo-
52 logically and humanly intolerable violence";

53
54 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the
55 delegates to the Twenty-third General Synod of the
56 United Church of Christ, do confess the sin of anti-
57 Semitism and renounce it, knowing that Jews are
58 children of God to be loved as we love ourselves
59 in the way that Christ has commanded us;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we invite the Jus-
tice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of
Christ to utilize all rapid response networks to notify
Conferences that will in turn notify congregations when
there is a need to take action against anti-Semitism in
a crisis;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge our na-
tional representatives to speak out against anti-
Semitism in all appropriate circumstances;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage
all churches of the United Church of Christ to build
relationships of mutual respect and friendship with
their nearby synagogues through interfaith ex-
changes such as church school, youth and adult ed-
ucation programs, cooperative service projects, and
social interactions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United Church
of Christ actively seek and develop relationships of
mutual respect and understanding with our Jewish
brothers and sisters in all settings of the church.

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

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Harter called on Ms. Guffey for the evening ann-
ouncements. Ms. Guffey reported that the offering re-
ceived during Friday evening's worship service totaled
\$12,352.72 and was designated for Harmony,
an organization in Kansas City working to improve
race relations and increase appreciation for cultural
diversity and eliminate intolerance.

11. RECESS

Mr. Harter declared the third plenary of the Twenty-
third General Synod to be completed and the Synod to
be in recess until 8:30 a.m. on Sunday morning.

MONDAY MORNING, JULY 16, 2001 Joint Plenary Session

1. INTRODUCTION AND BIBLE STORY- TELLING

Ms. Bessler Northcutt began the plenary by leading
the delegates in song; Richard Ward and Jane Anne
Ferguson then told a dramatic Bible story.

2. PRAYER

Ms. Bessler Northcutt lit the Christ candle and led the
delegates in an opening prayer.

1 **3. CALL TO ORDER**

2 Moderators Dick Harter and Paul Rivera jointly
3 called the fourth plenary of the Twenty Third Gen-
4 eral Synod and the General Assembly to order at
5 8:52 a.m.
6

7 **4. SPEAK OUT!**

8 Moderator Rivera informed delegates that Speak
9 Out! would again include five United Church
10 of Christ speakers and five Disciples of Christ
11 speakers.
12

13 The five speakers from the United Church of Christ
14 were:

15 Ms. Betty Jane Bailey (CAC) spoke on the crisis
16 in the Middle East and the ethnic cleansing in Pal-
17 estine;
18

19 Ms. Kimberly Mather (CONN), speaking on be-
20 half of the Conference Youth, expressed strong op-
21 position to those who might consider AIDS a pun-
22 ishment for “the sin of homosexuality”;
23

24 The Rev. Mary J. Fairley (IL) reported on the ac-
25 tion of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Con-
26 ference, declaring the Rev. Sterling Cary the first
27 African American Conference Minister *Emeritus*;
28

29 Ms. Mary Alice Butkofsky (PC) spoke in support
30 of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
31 (TANF) and the Decade to End Poverty; and
32

33 Mr. William Ingraham (MICH), who talked about
34 efforts to raise money to support lesbian, gay, bi-
35 sexual, and transgender issues by pledging money
36 based on the time that the Outside Protestors are
37 there.
38

39 Speakers from the Christian Church (Disciples of
40 Christ) addressed the Middle East, Disciples Men,
41 the Young Adult Fellowship, and homosexuality.
42

43 **5. RECOMMENDATION TO THE CHURCHES**
44 **FOR A NEW RELATIONSHIP—CHURCHES**
45 **UNITING IN CHRIST**

46 Moderators Dick Harter and Paul Rivera reviewed
47 the procedures for conducting business in a joint
48 session of the General Synod/Assembly. There
49 would be separate discussion times for the United
50 Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Dis-
51 ciples of Christ) and, following the discussions,
52 separate votes would be taken.
53

54 Mr. Harter identified the next item of business as
55 “Churches Uniting in Christ.” He gave an over-
56 view of the issue and called on John Thomas and
57 Dick Hamm to introduce Ecumenical Guests who
58 supported the adoption of this resolution:
59

The Rev. Kevin Calloway, African Methodist Epis-
copal Church

Ms. Frieda Moss, African Methodist Episcopal
Zion Church
The Rev. Ross Stuckey, Episcopal Church (U.S.A.)
The Rev. Gerald Brown, International Council of
Community Churches
Ms. Dorothy Barnard, Presbyterian Church
Bishop Fritz Mutti, United Methodist Church

Before proceeding to the discussion of the resolution,
Moderator Harter thanked the Committee Process
Facilitators and asked all of the Committee Chairs to
rise and be recognized. Mr. Harter then called on the
Rev. Dennis Frische-Mouri (IK), Chair of Committee
One, to present the recommended action on behalf of
Committee One. The Rev. Frische-Mouri moved that
the Twenty-third General Synod adopt the “Recom-
mendation to the Churches for a New Relationship—
Churches Uniting in Christ.” The Rev. Frische-Mouri
spoke to the motion and there was additional discus-
sion from the floor.

In accordance with the procedures agreed to, the Chris-
tian Church (Disciples of Christ) General Assembly
then held extensive discussion on this item.

Following discussion, Mr. Harter called for the Gen-
eral Synod vote.

01-GS-13 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod
adopts the resolution, “Recommendation to the
Churches for a New Partnership—Churches Uniting
in Christ, Consultation on Church Union.”

**Recommendation to the Churches for a New
Relationship—Churches Uniting in Christ**

The Executive Committee of the Consultation on
Church Union (COCU), acting on the mandate given
by the Consultation's Eighteenth Plenary (St. Louis,
January, 1999)

(1) commends to the member churches the following
proposal for a new relationship among them to be called
Churches Uniting in Christ, and

(2) requests that they approve this proposal in their
appropriate decision-making bodies in order that they
together may inaugurate Churches Uniting in Christ
through public declaration and liturgical celebration
during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in the
year 2002.

This proposal for inauguration of Churches Uniting in
Christ is excerpted from the full report of the Eigh-
teenth Plenary. It is also dependent on, and intended to
be fully consistent with, COCU's other foundational
documents: *COCU Consensus* (CC) and *Churches in
Covenant Communion* (CCC). These texts, in turn, are
deeply indebted to work done in other parts of the ecu-
menical movement, especially the World Council of
Churches' text *Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry*.

1 Entering into Churches Uniting in Christ means
2 that the participating churches will express their
3 relationship with one another through the follow-
4 ing visible marks:

5
6 1. Mutual recognition of each other as authentic
7 expressions of the one church of Jesus Christ. Spe-
8 cifically this means that the participating churches
9 will publicly recognize the following in one an-
10 other:

11 faith in one God who through Word and in the Spirit
12 creates, redeems, and sanctifies;

13 commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior and as the
14 incarnate and risen Lord;

15 faithfulness to the Holy Scripture, which testifies
16 to tradition and to which tradition testifies
17 as containing all things necessary for our
18 salvation, as well as being the rule and ulti-
19 mate standard of faith;

20 commitment to faithful participation in the two
21 sacraments ordained by Jesus Christ, Baptism
22 and the Lord's Supper;

23 commitment to the evangelical and prophetic
24 mission of God and to God's reign of justice
25 and peace; and

26 grateful acceptance of the ministry that the Holy
27 Spirit has manifestly given to the churches.

28
29 2. Mutual recognition of members in one Baptism.
30 This also implies a recognition of the ministry that
31 all believers share in the common priesthood and
32 from which God calls those members who will be
33 ordained.

34
35 3. Mutual recognition that each affirms the apos-
36 tolic faith of Scripture and tradition that is ex-
37 pressed in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds and
38 that each seeks to give witness to the apostolic faith
39 in its life and mission.

40
41 4. Provision for celebration of the Eucharist to-
42 gether with intentional regularity. This recognizes
43 that the sacrament is at the heart of the church's
44 life. Shared celebration of the Lord's Supper is a
45 sign of unity in Christ. As Christians gather in all
46 their diversity at one table of the Lord, they give
47 evidence that their communion is with Christ and
48 that they are in communion with one another in
49 Christ. When Christians are unable or unwilling to
50 partake together of the one Eucharist, they witness
51 against themselves and give a visible demonstra-
52 tion of the brokenness of Christ's body and the
53 human community.

54
55 5. Engagement together in Christ's mission on a
56 regular and intentional basis, especially a shared
57 mission to combat racism. The church engages in
58 Christ's mission through worship, proclamation of
59 the gospel, evangelism, education, and action that
embodies God's justice, peace, and love. The com-
mitment made by the members of Churches

Uniting in Christ includes all of these so that hearts
and minds may be changed. The participating churches
will also recognize, however, a particular and emphatic
call to "erase racism" by challenging the system of
white privilege that has so distorted life in this society
and in the churches themselves. Indeed, this call is a
hallmark of the new relationship.

6. Intentional commitment to promote unity with
wholeness and to oppose all marginalization and ex-
clusion in church and society based on such things as
race, age, gender, forms of disability, sexual orienta-
tion, and class.

7. Appropriate structures of accountability and appro-
priate means for consultation and decision-making.
While some provision must be made for effecting the
marks of the new relationship and for holding the
churches mutually accountable to the commitments
they have made, the structures developed for these
purposes should be flexible and adapted to local cir-
cumstances. Apart from ongoing structures, the mem-
bers of Churches Uniting in Christ may want to as-
semble from time to time in order to consider pressing
issues and to bear witness together on matters of com-
mon concern.

8. An ongoing process of theological dialogue. Such
dialogue will specifically attempt:

to clarify theological issues identified by the members
of Churches Uniting in Christ in order to strengthen
their shared witness to the apostolic faith.

to deepen the participating churches' understanding of
racism in order to make an even more compelling case
against it.

to provide a foundation for the mutual recognition and
reconciliation of ordained ministry by the members of
Churches Uniting in Christ by the year 2007.

As we undertake the dialogue regarding ministerial
recognition and reconciliation, the following para-
graphs will serve as the framework and starting point
for our discussions.

Mutual *recognition* of ordained ministry means "that
the participating churches will publicly recognize that
one another's ordained ministries are given by God as
instruments of God's grace, that these ministries seek
to be faithful to Jesus Christ, and that these ministries
possess not only the inward call of the Spirit by also
Christ's commission through this body, the church" (St.
Louis Plenary Report, para. 43). Mutual *reconciliation*,
following and building on such recognition, means ad-
ditionally that "the ordained ministries of each
covenanting church become one ministry of Jesus
Christ in relation to all" such that "the ministry of one
may function, whenever invited, as a ministry to all"
(CCC, ch. 4, para. 21).

1 Chapter 7 of the *COCU Consensus* makes clear
2 the intention of COCU members to adopt the three-
3 fold ministry of bishop, presbyter, and deacon as
4 part of the process of ministerial reconciliation “in
5 ways appropriate to the differing traditions of the
6 uniting churches and to future needs of their com-
7 mon mission” (CC, ch. 7, para. 44). The text notes
8 that the churches may use different nomenclature
9 (para. 42), but the three-fold ordering must be suf-
10 ficiently evident that the ministries of the churches
11 are fully inter-changeable.

12
13 The *COCU Consensus and Churches in Covenant*
14 *Communion* also affirm that a reconciled ministry
15 shall include bishops who “stand in continuity with
16 the historic ministry of bishops as that ministry has
17 been maintained through the ages” (CC, ch. 7, para.
18 48). This historic succession is understood as one
19 sign of the apostolicity the churches confess. The
20 churches thus seek to be reconciled in such a way
21 that the wider Christian world can understand their
22 relationship to be what is commonly known as full
23 communion.

24
25 The documents insist that “uniformity among sev-
26 eral church polities is not essential to covenant
27 communion” (CCC, ch. 4, para. 19) and that it is
28 the responsibility of each of the participating
29 churches “to determine how its present categories
30 of ordained ministry relate to the historic catego-
31 ries [of the three-fold ministry] set forth in the
32 *COCO Consensus*, chapter 7” (para. 28). The pur-
33 pose of dialogue would be to explore how much
34 diversity is possible consistent with the framework
35 for reconciliation set forth in the COCU documents.
36 This is particularly important since, in an earlier
37 phase of the consultation, it was anticipated that
38 “the ordering of ministry outlined in chapter 7 will
39 first begin to appear concretely in the councils of
40 oversight [later called covenanting councils]”
41 (“Note on the Function of Chapter 7,” first edi-
42 tion). Since covenanting councils *per se* are not
43 envisioned as part of Churches Uniting in Christ,
44 this will obviously need to be reconsidered.

45
46 The reconciled ministry we seek should also:

- 47 • embody a commitment to justice, peace, and
48 the integrity of creation;
- 49
- 50 • be a demonstrable renunciation of the sins of
51 racism and sexism;
- 52
- 53 • provide adequate means for preaching and
54 teaching the gospel, presiding over the liturgi-
55 cal and sacramental life of the congregations,
56 and assembling, equipping, and watching over
57 the community (CC, ch. 7, para. 31);
- 58
- 59 • recognize and value the ministry of layper-
sons, including the full equality of both
women and men;

- enable the church to carry out its mission of
service and witness.

The relationship expressed through the visible marks
of Churches Uniting in Christ will not be structural
consolidation but a unity in diversity among churches
that, though many, will understand themselves to be
one community in Christ. From the moment of inau-
guration, the life of these churches will be visibly in-
tertwined as never before. From the moment of inau-
guration, their relationship, with God’s help, will not
be one of friendly coexistence and consultation but of
binding community that actively embodies the love of
Christ that ties them to one another.

The commitment of the churches to these marks of re-
lationship and to the ongoing process of theological
dialogue will enable the churches to inaugurate
Churches Uniting in Christ while yet confessing that
their work is not completed. The Executive Commit-
tee is confident that, guided by the Holy Spirit, the
churches will be able to respond to God’s call

- to witness more credibly to the apostolic faith
- to oppose the sin of racism
- to move toward the day when their ordained
ministries are mutually recognized and reconciled
in a relationship of full communion

It is the strong hope of the Executive Committee that
the reconciliation of ministry can be accomplished by
the time of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in
2007.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CON- SULTATION ON CHURCH UNION, OCTOBER 19, 1999

Moderator Rivera called for the General Assembly vote
and the Business Item was adopted.

Dick Hamm and John Thomas led the Synod/Assem-
bly in prayer.

6. RESOLUTION: REPARATIONS FOR SLAVERY

Moderator Rivera and Ms. Smith introduced the next
action, “Reparations for Slavery,” which would be con-
sidered by both churches.

The Disciples of Christ General Assembly held exten-
sive discussion on the issue.

Moderator Harter called on David Cavanaugh (CANV,
S), Chair of Committee Two, to present the recom-
mended action of the Committee. Mr. Cavanaugh noted
that the Committee had made amendments to the reso-
lution; these were contained in the red packet distrib-
uted to delegates. He then moved that the Twenty-third
General Synod adopt the Resolution “A Call for
Study on Reparations for Slavery” as amended. Mr.
Cavanaugh called on the Rev. Ann Marie Coleman

1 (ILL) to speak to the resolution and the
2 Committee’s amendments to it.

3
4 Mr. Harter called for discussion. There was exten-
5 sive discussion on both the Committee’s amend-
6 ments and the resolution as a whole. Harlette Wash-
7 ington (ILL) pointed out that reparations had been
8 given to other groups. Margie Galabrun (NH) said
9 that the pain of slavery could never be reduced to
10 mere monetary terms.

11 Following the General Synod discussion, Mr.
12 Rivera called for the General Assembly vote and
13 the Business Item was adopted.

14
15 Moderator Harter called for the General Synod
16 vote.

17
18 01-GS-14 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-
19 Third General Synod adopts the Resolution “A Call
20 for Study on Reparations for Slavery.”

21 22 **CALL FOR STUDY ON REPARATIONS** 23 **FOR SLAVERY**

24
25 WHEREAS the institution of slavery is interna-
26 tionally recognized as a crime for which there is
27 no statute of limitations;

28
29 WHEREAS uncompensated labor was demanded
30 from enslaved Africans and their descendants for
31 more than two centuries on United States soil;

32
33 WHEREAS reparations is a process to remember,
34 repair, restore, make amends for wrongs, recon-
35 cile, and can never be singularly reducible to mon-
36 etary terms; is an historical reckoning involving
37 acknowledgment that an offense against humanity
38 was committed and the victims have not received
39 justice; speaks to a corporate or individual process
40 to confess to a wrong, culpability, and accountabil-
41 ity for offenses that led to beneficial gains or harm
42 to others, and is to seek the pathway to justice from
43 confession to reconciliation, inclusive of apology
44 and moral, economic, political, and educational
45 structural adjustments;

46
47 WHEREAS the principle that reparation is the ap-
48 propriate remedy whenever a government unjustly
49 abrogates the rights of a domestic group or foreign
50 people whose rights such government is obligated
51 to protect or uphold has been internationally rec-
52 ognized including:

53 German reparations to the State of Israel for the
54 Holocaust

55 United States reparations to Japanese Americans
56 for illegal internment

57 Reparations by the United Kingdom to the Maori
58 people of New Zealand;

59
WHEREAS this violation of the human rights of
Africans has left a long legacy of subordination,

segregation, and discrimination against descendants of
slaves. In January 2000, the Commission to Study
Reparations Proposals for African Americans Act (H.R.
40) bill was presented in the United States House of
Representatives by Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.),
which states, “To acknowledge the fundamental injus-
tice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the
United States and in the thirteen American colonies
between 1619 and 1865 and to establish a commission
to examine the institution of slavery, subsequently *de*
jure and *de facto* racial and economic discrimination
against African Americans and the impact of those
forces on living African Americans, to make recom-
mendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies
and other purposes”;

WHEREAS in the century and a half since the aboli-
tion of slavery, the United States government has never
acknowledged or taken responsibility for its role in the
enslavement of Africans and the promotion of White
Supremacy;

WHEREAS the experience and legacy of enslavement,
segregation, and discrimination continues to limit the
life chances and opportunities of African Americans;

WHEREAS Christians must not only continue to call
for the release of the captives (Leviticus 25:52), but
also to proclaim liberty, bring good tidings to the af-
flicted, and build up the ancient ruins (Isaiah 61); and

WHEREAS General Synods of the United Church of
Christ have voted ten resolutions, statements, and pro-
nouncements on racism since 1963;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-
third General Synod of the United Church of Christ
encourages Conferences, Associations, congregations,
agencies, and ministries of the United Church of Christ
to join in active study and education on issues dealing
with reparations for slavery;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Justice and Wit-
ness Ministries of the United Church of Christ be called
on to develop a study paper with scriptural basis to
equip churches and individual Christians so that they
might urge local schools to adopt history texts that tell
the truth about the history of slavery, encourage them
to communicate to elected government representatives
their faith-based reasons for support of a formal apol-
ogy for slavery, and create a congressional commis-
sion for the study of reparations issues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third
General Synod calls on its General Minister and Presi-
dent, John Thomas, and other United Church of Christ
leaders to be in dialogue with leaders of other Chris-
tian denominations, other faith groups, and leaders and
activists in the secular community to raise this issue at
every opportunity.

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

4
5 **7. RESOLUTION: EPIDEMIC OF AIDS ON**
6 **THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA**

7 Mr. Rivera introduced the next item, "AIDS in Af-
8 rica." The General Assembly discussed the issue.

9
10 Mr. Harter again called on the chair of Committee
11 Two, David Cavanaugh. Mr. Cavanaugh moved the
12 resolution, "The Epidemic of Acquired Immune
13 Deficiency Syndrome on the Continent of Africa,"
14 and asked that the Rev. Pamela June Anderson be
15 granted voice to speak to the motion. Following
16 Ms. Anderson's remarks, there was additional dis-
17 cussion from the floor.

18
19 Business returned to the Christian Church (Dis-
20 ciples of Christ) and Mr. Rivera called for the Gen-
21 eral Assembly vote on the issue, AIDS in Africa;
22 the item was adopted.

23
24 Moderator Harter called for the General Synod
25 vote.

26
27 01-GS-15 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-
28 third General Synod adopts the Resolution "The
29 Epidemic of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syn-
30 drome on the Continent of Africa."

31
32 **THE EPIDEMIC OF ACQUIRED IMMUNE**
33 **DEFICIENCY SYNDROME ON THE CON-**
34 **TINENT OF AFRICA**

35
36
37 WHEREAS at the dawn of a new century and a
38 new millennium, we, as a faith community, believ-
39 ing in Jesus Christ, are called on to follow his
40 example and to heed his teachings, to tend his
41 lambs, to hear and respond to the loud wails and
42 the stifled cries of those who are suffering in our
43 world community;

44
45 WHEREAS at the dawn of this new century and
46 new millennium, the dread disease of HIV/AIDS
47 continues to plague the world community, bring-
48 ing particular suffering and devastation to our
49 brothers and sisters on the great continent of Africa;

50
51 WHEREAS in the last year, over two-and-one-half
52 million persons in Africa have died from HIV/
53 AIDS and related diseases, with every indication
54 that those numbers will increase in the coming years;

55
56 WHEREAS the suffering of women and children
57 in African countries has been particularly acute,
58 spawning the prospect of millions of orphaned chil-
59 dren in one generation, many faced with the task
of raising themselves;

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has declared
its passionate concern and support for all who are vic-
tims of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
(AIDS) and the opportunistic diseases it enables; and

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ is empow-
ered to convey its concerns and impact on the commu-
nities of local churches, as well as in the nation and in
the global community, and is empowered to impact on
public policy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-
third General Synod:

Calls on the United Church of Christ, through its pas-
toral leadership and through its Covenanted Ministries,
particularly Wider Church Ministries and Local Church
Ministries, to continue the commitment made in the
Proposal for Action regarding the Pronouncement for
Health and Wholeness in the Midst of a Pandemic,
which was adopted by the Sixteenth General Synod,
to wit, to provide information to local churches, Asso-
ciations, and Conferences on how the United Church
of Christ is responding to the AIDS crisis in Africa and
how these groups may further assist this response;

Calls on the United Church of Christ, through the Of-
fice of the General Minister and President and through
Justice and Witness Ministries and Wider Church Min-
istries, to convey to the President of the United States,
the Congress of the United States, and other appropri-
ate governmental bodies, the concern of its constitu-
encies about the AIDS crisis in Africa, and its advoca-
cy and support of any executive or legislative action
aimed at reducing substantially, or forgiving altogether,
the economic debt to the United States of America of
those African nations whose economies are overbur-
dened by same, and where the effects of the AIDS cri-
sis are particularly severe;

Calls on the United Church of Christ, through the
Office of the General Minister and President and
through the Justice and Witness and Wider Church
Ministries, to convey to the appropriate executive or
legislative bodies its advocacy and support of the imple-
mentation of international trade regulations that help
to reduce the prohibitively high cost and increase the
availability of HIV/AIDS treatment drugs in areas
where they are desperately needed.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Twenty-third
General Synod, in adopting this resolution of concern,
calls on the United Church of Christ to engage in mean-
ingful and prayerful dialogue with our partner churches
on the African continent and to actively seek to raise
the consciousness, awareness, and concern of the glo-
bal religious community in its efforts to ease the pain
and suffering caused by this terrible affliction to the hu-
man family.

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

4
5 **8. RESOLUTION: CONFLICT DIAMONDS**
6 **IN SIERRA LEONE**

7 Mr. Harter informed the delegates that the next item
8 of business would be the last common action of
9 the Synod/Assembly during the Plenary. He called
10 on Mr. Cavanaugh to present the committee's next
11 resolution, "Conflict Diamonds in Sierra Leone."
12 Mr. Cavanaugh moved on behalf of Committee
13 Two that the Twenty-third General Synod adopt
14 the resolution, "Conflict Diamonds in Sierra
15 Leone." He then yielded his time to the Rev. Dan
16 Hoffman, Area Executive for Africa of the Com-
17 mon Global Ministries, to speak to the resolution.
18

19 Moderators Rivera and Smith then facilitated the
20 discussion of this issue by the General Assembly.
21

22 Following that discussion, Mr. Harter called for the
23 General Synod vote.
24

25 01-GS-16 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-
26 third General Synod adopts the resolution, "Con-
27 flict Diamonds in Sierra Leone."
28

29
30 **RESOLUTION ON CONFLICT DIAMONDS**
31 **IN SIERRA LEONE**

32
33 WHEREAS, the human tragedy of war in Sierra
34 Leone cries out for an effective international re-
35 sponse;

36
37 WHEREAS, the Revolutionary United Front
38 (RUF) rebel movement in Sierra Leone, whose
39 brutality included cutting off the hands, feet, and
40 legs of children, has been sustained by the sale of
41 diamonds from mining areas under its control;

42
43 WHEREAS, the income derived from diamonds
44 correlates directly with the RUF's access to arms
45 to continue its brutal war;

46
47 WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ traces
48 its connection with Sierra Leone to the successful
49 efforts of 19th century New England Congrega-
50 tionalists in returning the crew of the Amistad to
51 that country; and

52
53 WHEREAS, both the United Church of Christ and
54 the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) continue
55 to support development and relief efforts of Sierra
56 Leonean Christians through One Great Hour of
57 Sharing and Week of Compassion grants;

58
59 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the
Twenty-third General Synod of the United Church
of Christ meeting in Kansas City in July 2001,

Calls on the United States government to fully support
the United Nations embargo on "conflict diamonds";

Urges that the international diamond industry move
forward to establish a system for certifying legitimate
diamonds and for prohibiting the buying, cutting, and
exporting of diamonds originating in rebel-controlled
Sierra Leone;

Appeals to the U.S. Congress to legislate a ban on the
importation of diamonds from any country that does
not have "rough controls" in place to prevent the mar-
keting of conflict diamonds;

Calls on our congregations to reflect on this critical
issue and advocates to secure the end of conflict dia-
monds as a means of sustaining the war in Sierra Leone,
not only through advocacy with the U.S. Government
and Congress, but also by communicating their con-
cerns to jewelers in their communities, toward the end
that dealers in diamonds, who have previously opposed
these steps, may be persuaded to support efforts to end
the trade in conflict diamonds;

Urges all parties to proceed toward a system of identi-
fication and certification that provides no hindrance to
the sale of legitimate diamonds, such a hindrance harm-
ing the economies of such nations as Botswana,
Namibia, and South Africa;

Requests Common Global Ministries of the United
Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples
of Christ) to provide educational and advocacy re-
sources to interested United Church individuals and
entities on conflict diamonds in Africa; and

Requests the General Minister and President of the
United Church of Christ to communicate this resolu-
tion to the U.S. President, Secretary of State, Assistant
Secretary of State for African Affairs, U.S. Trade Rep-
resentative, the General Secretary of the United Con-
gregational Church of Southern Africa, and the Gen-
eral Secretaries of the All Africa Conference of
Churches and the councils of churches in Sierra Leone,
Liberia, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, and the
United States.

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

Mr. Rivera called for the General Assembly vote and
the Business Item was adopted. Mr. Rivera reported
that this ended the business that had been submitted to
both the General Synod and Assembly and that busi-
ness would continue alternating between the business
of the two churches.

Mr. Rivera and Ms. Smith facilitated the General As-
sembly business item entitled "Justice and Reconcili-
ation to Comfort Women"; the item was adopted.

1 **9. RESOLUTION: STATEMENT ON**
2 **CONVERGENCE WITH THE ALLIANCE**
3 **OF BAPTISTS**

4 Moderator Taylor called on the chair of Com-
5 mittee One, the Rev. Dennis L. Frische-Mouri,
6 to present the recommended action of the com-
7 mittee. Mr. Frische-Mouri thanked members of
8 the committee for their work, briefly described
9 the work of the committee and moved the adop-
10 tion of the resolution, “A Statement on Conver-
11 gence in Matters of Theology and Practice be-
12 tween the Alliance of Baptists and the United
13 Church of Christ.” Mr. Frische-Mouri spoke
14 briefly to the resolution.
15

16 Ms. Taylor called for further discussion. Follow-
17 ing discussion, John Gage (CONN) offered an
18 amendment: “Be it further resolved that the
19 Twenty-third General Synod of the United
20 Church of Christ requests that the persons on the
21 dialogue team representing the United Church of
22 Christ engage in conversation with persons from
23 the Alliance of Baptist to explore how an inten-
24 tional ecumenical relationship will allow both
25 bodies to grow in their shared commitments to
26 becoming multicultural, multiracial, open and af-
27 firming, accessible to all, just peace communi-
28 ties of faith and. . . .”
29

30 After further discussion on the amendment, Ms.
31 Taylor called for the vote and the amendment was
32 defeated. There being no further discussion, Mod-
33 erator Taylor called for the vote on the main
34 motion.
35

36 01-GS-17 VOTED: The Twenty-third General
37 Synod adopts the resolution, “A Statement on
38 Convergence in Matters of Theology and Prac-
39 tice between the Alliance of Baptists and the
40 United Church of Christ.”
41

42 **A STATEMENT ON CONVERGENCE IN**
43 **MATTERS OF THEOLOGY AND PRAC-**
44 **TICE BETWEEN THE ALLIANCE OF**
45 **BAPTISTS AND THE UNITED CHURCH**
46 **OF CHRIST**
47
48

49 WHEREAS the Alliance of Baptists has been a
50 faithful witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ;
51 and
52

53 WHEREAS nearly six years of informal and for-
54 mal dialogue between leaders of the Alliance and
55 the United Church of Christ continues to reveal
56 significant shared theological convictions, poten-
57 tial opportunities for mutual support in common
58 mission, and a shared conviction of God's lead-
59 ing into a closer walk together;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-
third General Synod of the United Church of Christ
affirms the desire to develop an intentional ecumenical
relationship with the Alliance of Baptists which ex-
presses our common vocation, mutual friendship, and
developing collaboration through a covenant to be pre-
pared for formal affirmation in 2003;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Min-
ister and President be requested to name members of
the United Church of Christ to the dialogue team;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Min-
ister and President be requested to invite the Christian
Church (Disciples of Christ) to name up to two observ-
ers to this dialogue team; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the United Church
of Christ expresses its profound gratitude to God and
to the Alliance of Baptists for the promise of such a
rich relationship, to the end that together we may con-
tinue to seek the realization of Jesus' prayer, “that they
may all be one.”

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

Ms. Taylor granted the Rev. Stanley Hastey, Co-con-
vener of the Alliance of Baptist—United Church of
Christ Dialogue Team, voice to speak on the resolution
which had just been passed. Mr. Hastey expressed
thanks to Paul Sherry, John Thomas, and Lydia Veliko
for their work on the relationship. He also thanked
Richard Hamm and Robert Welch, who represented
the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the dia-
logue. Finally, he offered assurance that the concern of
the proposed amendment would be given attention.
There was a standing ovation.

Mr. Rivera and Ms. Smith moderated discussion
and voting on the next business item of the General
Assembly, “Farm Workers, Social Justice, and the
Church,” which was adopted.

10. RESOLUTION: CALLING UPON THE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO INITIATE
JUBILEE FOR JUSTICE FOR THE RURAL
UNITED STATES

Ms. Taylor called on Mr. Sol Codillo (MOMS), Chair
of Committee Ten, to present the resolution “Calling
Upon the United Church of Christ to Initiate a Jubilee
for Justice for the Rural United States.” Mr. Codillo
briefly described the work of the Committee and noted
minor changes in the resolution for the purpose of clar-
ity on lines 11, 18, 25 and 32 and also added the final
paragraph, which he read to the delegates. Then, on
behalf of Committee Ten, he moved adoption of the
resolution as amended in Committee. There being no
discussion, Moderator Taylor called for the vote.

1 01-GS-18 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-
2 third General Synod adopts the resolution, “Call-
3 ing Upon the Church of Christ to Initiate a Jubilee
4 for Justice for the Rural United States,” as amended
5 in Committee.
6

7 **CALLING UPON THE UNITED CHURCH**
8 **OF CHRIST TO INITIATE A JUBILEE FOR**
9 **JUSTICE FOR THE RURAL UNITED**
10 **STATES**
11

12
13 BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General
14 Synod of the United Church of Christ requests the
15 Justice and Witness Ministries to develop a coordi-
16 nated program of education and action to initiate
17 a Jubilee of Justice for the Rural United States,
18 implementing and updating past General Synod
19 pronouncements concerning the rural United States
20 and agriculture, and focusing attention on the im-
21 mediacy of action required to prevent the further
22 collapse of family farm agriculture and the com-
23 munities which serve agriculture; and
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such a Jubilee
26 for Rural Justice should give priority and empha-
27 sis to enable the United Church of Christ, its
28 churches, and its members, to engage in ministries
29 of advocacy for social and economic justice on
30 behalf of family farmers and rural communities,
31 to oppose industrialized and corporatized structures
32 of agriculture, and to work toward a vision of re-
33 newed prosperity and opportunity for a sustainable
34 and stabilized system of family farm agriculture
35 and rural society.
36

37 This should not only assist churches and commu-
38 nities to help the victims of these injustices to pick
39 up the pieces of their lives, but it also must address
40 the root causes by helping to create a just agricul-
41 tural system that appropriately compensates fam-
42 ily farm producers of our daily food, while ensur-
43 ing proper distribution of food resources to meet
44 basic human need and enhancing the long-term
45 stewardship of our land, water, and natural re-
46 sources for the future.
47

48 It should seek replacement of the 1996 farm law
49 with legislation that provides a meaningful eco-
50 nomic safety net based on the cost of production
51 returns targeted to benefit small and mid-size fam-
52 ily farmers, reestablishes viable systems of domes-
53 tic and international food reserves, assures com-
54 pliance with civil rights and effectively addresses
55 past discrimination, and establishes a 21st-century
56 homesteading program that will enable new, young
57 farm families to enter into the profession of family
58 farming and ranching.
59

It should seek the development of farm price-sup-
port structures that not only encourage and pro-

vide meaningful assistance to family farmers and ranch-
ers to establish and carry out sound conservation prac-
tices, but also it should reward these operators for im-
proved stewardship of land, water, and other natural
resources. At the same time, it should discourage the
speculative development or conversion of land re-
sources that cannot environmentally sustain such de-
velopment.

It should seek to address the historical dislocation of
Native American farmers from their lands and the pub-
lic discrimination that resulted in the dramatic loss in
the number of African American family farmers and
the acreage that they operated. Priority should be given
by the U. S. Department of Agriculture to create new
avenues of opportunity to help these and other minori-
ties to regain their agricultural legacy as family farm-
ers.

It should seek further discussion and rapid implemen-
tation of the recommendations developed by the Na-
tional Commission on Small Farms. These recommen-
dations, which are consistent with past pronouncements
and resolutions of the General Synod, should serve as
a central base upon which to rebuild the family farm
structure and a sustainable agricultural production and
rural development system.

It should provide resources by which consumers can
participate with producers in rebuilding local and re-
gional food systems both at home and abroad. It should
seek to build commonality between the struggles of
American family farmers and food producers in de-
veloping nations. It should enlighten consumers and
help clarify the injustices of existing food systems that
encourage industrialized food production systems de-
signed primarily for export to nations and societies that
currently struggle to produce adequate nutrition for
their populations. It should help both producers and
consumers to understand the forces of globalization
and how those forces can best be governed through
democratic processes.

The Justice and Witness Ministries shall be respon-
sible to develop the strategy and program for this reso-
lution, which may include mobilizing the existing Ru-
ral Task Force. They shall submit ongoing reports to
Twenty-fourth General Synod and thereafter as appro-
priate.

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

11. RESOLUTION: REDISTRIBUTING TAX
REBATES TO THE POOR

Ms. Taylor called on Mr. Timothy Clark (RM), Chair
of Committee Fourteen, to present the resolution: “Re-
distributing Tax Rebates to the Poor.” Mr. Clark noted
one typographical error in the revised version contained
in the red packet and then moved that the resolution be

1 adopted as presented. He then spoke briefly to the
2 resolution. After brief discussion, Ms. Taylor called
3 for the vote.

4
5 The Rev. Kwame Osei Reed (CAC) offered a
6 Friendly Amendment: “That Sunday, September
7 9, 2001, be designated as a National Day of Con-
8 secration in which members are given the oppor-
9 tunity to contribute their rebate checks to their
10 churches for distribution to Neighbors in Need,
11 church agencies, local human services agencies or
12 their local church crisis funds in order to address
13 both the cause and effects of poverty.” Prior to con-
14 sideration of the amendment, Ms. Taylor called for
15 the order of the day.

17 **12. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION**

18 Ms. Taylor welcomed back Ms. Nakashima Brock
19 and Mr. Bishop for theological reflection.

21 **13. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

22 Ms. Taylor announced that General Synod busi-
23 ness would be continued at the 2:00 p.m. plenary
24 and that the work on Committee Fourteen would
25 continue at that time. Ms. Taylor then called on
26 Dan Manworren and Edith Guffey for announce-
27 ments. It was reported that the Sunday evening
28 offering for AIDS in Africa had amounted to
29 \$34,976.

31 Following announcements, Ms. Bessler Northcutt
32 offered the benediction in song.

34 **MONDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 16, 2001**

36 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

37 Ms. Taylor called the fifth plenary of the Twenty-
38 third General Synod to order at 2:10 p.m. She called
39 on General Minister and President, John Thomas,
40 to share a concern about the Rev. Nancy Palmer,
41 an Illinois Conference delegate, who had been un-
42 able to attend General Synod because she was se-
43 verely ill. Word had just been received that her fam-
44 ily had removed life support and she had passed
45 away in the morning. Also of concern was a nomi-
46 nee for Assistant Moderator for the next General
47 Synod, Christine Smith, who was unable to attend
48 the Twenty-third General Synod due to the illness
49 of her mother. Word was received that Ms. Smith’s
50 mother had died in the morning. Mr. Thomas led
51 those assembled in prayer.

52
53
54 Ms. Taylor noted that in reporting the resolution,
55 “Calling Upon the United Church of Christ to Ini-
56 tiate a Jubilee for Justice for the Rural United
57 States,” one of the changes had not been read to
58 the delegates before they voted. The change was
59 on page 162, of the *Program, Worship and Busi-
ness Book*, after line 46 of the right-hand column.
Moderator Taylor read the change: the final para-
graph of the Be It Further Resolved should read:

“The Justice and Witness Ministries shall be respon-
sible to develop the strategy and program for this reso-
lution, **which may include mobilizing the existing
Rural Task Force. They shall submit ongoing re-
ports to the Twenty-fourth General Synod and
thereafter as appropriate.**”

2. RESOLUTION: REDISTRIBUTING TAX REBATES TO THE POOR

Ms. Taylor called on Kwame Reed (CAC), who had
proposed an amendment to the resolution on redistri-
bution of tax rebates. Mr. Reed noted that he was a
voice-without-vote participant and therefore was not
eligible to make amendments. He apologized for hav-
ing done so and asked that Mr. Charles Wildman
(CAC), be allowed to move the amendment that was
proposed before the lunch break. Mr. Wildman moved
the amendment that “Sunday, September 9, 2001, be
designated as a National Day of Consecration in which
members are given the opportunity to contribute their
rebate checks to their churches for distribution to
Neighbors in Need, Church Agencies, local human ser-
vices agencies, or their local church crisis funds in or-
der to address both the cause and effects of poverty,”
and spoke to the issue.

During the discussion, it was pointed out that some
people might not have received their rebate checks by
that time. It was further noted that churches had al-
ready been notified to work toward this goal and the
money spent to publicize the new date would be fool-
ishly spent. Ann Hurd (NY), member of the Commit-
tee, suggested that funding for advertisement would
be better spent on the poor. The amendment failed. Ms.
Taylor then called for a vote on the resolution.

01-GS-19 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod
adopts the resolution “Redistributing Tax Rebates to
the Poor.”

REDISTRIBUTING TAX REBATES TO THE POOR

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has sought to
bring peace through justice extended to all human be-
ings;

WHEREAS the Scriptures call people of faith to be
caring for the poor as God has done: “For the Lord
your God is God of gods and Lord of Lords, the great
God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes
no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the
widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them
food and clothing” (Deuteronomy 10:17–18 NRSV);

WHEREAS the Scriptures call people of faith to share
in one’s harvest with the poor: “When you reap your
harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you
shall not go back to get it; it shall be left for the alien,
the orphan, and the widow, so that the Lord your God
may bless you in all your undertakings. When you beat

1 your olive trees, do not strip what is left; it shall be
2 for the alien, the orphan, and the widow. When you
3 gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean
4 what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan,
5 and the widow. Remember that you were a slave
6 in the land of Egypt; therefore I am commanding
7 you to do this” (Deuteronomy 24:19–22 NRSV);
8

9 WHEREAS the Scriptures record Jesus’ teaching
10 of the righteous feeding the hungry, giving the
11 thirsty a drink, clothing the naked, caring for the
12 sick and visiting the imprisoned: “‘For I was hun-
13 gry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you
14 gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and
15 you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me
16 clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was
17 in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous
18 will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw
19 you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave
20 you something to drink? And when was it that we
21 saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked
22 and gave you clothing? And when was it that we
23 saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the
24 king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as
25 you did it to one of the least of these who are mem-
26 bers of my family, you did it to me’” (Matthew
27 25:35–40 NRSV);
28

29 WHEREAS the delegates to the Twenty-third Gen-
30 eral Synod of the United Church of Christ are con-
31 cerned about the forthcoming distribution of \$300
32 and \$600 tax rebate checks to relatively wealthy
33 individuals and families, while up to 30 million of
34 the poorest working Americans less endowed with
35 material benefits than we will receive nothing;
36

37 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the
38 Twenty-third General Synod, reaffirms its commit-
39 ment to the poor by taking urgent action in this
40 timely situation, acknowledging that the ever wid-
41 ening gap between rich and poor must be lessened
42 in ways great and small that allow justice to help
43 build peace;
44

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-
46 third General Synod affirms the June 2001 letter
47 from the Collegium of Officers (attached) inviting
48 all who can live without the tax rebate to share all
49 or a portion of it with others;
50

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-
52 third General Synod invites the membership of the
53 United Church of Christ and others who are able
54 to join the Collegium of Officers in encouraging
55 those who can live without this tax rebate to share
56 all or a portion of it with others in one of the fol-
57 lowing ways:

- 58 • Neighbors in Need—meeting the needs of the
59 poor in the United States,
- One Great Hour of Sharing—meeting the
needs of the poor overseas,

- The Christmas Fund—meeting the financial
needs of retired clergy and their spouses,
- A local or Conference mission program of your
choosing, or
- Increased weekly or monthly giving to the church
to support the United Church of Christ’s year-
round, ongoing work on behalf of the poor through
Our Church’s Wider Mission; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we as delegates to
the Twenty-third General Synod commit to return to
our homes and churches sharing this call.

ATTACHMENT to Resolution:

Because of the tax cut recently adopted by Congress,
each of us in the collegium will receive a tax rebate
check within the next few months. As each of us con-
sidered how we might use that rebate, we were moved
and challenged by a letter from Rev. Allen Myrick, a
retired UCC missionary to Africa. In his letter, Allen
says:

*I hope that you will call to mind the growing gap be-
tween the rich and the poor; between those who are
financially secure and those who are not—a gap which
exists in this country and around the world. Recall that
the number of homeless people in America is growing;
and that the supply of affordable housing falls far short
of the demand. Remember that many children are hun-
gry and many families lack health insurance.*

*Think, too, beyond the borders of the U.S., of the
millions of refugees from oppression, wars and natu-
ral disasters. Consider that in many Third World coun-
tries the unemployment rate exceeds 50%, and that
AIDS and malaria are killing multitudes in Africa.
Recall how our partner churches overseas struggle with
very limited resources to be faithful.*

*Some of us need that tax rebate. But in a world of such
need; how many of us truly need it? How many of us
can justify keeping it for ourselves?*

The members of the collegium have decided that we
will give all or a portion of our tax-cut refunds to spe-
cial offerings or programs that support poor and work-
ing class people. After conversations with leaders
across the church, we ask you to join us by encourag-
ing UCC members who can live without this tax re-
bate to share it with others by giving through their lo-
cal churches in one of the following ways:

- Neighbors in Need—meeting the needs of the
poor in the United States,
- One Great Hour of Sharing—meeting the needs
of the poor overseas,
- The Christmas Fund—meeting the financial needs
of retired clergy and their spouses,
- A local or Conference mission program of your
choosing,
- Increased weekly or monthly giving to the church
to support the United Church of Christ’s year-

1 round, ongoing work on behalf of the poor
2 through Our Church's Wider Mission.

3
4 We have created a bulletin or newsletter insert that
5 you can copy to help you communicate this to your
6 members. If you have questions concerning this
7 initiative, please contact the Rev. Kathryn
8 Matthews Huey, Minister for Public Life, Stew-
9 ards-ship and Church Finances at <hueyk@ucc.org>
10 or by phone at 216.736.3855.

11
12 "To believe is to care. To care is to do" remains
13 one of the defining mottos of the United Church of
14 Christ. In the words of Allen Myrick, "Our gifts
15 can make a difference, and be one way in which
16 we tell the story of Jesus and his love."

17
18 John H. Thomas, General Minister and President
19 Edith A. Guffey, Associate General Minister
20 Dale L. Bishop, Executive Minister, Wider Church
21 Ministries
22 José A. Malayang, Executive Minister, Local
23 Church Ministries
24 Bernice Powell Jackson, Executive Minister,
25 Justice and Witness Ministries

26 **3. ELECTIONS**

27
28 Assistant Moderator Jaramillo explained that the
29 elections would be held in three stages, the first of
30 which was the election for the offices of Executive
31 Minister for Local Church Ministries and General
32 Minister and President. She called on Mr. James
33 Henry (OHIO), a member of the Board of Direc-
34 tors of Local Church Ministries. Mr. Henry moved
35 that the Rev. José A. Malayang be called by elec-
36 tion by the General Synod of the United Church of
37 Christ to a four-year term as the Executive Minis-
38 ter of Local Church Ministries and an Officer of
39 the United Church of Christ.

40
41 01-GS-20 VOTED: The Twenty-third General
42 Synod of the United Church of Christ calls by elec-
43 tion the Rev. José A. Malayang to a four-year term
44 as Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries
45 and an Officer of the United Church of Christ.

46
47 Ms. Jaramillo called upon Mr. Kekapa Lee, Vice
48 Chairperson of the Executive Council. Mr. Lee
49 moved that the Rev. John H. Thomas be called by
50 election by the General Synod of the United Church
51 of Christ to a four-year term as the General Minis-
52 ter and President of the United Church of Christ.

53
54 01-GS-21 VOTED: The Twenty-third General
55 Synod elects the Rev. John H. Thomas to a four-
56 year term as the General Minister and President of
57 the United Church of Christ.

58
59 The Assistant Moderator then called on Mr. Arthur
Clyde, who led the delegation in a song of cele-
bration. Ms. Jaramillo recognized Mr. Anderson

to continue the election process. Mr. Anderson ex-
plained that the second stage of elections was for un-
contested positions. He moved that the Twenty-third
General Synod elect the nominees for the Moderators,
the nominees for the Executive Council, and the nomi-
nees for the Boards of Directors for Justice and Wit-
ness Ministries, Local Church Ministries, and Wider
Church Ministries.

01-GS-22 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod
elects the nominees for the Moderators, the nominees
for the Executive Council, and the nominees for the
Boards of Directors for Justice and Witness Ministries,
Local Church Ministries, and Wider Church Ministries.

Mr. Anderson asked the Tellers to distribute the ballots
for the contested positions for the General Synod Nomi-
nating Committee. He noted that under the category of
Clergy, Susan Henderson was an African American,
not a European American as indicated in the materials.
He explained that there were two sets of names on the
ballots, those to be elected from Conferences and those
to be elected from Groups. He clarified for the dele-
gates the number of people from each group to be
elected. At the completion of the voting, Ms. Jaramillo
stated that the results would be announced on Tuesday
morning during the plenary.

40 **4. SPEAK OUT!**

Ms. Jaramillo called upon the participants for the Speak
Out!

Ms. Candi Cain Borgman (PSE) and Ms. Betsy Wood-
ward (CANV, N) spoke about the Association of United
Church Educators.

Mr. J. Matt Deal (PW) and Ms. Megan Hoelle (CPC),
from the Student Ecumenical Partnership team, who
identified themselves as advocates for the partnership
between the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and
the United Church of Christ, encouraged the leader-
ship of the churches to be more aware of youth.

Ms. Billie Louise Bentzen (MA), from the United
Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries honored Ms.
Virginia Kreyer for her resolution which, twenty-five
years ago, resulted in the organization now known as
United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries.

Mr. Kent Meyer (MI) expressed concern over the dis-
cussions regarding homosexuality and the lack of love
and understanding on both sides.

Mr. Bill Nelson (MA) announced that Massachusetts
would have three Associate Conference Minister posi-
tions open, and invited all interested clergy to explore
this career opportunity.

Ms. Tanen McCaw and Ms. Megan Fuller (CONN)
spoke of their beloved conference center at Silver Lake.

1 Ms. Carolyn Edwards (NE) said that the Nebraska
2 Conference challenged the United Church of Christ
3 to select honored laymen as well as honored lay-
4 women.

5
6 Ms. Barbara VanAusdall (IS) reported that mem-
7 bers of the Illinois South Conference were at home
8 preparing for a trip to Ecuador. She noted that mem-
9 bers of both the Christian Church (Disciples of
10 Christ) and the United Church of Christ would go
11 together to work on a mission project.

12
13 Ms. Jenna Meisner (OHIO) spoke in favor of open
14 and affirming. Noting that the issue had torn the
15 church apart, she asked how people with differing
16 opinions could be brought together.

17
18 Mr. Jack Lynes (NH) announced that the New
19 Hampshire Conference would be celebrating its
20 200th anniversary on October 28. He asked for
21 thoughts and prayers on that date.

22 23 **5. RESOLUTION: OPPOSITION TO THE** 24 **SIECUS DECLARATION—RESOLUTION 1**

25 Ms. Jaramillo called on Ms. Suzi Townsley
26 (CONN), Chair for Committee Three, to present
27 the work of the Committee. Ms. Townsley spoke
28 of the thoughtful consideration that the Commit-
29 tee gave to the resolution and the discussion which
30 led to the Committee’s recommendation. She then
31 moved the resolution, “Opposition to the SIECUS
32 Declaration—Resolution 1,” and indicated the
33 Committee’s recommendation that the resolution
34 be defeated. She spoke to the recommendation,
35 sharing words written by members of the Com-
36 mittee.

37
38 Russell Mitman (PSE) spoke in favor of the
39 Committee’s call for defeat of the resolution, shar-
40 ing his respect for the Committee. He yearned for
41 a time of better discernment. Mr. Lewis (CA.SY)
42 expressed opposition to the SIECUS declaration
43 noting that Mr. Thomas did not speak for the Calvin
44 Synod. Carol Wassmuth (IA) said that many lesbi-
45 ans had come to her, as a nurse, seeking help in
46 dealing with the strain created by the way society
47 treats lesbians and gays. She shared her distress
48 with people who consider the love between two
49 people of the same sex perverted. David Runnion-
50 Bareford, Biblical Witness Fellowship, said that
51 sinners are in need of being saved; fellowship with
52 Jesus gives us fellowship with one another. Jeffrey
53 Brace (PNE) opposed the resolution, but expressed
54 concern about the conflict and hate. He asked for
55 greater understanding so that those in the church
56 might be a community of God and witnesses to
57 God’s love.

58
59 The resolution, “Opposition to the SIECUS Dec-
laration—Resolution 1,” was defeated.

6. RESOLUTION: OPPOSITION TO THE **SIECUS DECLARATION—RESOLUTION 2**

Ms. Townsley, on behalf of Committee Three, moved
the resolution, “Opposition to the SIECUS Declara-
tion—Resolution 2,” and reported the Committee’s rec-
ommendation that the resolution be defeated. She spoke
to the resolution, again sharing the words of the Com-
mittee members.

The resolution, “Opposition to the SIECUS Declara-
tion—Resolution 2,” was defeated.

7. RESOLUTION: COLOMBIA

Ms. Jaramillo reviewed the Standing Rules regarding
how far in advance of a vote delegates were required
to have relevant materials. She reported a request from
the Connecticut Conference, the proposer of the reso-
lution on Colombia, that the issue be addressed while
a guest from Colombia, who could speak to the resolu-
tion, would be in Kansas City. Ms. Jaramillo asked the
delegates if they felt prepared to discuss the resolution
immediately. Following the delegates affirmation, Ms.
Jaramillo called upon Ms. Petra Malleis-Sternberg
(SW), Chair of Committee Twelve, to present the reso-
lution “Colombia.”

Ms. Malleis-Sternberg drew attention to the resolution
in materials that had been distributed to the delegates
(yellow packet). She noted the thoughtful consideration
the Committee gave the resolution and moved the adop-
tion of the Resolution “Colombia.” She then yielded
her time to Mr. Ricardo Equivia, who spoke to the reso-
lution through his interpreter, sharing personal infor-
mation regarding the serious conflict in Colombia and
the need for the presence of others there to facilitate
peace.

Others rose to address the resolution. One speaker had
two children adopted from Colombia. She had seen
the effects on people who have been displaced, the
hunger, sick children, and environmental damage. She
had gone to Congress to tell the story. Charles Wildman
(CAC) had been hosted by Ricardo Equivia in Colom-
bia and saw the true poverty outside the populous cit-
ies. Mr. Chen (CONN) had been in a South Korean
city in 1980 and experienced a military operation where
almost 300 people were killed and over 2000 were in-
jured, including children. Julio Filomeno (RI) had many
Colombian members in his church. Over two million
people had been displaced, many had immigrated to
Rhode Island.

01-GS-23 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-third
General Synod adopts the resolution, “Colombia.”

COLOMBIA

WHEREAS the Psalmist proclaims, “How very good
and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity”
(Psalm 133:1);

1 WHEREAS Jesus in the Beatitudes taught his dis-
2 ciples “Blessed are the peacemakers for they will
3 be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9);

4
5 WHEREAS Paul reminds us of our unity in Christ
6 when he wrote, “For just as the body is one and
7 has many members, and all the members of the
8 body, though many, are one body, so it is with
9 Christ” (1 Corinthians 12:12);

10
11 WHEREAS on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2),
12 peoples of every nation on earth were present and
13 the Holy Spirit filled them and they had understand-
14 ing of one another, testifying to God’s power;

15
16 WHEREAS we are entrusted with the “ministry
17 of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:18) and are
18 called to be “ambassadors for Christ” (2
19 Corinthians 5:20);

20
21 WHEREAS the Connecticut Conference and the
22 Central Atlantic Conference at their respective
23 Annual Meetings in 2000 have passed a resolution
24 of partnership between their Conferences and the
25 Mennonite Church in Colombia;

26
27 WHEREAS Justice and Witness Ministries, and the
28 Latin American/Caribbean Office of the Common
29 Global Ministries worked in collaboration with
30 Witness for Peace to send a diverse, interfaith del-
31 egation to Colombia from March 11–13, 2001,
32 which included 20 clergy and lay representatives
33 of the United Church of Christ and the Disciples
34 of Christ from around the country;

35
36 WHEREAS these delegates were told repeatedly
37 by leaders from all sectors of Colombian society,
38 including religious peace and justice workers, hu-
39 man rights advocates, representatives from indig-
40 enous and Afro-Colombian communities,
41 campesinos, and members of the business sector,
42 that the violence in their country is not about a “war
43 on drugs,” but rather is the result of economic chaos
44 due to widespread poverty and gross inequities in
45 the distribution of resources;

46
47 WHEREAS despite increasing efforts of the U.S.
48 over the past five years to reduce coca productions
49 in Latin America primarily through policies of
50 interdiction and aerial fumigation of crops, which
51 is causing widespread damage to the environment
52 in the Colombian rain forest and massive destruc-
53 tion of edible crops as well, overall coca produc-
54 tion has continued to increase over this period due
55 to a consistently increasing demand in the United
56 States; and

57
58 WHEREAS international human rights organiza-
59 tions, as well as the judicial branch of the Colom-
bian government, have documented that 80% of
the human rights violations and military violence

being perpetrated in Colombia at this time is due to the
paramilitary forces, which often act as an extension of
and in cooperation with the Colombian military forces,
who are being trained by the United States and who
are the primary recipients of aid through Plan Colom-
bia. (Plan Colombia is the U.S. government sponsored
aid package in the amount of 1.3 billion dollars in fis-
cal year 2001, of which 80% of this package is for
military purposes.)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates
to the Twenty-third General Synod of the United
Church of Christ urges Wider Church Ministries and
the Common Global Ministries Board to develop a
presence in Colombia in cooperation with ecumenical
partners to work for peace, justice, and human rights;
and develop a brief study guide for congregations on
the subject;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United Church
of Christ calls upon the National Council of Churches
and Church World Service to support efforts for peace-
making in Colombia and assistance to the displaced;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a national United
Church of Christ delegation, in cooperation with ecu-
menical partners, visit Colombia before the Twenty-
fourth General Synod and report to the church their
findings;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United Church
of Christ, in keeping with recommendations from the
United Church of Christ/Christian Church (Disciples
of Christ) Witness for Peace March delegation to Co-
lombia, calls on the members of its churches to urge
U.S. policymakers to stop all further military aid to
Colombia, and support a negotiated peace process
which includes all sectors; to reallocate funds previ-
ously spent on military aid to be used strictly for hu-
manitarian purposes; to stop any further aerial fumi-
gation of coca crops and instead support manual eradi-
cation, along with subsidizing alternate crop produc-
tion; and to provide adequate funding for drug con-
sumption prevention and treatment on request for ad-
dicts in the U.S. to reduce overall demand;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United Church
of Christ actively respond and allocate resources to help
alleviate the needs of the displaced families and indi-
viduals in Colombia; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the United Church
of Christ urges Justice and Witness Ministries to advo-
cate for humanitarian aid for the displaced in Colom-
bia; for peacemaking and human rights as our nation's
priority in relation to Colombia; and for focused atten-
tion on the relationship between drug usage in the
United States and the suffering of innocent people in
Colombia; and further urges Justice and Witness Min-
istries to advocate for drug education and increased
drug treatment centers in the United States.

1 Funding for this action will be made in accordance
2 with the overall mandates of the affected agencies
3 and the funds available.
4

5 **8. RESOLUTION: JUVENILE JUSTICE**

6 Ms. Jaramillo recognized Ms. Amarilys Ramos
7 (PR), the chair of Committee Four, to present the
8 resolution, "Juvenile Justice." Ms. Ramos noted
9 changes to the original document which could be
10 found in the distributed materials (blue packet). She
11 moved adoption of the resolution as amended in
12 committee.
13

14 Douglas Anderson (MASS) proposed an amend-
15 ment to change "sexual preference" to "sexual
16 orientation."
17

18 01-GS-24 VOTED: The Twenty-third General
19 Synod amends the resolution, "Juvenile Justice,"
20 to replace the words "sexual preference" with the
21 words "sexual orientation."
22

23 Sheila Whetzel (CAC) moved to amend the
24 resolution by changing the word "orientation" to
25 "identity."
26

27 01-GS-25 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-
28 third General Synod amends the resolution,
29 "Juvenile Justice," to replace the word "orienta-
30 tion" with the word "identity."
31

32 William Abraham (MICH) questioned the vote due
33 to confusion regarding what sign delegates were
34 to use when voting. The Assistant Moderator asked
35 the delegates to vote again and the decision to
36 amend was affirmed.
37

38 Ms. Jaramillo called for the vote on the amended
39 resolution.
40

41 01-GS-26 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-
42 third General Synod adopts the resolution "Juve-
43 nile Justice."
44

45 **JUVENILE JUSTICE**

46 WHEREAS children and youth are important
47 members of our families, churches, and communi-
48 ties;
49

50 WHEREAS Jesus reached out to the children with
51 love and compassion when his disciples sought to
52 send them away;
53

54 WHEREAS Jesus demonstrated through his min-
55 istry the importance of caring for offenders and in-
56 dicated our responsibility to do the same when he
57 said, "I was sick and you cared for me; I was in
58 prison and you visited me";
59

WHEREAS the criminal justice system in the United
States has adopted a more punitive approach to juve-
nile offenders in the last two decades;

WHEREAS in the last six years, forty-three states have
instituted legislation facilitating the transfer of juve-
niles to adult court, and all fifty states have laws al-
lowing juveniles to be tried as adults;

WHEREAS the juvenile justice system of the United
States arrests, detains, charges, convicts, and penal-
izes young people in an unfair manner, resulting in dis-
proportionate numbers of poor youth and youth of color
represented in the juvenile justice system;

WHEREAS the justice system, including the juvenile
justice system, has become a repository for people with
mental illnesses and behavioral disorders, but provides
little, if any, care appropriate to treating and healing
such illnesses, especially among young people;

WHEREAS youthful detention has been shown to teach
skill in crime and deceit rather than educating people
in high standards for life and ethical solutions to ad-
dress life problems, and youth engaged in the criminal
justice system often become enmeshed in such sys-
tems to their detriment, foregoing education and op-
portunity to the detriment of us all;

WHEREAS current legislative efforts are being made
in the United States to legalize the imprisonment of
children as young as ten years old for the commission
of felonies, and

WHEREAS the United Nations Subcommittee On the
Promotion and Protection of Human Rights resolved
in August 2000 that the execution of people who were
under the age of eighteen at the time of the crime "is
contrary to customary international law," and the
United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
(article 37(a), 1995) states: "neither capital punishment
nor life imprisonment without possibility of release
shall be imposed for offenses committed by persons
below eighteen years of age," but the United States
continues to refuse to ratify this convention, and youth
in the United States who committed crimes before the
age of eighteen are vulnerable to capital punishment
or life imprisonment; and

WHEREAS the teachings of Jesus hold us personally
accountable to care for those who have been victim-
ized and beaten down, as he illustrated in the story of
the good Samaritan, and taught us to love all people,
including those of us who have sinned, as he illustrated
throughout his ministry;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-
third General Synod of the United Church of Christ
expresses its concern for the injustices of the juvenile
justice system which affect the lives of many young
people and their families, and thanks those United

1 Church of Christ pastors, chaplains, and members
2 who provide support for juvenile offenders and
3 their families;

4
5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Twenty-
6 third General Synod of the United Church of Christ
7 affirms advocacy for fair and appropriate treatment
8 of youth, especially as they are involved with or at
9 risk for involvement with the criminal justice sys-
10 tem, and encourages the provision of pastoral care,
11 communities of Christian love, healthy alternatives
12 to criminal involvement, and strong and effective
13 leadership for our youth;

14
15 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Twenty-
16 third General Synod of the United Church of Christ
17 calls upon Justice and Witness Ministries, in part-
18 nership with other national organizations and agen-
19 cies addressing issues of juvenile justice, to rigor-
20 ously seek to advocate for just, appropriate, and
21 ethical methods to address juvenile crimes and to
22 reduce the excessive use of police force, racial pro-
23 filing, and substantial biases in the criminal jus-
24 tice system that favor some and disfavor others
25 according to class, race, ethnicity, sexual identity,
26 physical and/or mental ability, heritage, or other
27 general classifications;

28
29 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Twenty-
30 third General Synod of the United Church of Christ
31 calls upon Justice and Witness Ministries, in co-
32 operation with local churches, Associations, Con-
33 ferences, other covenanted ministries, the United
34 Church of Christ Urban Ministries Network, and
35 other appropriate groups, to encourage visitation,
36 counseling, ongoing pastoral care, and education
37 for youth in the criminal justice system or who are
38 at risk for crime;

39
40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Twenty-
41 third General Synod of the United Church of Christ
42 calls upon Justice and Witness Ministries to work
43 collaboratively and in an ecumenical and interfaith
44 spirit with other religious communities and groups
45 to encourage effective diversion and counseling
46 programs and advocate for restorative justice prin-
47 ciples as alternatives to incarceration of youth; and

48
49 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Twenty-
50 third General Synod of the United Church of Christ
51 calls upon Justice and Witness Ministries, in part-
52 nership with local, state, and national organizations,
53 to continue to work with legislative bodies to ad-
54 vocate fair and effective legislation to protect ju-
55 veniles from early convictions and imprisonment,
56 life sentences, and capital punishment, and to edu-
57 cate, protect, and provide opportunities for the well-
58 being of our future generations.

59
Funding for this action will be made in accordance
with the overall mandates of the affected agencies
and the funds available.

9. BUDGET ALLOCATIONS FOR 2001–2003

Ms. Jaramillo recognized Mr. Ray Young (MONT-NO. WYO), Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee of the Executive Council, who moved that the General Synod recess for an open hearing on the proposed Budget Allocation.

01-GS-27 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod agrees to recess for an open hearing on the proposed Budget Allocation.

10. OPEN HEARING ON THE BUDGET

Kathy Houston, Treasurer for Local Church Ministries; Ann Kiernozek, Treasurer for Wider Church Ministries; and William Morgan, Chief Financial Officer, explained the proposed budget, providing historical information on Our Church's Wider Mission and then answered questions from the delegates.

Following the Open Hearing, Ms. Jaramillo called the Synod back to order. Following a brief break, she turned over the Moderator's gavel to Assistant Moderator Harter.

11. REPORT ON THE COST OF RESTRUCTURE

Mr. Harter invited General Minister and President, John Thomas, to present a report on the cost of restructure. Mr. Thomas reminded the delegates that the report could be found on pages 82–84 of the *Program, Worship and Business Book*. He expressed gratitude to Mr. Robert Witham, who had given outstanding leadership to the restructure process. The Synod gave Mr. Witham a standing ovation. Mr. Thomas shared some of the highlights of the transition that could not be adequately expressed through the report. There were two reasons that the costs were more than had been projected: first, the severance package that was offered to people who were no longer employed as a result of the restructure and the number of people eligible for the severance package; and second, the major reconfiguration of office space. Mr. Thomas explained how the overexpenditure would be covered with unrestricted endowment funds and reserves of the Covenanted Ministries.

12. RESOLUTION: DECLARING JUBILEE, A CALL FOR A NEW DAY IN THE SPIRIT OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Mr. Harter recognized the Rev. Dannie Williams (SOC), Chair of Committee Seven. Mr. Williams spoke of the work of the Committee and moved the adoption of the resolution, "Declaring Jubilee: A Call for a New Day in the Spirit of the United Church of Christ." On behalf of the Committee, he recommended that the General Synod take no action.

There was some confusion among the delegates as to what a vote of no action on the resolution would mean. Brief discussion of the pros and cons followed. Ms. Sarah Smith, representing Ministers in Higher Educa-

1 tion, noted that United Church of Christ students
2 are proud of their church because of the historic
3 stance the United Church of Christ had taken. She
4 said the work of many years should not be undone.
5 Ron Page (LCM) called for the question.

6
7 The resolution, “Declaring Jubilee: A Call for a
8 New Day in the Spirit of the United Church of
9 Christ,” was defeated with abstentions.

10
11 **13. RESOLUTION: NEWS MEDIA GUIDE-**
12 **LINES**

13 Mr. Williams moved the adoption of the resolu-
14 tion “News Media Guidelines.” He reported the
15 Committee’s recommendation to defeat the reso-
16 lution.

17
18 The resolution, “News Media Guidelines,” was de-
19 feated.

20
21 **14. RESOLUTION: MUTUAL RESPECT**
22 **WITHIN THE FAITH COMMUNITY**

23 Mr. Williams presented the final action of Com-
24 mittee Seven by moving that the General Synod
25 adopt the resolution, “Mutual Respect within the
26 Faith Community.” On behalf of Committee Seven,
27 he recommended that the General Synod refer this
28 item of business to the Executive Council for fur-
29 ther study.

30
31 An attempt was made to amend the resolution, but
32 this was ruled out of order because of the recom-
33 mendation to refer the resolution.

34
35 01-GS-28 VOTED: The Twenty-third General
36 Synod refers the resolution, “Mutual Respect
37 within the Faith Community,” to the Executive
38 Council.

39
40
41 **MUTUAL RESPECT WITHIN THE FAITH**
42 **COMMUNITY**

43
44 WHEREAS the polity of the United Church of
45 Christ provides that each local church maintains
46 its own autonomy while being bound together in
47 structure and in faith;

48
49 WHEREAS there is a historic tradition within our
50 denomination and our parent denominations, in-
51 stituted by our forebears who sought a liberty of
52 conscience, which encourages each member to in-
53 dividually seek God and to form an understanding
54 of God's work and God's truth;

55
56 WHEREAS we have come to understand the
57 United Church of Christ as a denomination that
58 celebrates the diversity among us, which magni-
59 fies our strength, demonstrates our openness, and
mandates us to welcome all of God's people;

WHEREAS a failure to be sensitive to and welcoming
of this diversity sometimes causes great pain and dis-
tress to members or parts of the body of Christ within
the denomination;

WHEREAS the inability of the media and the public
to understand these individual freedoms and this au-
tonomy often causes misunderstandings or misinter-
pretations by the media and public when statements
are made by national, Conference, or Association lead-
ers and when press releases about actions taken by one
of our national or Conference bodies or the denomina-
tion are distributed;

WHEREAS our church can only grow in Christ through
this diversity if it is combined with the practice of sen-
sitivity and mutual respect for this diversity at all lev-
els of the United Church of Christ from individual
members and congregations up through and including
the national ministries; and

WHEREAS we seek to grow into that perfect state of
mutual respect;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-
third General Synod calls upon all national covenanted
ministries, Conferences, Associations, congregations,
and members of the United Church of Christ to be sen-
sitive to, recognize, respect, and welcome this diver-
sity within our denominational family, as we gather in
our congregations and at Association, Conference, or
national events and when public statements are made
or public actions are taken;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third
General Synod calls upon all national covenanted min-
istries, Conferences, Associations, and their spokes-
persons to constantly be in dialogue with individual
congregations and members, keeping them informed
of various actions, pronouncements, or statements be-
ing considered with opportunities for feedback when-
ever possible before such statements or press releases
are issued publicly; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Twenty-third
General Synod calls upon all national covenanted min-
istries, Conferences, and Associations to explain in pub-
lic statements or press releases that, because of the
autonomy of our individual congregations and our
structure, no national, Conference, Association body,
or officer thereof speaks for the 1.4 million members
as a whole.

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

1 **15. RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO (THE**
2 **BYLAWS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF**
3 **CHRIST)**

4 Mr. Harter called on Ms. Linda Miller-Pretz (PW),
5 Chair of Committee Nine. Ms. Miller-Pretz referred
6 delegates to the printed document on recommended
7 changes to *The Bylaws*. After recognizing the mem-
8 bers of the Committee for their work, she moved
9 the adoption of the recommended changes to *The*
10 *Bylaws of the United Church of Christ*. Ms. Miller-
11 Pretz yielded her time to the Rev. Charlotte Frantz
12 who explained that the proposed changes prima-
13 rily dealt with the restructure of leadership.

14
15 Mr. William Miles (WI) pointed out that some del-
16 egates had not received the information on the by-
17 law changes and moved that the General Synod
18 table the issue until Tuesday.

19
20 01-GS-29 VOTED: The Twenty-third General
21 Synod tables the motion to amend *The Bylaws*
22 until Tuesday.

23
24 John Corbin (OH) called for a recount of the vote.
25 Mr. Harter declared that the need to progress with
26 our work was important, and that it would be pru-
27 dent to move along and address *The Bylaws* on
28 Tuesday. The delegates agreed. Ms. Frantz asked
29 what items delegates needed to be prepared for the
30 discussion on Tuesday.

31
32 **16. RESOLUTION: PROGRAM FOR ES-**
33 **SENTIAL CONFERENCE MINISTRY**

34 Ms. Miller-Pretz moved the adoption of the reso-
35 lution “Program for Essential Conference Min-
36 istry.” Mr. Jack Seville (WIS) and Mr. George
37 Worcester (NE), members of the Committee, spoke
38 in favor of the resolution. Ms. Betsy Bennett
39 (MASS) urged support and encouraged discussion
40 within the local church.

41
42 01-GS-30 VOTED: The Twenty-third General
43 Synod adopts the resolution “Program for Essen-
44 tial Conference Ministry.”

45
46 **PROGRAM FOR ESSENTIAL CONFER-**
47 **ENCE MINISTRY**

48
49 The Twenty-third General Synod affirms as basic
50 policy that all Conferences should have essential
51 Conference ministry to be able to accomplish the
52 basic responsibilities in the United Church of Christ
53 as outlined in the Bylaws. Further, the General
54 Synod affirms that establishing and providing
55 financing for the Essential Conference Ministry An-
56 nual Fund is a basic strategy for assisting
57 all Conferences to maintain adequate Conference
58 ministry.

**CRITERIA, GUIDELINES, AND PROCEDURES
FOR FUNDING ESSENTIAL CONFERENCE
MINISTRY**

The purpose of this resolution is to assist small membership, large geographical Conferences of the United Church of Christ to provide staff leadership for Conference ministry. This fund will enable Conferences to provide the capacity to engage in their necessary ministries.

1. Each Conference board of directors is to be responsible for determining its own staffing pattern and needs. If, after careful, genuine, and prayerful reflection, exploration and analysis, a Conference determines that it has the financial resources to fund only a portion or not any of an additional Conference minister, but that its ministry requires additional staff, the Conference shall then be eligible to apply to the Essential Conference Ministry Annual Fund to assist in its additional staffing needs.

2. The Essential Conference Ministry Annual Fund is solely for the purpose of finding additional or associate Conference ministry staff; it is not to be used for program, meetings, support staff, or general budgetary items.

Proposals to the Essential Conference Ministry Annual Fund shall be written by the respective Conference seeking the Funds. They shall gather and assemble all the necessary documentation they deem appropriate. The proposal should include information about the resources the Conference itself brings. The request for funds would then come from the Conference and be reviewed, first by their region,¹ to garner support.

3. Following these steps, the proposal would be forwarded to the Cabinet of the Council of Conference Ministers, the Office of General Ministries, and Local Church Ministries. The Cabinet and the national ministries, working together, shall be the decision-making body. The Cabinet is responsible for initiating and overseeing these activities. They shall review, discuss, and make further inquiry, if necessary, about each proposal. They shall review and award each grant, if approved, in a timely manner and expedient fashion.

4. The Council for Conference Ministers shall act as treasurer. Initially, the highest grant awarded will be \$45,000 annually.² Grants may be five-year renewable grants upon evaluation and recommendation by the region.

The General Synod requests the Office of General Ministries, Local Church Ministries,³ and the Conferences to participate in securing and/or providing \$100,000 for the Essential Conference Ministry Annual Fund in addition to the \$100,000 provided currently.

1 The primary implementing body is the Council of
2 Conference Ministers with financial and other
3 forms of assistance from the Office of General Min-
4 istries and Local Church Ministries.

6 The General Synod requests the Council of Con-
7 ference Ministers, as implementers of the Fund, to
8 report on its activities in its biennial report to the
9 General Synod.

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

15
16 **Notes:**

- 17 1. The six regions vary greatly throughout the
18 United Church of Christ. Therefore, it is
19 suggested the Conference ministers of each
20 region assume responsibility for determining
21 how the region will fulfill its responsibility.
- 22 2. Depending on the economy, this figure may
23 need to be revisited from time to time.
- 24 3. The procedure for review to be determined by
25 the Executive Minister of the Ministry.

27
28 **17. RESOLUTION: REAFFIRMING THE**
29 **TRINITARIAN BASIS OF OUR ECUMEN-**
30 **ISM**

31 Mr. Harter called on Mr. Dennis Johnson (MA),
32 Chair of Committee Five, who moved the adop-
33 tion of the resolution “Reaffirming the Trinitarian
34 Basis of our Ecumenism.” Mr. Johnson shared the
35 Committee’s recommendation to defeat the reso-
36 lution. While noting the importance of the Trinity
37 within the United Church of Christ, he said the
38 Committee felt that the basis for the resolution was
39 a curriculum, not really the doctrine of the Trinity.
40 He also expressed concern that no member of the
41 Unitarian Universalist Association was available
42 to speak to the issue. He rejected the “slippery
43 slope” theory.

45 The Rev. David Runnion-Bareford spoke in favor
46 of the resolution, affirming that the Trinity was
47 what the resolution was about. He expressed un-
48 certainty about the relationship with the Unitarian
49 Universalist Association. The Rev. Paul Ashby
50 (CAL S) welcomed all ecumenical partners, and
51 was joyful about the Unitarian Universalist
52 Association’s votes to abolish slavery, ordain
53 women, stand against gun violence, and march for
54 civil rights. He wished that they could have shared
55 in the dialogue. The Rev. Mary Ann Neevel (WIS),
56 a member of Committee Five, stated that the Ninth
57 General Synod took a stand expressing the
58 trinitarian faith of the United Church of Christ. At
59 no time had the General Synod taken action to
change that trinitarian belief. Ms. Donna Collins

(SOC), a member of Committee Five, said that the big-
gest problem was that the title did not agree with the
body of the resolution. The curriculum in question was
the basis of the problem. Mr. Zoltan Szucs (OHIO) said
that the resolution was unnecessary.

The Rev. William Miles (WI) called for the question.

The resolution, “Reaffirming the Trinitarian Basis of
our Ecumenism,” was defeated.

18. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Assistant Moderator Harter called the order of the day
and recognized Ms. Edith Guffey for the afternoon
announcements.

19. RECESS

Mr. Harter declared the fifth plenary to be complete
and the General Synod to be in recess until Tuesday
morning at 8:30 a.m.

TUESDAY, MORNING JULY 17, 2001
Joint Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER

Assistant Moderator Linda Jaramillo called the third
joint plenary of General Synod/Assembly to order at
8:38 a.m.

2. ELECTION RESULTS

The Assistant Moderator announced the results of elec-
tions for the General Synod Nominating Committee,
class of 2007:

Class of 2007—Clergy

Julia Tipton Rendon (IOWA)
Susan A. Henderson (NH)
Keith Mills (NOPL)

Class of 2007—Laypersons

Linda Bixby (MASS)
Elizama Velasquez (PR)
Joe Thomas (CANVN)

Class of 2007—Historically Under-represented Groups

Andrew Goedeken (CYYAM)
Mary J. Fairley (MRSEJ)

3. FINAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL: ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET AL-
LOCATIONS FOR 2002–2003 BUDGET YEARS

Ms. Jaramillo introduced Mr. David Anderson, Chair-
person of the Executive Council, who reminded the
delegates that the discussion of budget was a continu-
ation of the conversation from the previous plenary on
the Budget Allocations for the 2002 and 2003 budget
years.

1 Mr. Anderson moved that the Twenty-third General Synod adopt the budget allocations as presented for the 2002 and 2003 budget years. The Rev. William Miles (WI) moved to amend the motion to “increase the total budget allocation by 0.5% to be designated by the Office of General Ministries.” Following considerable discussion including questions about the source of income and the appropriateness of the amendment focusing upon a fixed figure when the original motion was allocated on the basis of percentages, the motion was withdrawn by Mr. Miles.

13
14 01-GS-31 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-third General Synod adopts the budget allocations as presented for the 2002 and 2003 budget years totaling \$12,500.00 and \$12,600.00 respectively. Percentage allocations are as follows:
15
16 OGM= 22.55%; JWM= 17.35%; LCM= 29.40%;
17
18 WCM= 23.65%; PB= 7.05%.
19
20

21
22 William Miles (WI) moved “to challenge the general church to increase the OCWM giving by 5%.”
23 A friendly amendment was offered, and accepted, to add the words “including Conferences” following the word “church.” It was reported that this increase would amount to approximately \$100.00 per church.
24
25
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30 01-GS-32 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-third General Synod agrees to challenge the general church, including Conferences, to increase OCWM giving by 5 %.
31
32
33

34
35 It was requested that a variety of financial information related to Key Bank as the repository of the funds of the United Church of Christ be made available, including such questions as the CRA rating of the bank, the number of women and minority members in the upper management of the bank, the number of women and minority members in the law firms representing the bank and the United Church of Christ, and the number of women and minority partners in those firms.
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46 It was reported that this information would be made available individually, and at the Executive Council at their October meeting if the request were made in writing to the Executive Council through the Office of General Ministries. It was also requested that the information be made available to the Conferences of the United Church of Christ.
47
48
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52

53 **STANDING RULES**

54
55 Mr. Anderson reported that the Executive Council would review the Standing Rules for the Twenty-fourth General Synod at its meeting in October 2001.
56
57
58
59

4. RESOLUTION: RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Assistant Moderator called on Ms. Linda Miller-Pretz, Chair of Committee Nine, who reminded the delegates that the delegation had previously considered this motion. Ms Miller-Pretz moved the adoption of the recommended changes to the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

01-GS-33 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-third General Synod adopts the recommended amendments to the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

Changes to the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ

Recommended Changes to Bylaw 183

183 Expenses of meetings of the General Synod, including the travel expenses of Conference voting delegates as negotiated with the Conferences, shall be borne by the General Synod. Other expenses of Conference delegates are the responsibility of the Conferences. Expenses of Covenanted Ministry voting delegates shall be borne by the Ministry they represent, excepting Conference Ministers whose expenses shall be the responsibility of their Conference. Expenses of Executive Council members named in paragraph 221a-d and 222b-c shall be borne by the Executive Council. Expenses of members named in paragraph 221e-l and paragraph 222d-f will be borne by the entity from which they were nominated to the Executive Council. Expenses of associate delegates shall be borne by the Conference or Covenanted Ministry they represent.

Changes to Bylaw 227

227 Vacancies occurring in offices, commissions, committees, and Boards of Directors of Covenanted Ministries of the United Church of Christ, or of the General Synod, or in the membership of the Executive Council, shall, unless otherwise provided, be filled temporarily by the Executive Council acting as the General Synod ad interim, such actions to be reported to the next General Synod.

~~Officers of the Church so chosen shall serve until ninety days after the next regular meeting of the General Synod. Others shall serve only through the next regular meeting of the General Synod. At that meeting, the General Synod shall elect persons for all temporarily filled vacancies.~~

Changes Due to Incorporation of the Office of General Ministries:

~~231 The membership of the Office of General Ministries shall serve as the voting membership of the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ.~~

1 238 The legal customary responsibilities and func-
2 tions of a corporate secretary and treasurer of the
3 General Synod of the United Church of Christ, ~~and~~
4 ~~of its Executive Council~~, shall be assigned to the
5 Office of General Ministries.
6

7 ~~243 All responsibilities and functions of the Of-~~
8 ~~ice of General Ministries, other than common ser-~~
9 ~~VICES, shall be carried out under the corporate au-~~
10 ~~thority and direction of the Executive Council.~~
11

12 242 Governance and Leadership Pursuant to para-
13 graphs 57–62 of the Constitution of the United
14 Church of Christ, the Office of General Ministries,
15 shall be incorporated and governed by a Board of
16 Directors. Its executive officers shall be the Gen-
17 eral Minister and President and the Associate Gen-
18 eral Minister, who are also Officers of the Church
19 called by election of the General Synod. It shall
20 act pursuant to the provisions as defined in the
21 Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of
22 Christ, its own articles of incorporation and by-
23 laws, and by the rules of its Board of Directors.
24 The Board of Directors of the Office of General
25 Ministries performs the functions normally asso-
26 ciated with boards of directors and such additional
27 tasks necessary to carry out its purposes and man-
28 dates, including the formation of associated auxil-
29 iary corporations. Pursuant to paragraph 59 of the
30 Constitution of the United Church of Christ, it has
31 legal corporate status for the purpose of holding,
32 receiving, and managing unrestricted, restricted,
33 and designated allocated funds and funds donated
34 to it from all sources. It is responsible for its ar-
35 ticles of incorporation and required corporate docu-
36 ments, and establishes its own rules and bylaws. It
37 has responsibility for organizing its ministries in
38 order to carry out its mandates, for providing nec-
39 essary staffing, and for determining the manner and
40 site(s) of its office(s). The Board of Directors may
41 grant authority to sub-units, ministry teams, or other
42 appropriate entities to speak and act on its behalf
43 within its own broad policy statements and those
44 of the General Synod of the United Church of
45 Christ. The Board of Directors may form task
46 groups representing a variety of groups of the
47 Church necessary for implementing its mission.
48 The Board of Directors shall consult regularly and
49 collaborate with the Boards of Directors of the other
50 Covenanted Ministries.
51

52 243 The directors of the Office of General Minis-
53 tries shall be the following then members of The
54 Executive Council of the General Synod of the
55 United Church of Christ:

- 56 1. Thirty-nine Conference Representatives, one
57 from each Conference.
- 58 2. One member from the Council for Racial and
59 Ethnic Ministries.
3. Eight members, one from each of the histori-
cally under-represented groups:

- Council for American Indian Ministry
- Council for Hispanic Ministries
- Ministers for Racial, Social, and Economic Justice
- Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries
- United Black Christians
- The United Church of Christ Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns
- UCC Disabilities Ministries
- The Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries

4. One high school-age youth.
5. One representative from the Council of Theological Education.
6. One representative from the Historical Council.
7. One representative from the Council for Ecumenism.
8. One member of the Board of Directors of the United Church Foundation, Inc.
9. One member of the Board of Trustees of The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ.
10. One member designated by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).
11. Six principal ministers of Conferences.
12. General Minister and President.
13. Associate General Minister.

244 Members of the Board of Directors of the Office of General Ministries serve on behalf of the whole church.

247 A nonprofit corporation shall be formed for the purpose of providing the above-described common services. The corporation, to be named the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ, shall be governed by its articles of incorporation, rules, and bylaws, and the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, and its actions must be consistent with actions of the ~~Executive Council~~ Office of General Ministries. The General Minister and President shall be the principal executive and the Associate General Minister shall be the operational executive of the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ.

- a) The membership of the ~~Executive Council~~ Office of General Ministries shall be the voting membership of the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ, and as such shall be responsible for electing the Board of Directors of the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ.
- b) The Board of Directors of the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ shall have not fewer than 13 nor more than 19 voting members, consisting of:
 - (i) members of the ~~Executive Council~~ Office of General Ministries in such number(s) as may be necessary to comprise at all

1 times at least 51% of all Directors of the
2 Common Services Corporation of the
3 United Church of Christ;

4 (i) General Minister and President, and
5 Associate General Minister. The General
6 Minister and President will serve as
7 Chairperson; the Associate General
8 Minister will serve as Vice Chairperson

9 (i) at least one representative from each
10 Covenanted Ministry (other than the
11 Office of General Ministries) and a
12 representative from the Affiliated Minis-
13 try, the Associated Ministry, and the
14 Council for Health and Human Service
15 Ministries, each nominated by the
16 respective Ministry.

17 (i) such individuals possessing pertinent
18 operational expertise as may be elected
19 by the voting membership of the Com-
20 mon Services Corporation of the United
21 Church of Christ;

22 c) The Board of Directors shall appoint such
23 committees, with such responsibilities, as it
24 deems necessary to carry out its work.

25 d) The membership of the Board of Directors
26 shall reflect the commitment of the United
27 Church of Christ to be a multiracial and
28 multicultural church, reflecting the racial and
29 ethnic diversity of society with a balance of
30 leadership between women and men, open and
31 accessible to all.

32 e) The corporate officers of the Common Ser-
33 vices Corporation of the United Church of
34 Christ shall be the following:

35 (i) General Minister and President, who as
36 President shall be accountable to the
37 voting membership of the Common
38 Services Corporation of the United
39 Church of Christ.

40 (ii) Associate General Minister, who as Vice-
41 President shall report to the General
42 Minister and President;

43 (iii) Treasurer, ~~a voluntary, unpaid position~~
44 who shall be elected by, and accountable
45 to, the Board of Directors;

46 (iv) Secretary, ~~a voluntary, unpaid position~~
47 who shall be elected by, and accountable
48 to, the Board of Directors.

49
50 248 Policy decisions related to the Common Ser-
51 vices Corporation of the United Church of Christ
52 shall be the responsibility of the Board of Direc-
53 tors, providing they shall not be inconsistent with
54 the policies of the ~~Executive Council~~ Office of Gen-
55 eral Ministries.

5. RESOLUTION: PENSION SUPPLEMENTA- TION FOR NATIVE AMERICAN ORDAINED AND LICENSED MINISTERS

Ms. Jaramillo called on Mr. Geoffrey S. Brace (PNE),
Chair of Committee Six, for the introduction of the
resolution "Pension Supplementation for Native
American Ordained and Licensed Ministers." Mr.
Brace moved adoption of the resolution and spoke to
it. After further brief discussion, the Moderator called
for the vote.

01-GS-34 VOTED with abstentions: the Twenty-third
General Synod adopts the resolution "Pension Supple-
mentation for Native American Ordained and Licensed
Ministers."

PENSION SUPPLEMENTATION FOR NATIVE AMERICAN ORDAINED AND LICENSED MIN- ISTERS

WHEREAS in 1819 Congress passed a bill providing
for a "Civilization Fund," which was the basis for
church-government cooperation;

WHEREAS an act of Congress in 1873 assigned to
the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign
Missions the responsibility for Protestant mission ac-
tivity on Indian reservations;

WHEREAS as the missionary movement discouraged
the development of leadership that could lead to self-
determination, Native American congregations have
historically lacked full-time Native American ordained
ministers to lead them and have relied on ministers,
either ordained or licensed, who have been compen-
sated at a part-time rate;

WHEREAS most of the approximately twenty Native
American ordained and licensed ministers serving
Native American United Church of Christ congrega-
tions today receive low salaries and thus can establish
no base for adequate retirement income;

WHEREAS these ministers serve small congregations
who cannot provide financial compensation compa-
rable to that provided to their non-Native counterparts
and thus have no basis for adequate retirement income;
and

WHEREAS in order to ensure a reasonable retirement
program for Native American pastors who have served
Native American United Church of Christ churches,
financial supplementation from the wider church is
needed;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-
third General Synod of the United Church of Christ
will honor the spirit of promises, pronouncements, and
commitments relating to compensation since 1973 and
direct the establishment of a program to ensure ad-

1 equate retirement income for Native American or-
2 dained and licensed ministers who have served
3 Native American congregations of the United
4 Church of Christ;

5
6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-
7 third General Synod calls upon representatives of:

- 8 • The Council for American Indian Ministries
- 9 • The Minister for Native American Relations
10 from the Office of General Ministries,
- 11 • The Racial Justice Ministry of Justice and
12 Witness Ministries,
- 13 • The Parish Life and Leadership Ministry of
14 Local Church Ministries,
- 15 • The Stewardship and Church Finances
16 Ministry of Local Church Ministries, and
- 17 • The Pension Boards

18
19
20 to meet and develop a plan for fair and adequate
21 pensions for those Native American Pastors who
22 have served, are serving, or will serve Native
23 American United Church of Christ churches as
24 ordained or licensed ministers, and processes for
25 implementing the plan, including the securing of
26 financial commitments, and administering the plan,
27 including the distribution of information to the af-
28 fected ministers and congregations; and

29
30 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that progress on the
31 plan's development will be regularly reported to
32 the Executive Council with a full report to Twenty-
33 fourth General Synod.

34
35 Funding for this action will be made in accordance
36 with the overall mandates of the affected agencies
37 and the funds available.

38
39 **6. RESOLUTION: PASTORAL COMPEN-**
40 **SATION**

41 Mr. Brace moved the second resolution of Com-
42 mittee Six, "Pastoral Compensation." Mr. Brace
43 noted the changes made by the Committee: line 28
44 of column two, delete the word "and" before "Just-
45 ice Witness Ministries" and add "and the Pensions
46 Boards of the United Church of Christ."

47
48 01-GS-35 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-
49 third General Synod adopts the resolution, "Pas-
50 toral Compensation."
51

52
53 **PASTORAL COMPENSATION**

54
55 WHEREAS Jesus Christ calls us to a ministry of
56 justice for the poor and liberation for the oppressed
57 (Luke 4:18-21);

58
59 WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has rec-
ognized that its ministry among the American In-
dian people of North America has not always been

one of justice and liberation (Ninth, Tenth, and Six-
teenth General Synods);

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ, through the
Council for American Indian Ministry, has taken mea-
sures to change the course of ministry with American
Indians from that of missionary dependence to a min-
istry of partnership in mission and ministry without
substantial participation of other United Church of
Christ bodies;

WHEREAS the current leadership within the United
Church of Christ American Indian congregations, lay,
licensed, and ordained, have been thus far excluded
from this more just and liberating ministry;

WHEREAS the ministerial leadership serving Ameri-
can Indian congregations continues to receive compen-
sation substantially lower than that recommended by
the respective United Church of Christ conferences as
fair and just compensation. For example, American
Indian pastors in the Dakota Association of the South
Dakota Conference received an average annual com-
bined salary and housing allowance of \$15,438.00 for
the year 2000, while the cash-base salary, not includ-
ing housing, for pastors with only one year experience
was recommended at \$22,219.45 for the same year.
Similarly, pastors serving American Indian congrega-
tions of the Fort Berthold Council of Congregational
Churches in the Northern Plains Conference received
an average salary plus housing of \$14,451.00 for the
year 2000, while the conference recommended cash-
base salary, not including housing, for pastors with zero
to three years experience was \$22,790.46 for the same
year; and

WHEREAS this compensatory disparity is tantamount
to economic and racial injustice within the corporate
body of the United Church of Christ;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-
third General Synod calls upon the Council for Ameri-
can Indian Ministry, the Office of General Ministries,
Local Church Ministries, Justice and Witness Minis-
tries and the Pension Boards—United Church of Christ
to begin an immediate review and assessment (con-
vened by Council for American Indian Ministry) of
the compensation plans currently in place for clergy
serving American Indian congregations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council for Ameri-
can Indian Ministry, Office of General Ministries, Lo-
cal Church Ministries, and Justice and Witness Minis-
tries make recommendations to the Twenty-fourth
General Synod and to Conferences and other appro-
priate bodies to correct the existing disparity in com-
pensation for clergy serving American Indian congre-
gations.

1 Funding for this action will be made in accordance
2 with the overall mandates of the affected agencies
3 and the funds available.
4

5 **7. RESOLUTION: PRESERVATION OF**
6 **THE MANDAN, HIDATSA, AND ARIC-**
7 **KARA LANGUAGES OF THE THREE**
8 **AFFILIATED TRIBES**
9

10 Mr. Brace, continued the report of Committee Six
11 introducing the resolution “Preservation of the
12 Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arickara Languages of the
13 Three Affiliated Tribes.” He noted the following
14 changes made by the Committee:
15

16 line 30, column 2: replace “our” with “the Mandan,
17 Hidatsa, and Arickara,”

18 line 31, column 2: replace “our” with “these same,”
19 and

20 line 32, column 2: replace “our” with “these.”
21

22 Mr. Brace moved adoption of the resolution.
23

24 Following considerable discussion, a friendly
25 amendment was offered by Ms. Deborah Shepard
26 (MASS) to “allocate a sum of \$30,000 to the Coun-
27 cil of American Indian Ministry to help support
28 the pilot language preservation program on the Fort
29 Berthold Reservation of North Dakota,” Mr. Brace
30 indicated that this could not be received as a
31 friendly amendment. Ms. Shepard moved the
32 amendment. Following further discussion, the
33 amendment was defeated with abstentions. The
34 Moderator called for the vote.
35

36 01-GS-42 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-
37 third General Synod adopts the resolution “Pres-
38 ervation of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arickara Lan-
39 guages of the Three Affiliated Tribes.”
40

41 **PRESERVATION OF THE MANDAN,**
42 **HIDATSA, AND ARICKARA LANGUAGES**
43 **OF THE THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES**
44

45
46 WHEREAS the Fort Berthold Council of Congre-
47 gational Churches has been aware of the steady
48 erosion of our mother languages and recognizes
49 that the loss of our languages has negatively im-
50 pacted our children, ourselves, and has destabilized
51 our communities;

52
53 WHEREAS the history of how this came about is
54 intertwined with the history of the church’s delib-
55 erate actions of Christianizing by eliminating
56 Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arickara religious beliefs and
57 practices, languages, and culture in their totality;

58
59 WHEREAS the federal government policy of del-
berately eliminating our cultural ways and lan-

guages enlisted the support of the church through its
Christianizing efforts among our people which, over
time, has succeeded in bringing our languages to the
brink of extinction;

WHEREAS the schools created and operated by the
church taught our children that speaking Mandan,
Hidatsa, and Arickara was savage and wrong, conse-
quently contributing to an internalized self-hatred that
has literally destroyed countless lives through levels
of depression and substance abuse and dependency;

WHEREAS in 1991 the United Church of Christ apolo-
gized to all American Indians, acknowledging its role
in accepting responsibility for the assault on all Ameri-
can Indian Tribes, but has not addressed how it can
rebuild trust and make reparation; and

WHEREAS our children deserve a life that is filled
with the richness and beauty of our culture, conveyed
through our mother languages, and deserve to speak
the language of their ancestors which reflects a posi-
tive self-image leading to self-assurance in life;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the United
Church of Christ in all its settings examines and ac-
knowledges its role in the destruction of the Mandan,
Hidatsa, and Arickara languages and the dismantling
of these same cultures and explores how it can be sup-
portive of preserving and reversing the loss of these
languages;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that since time is of
the essence, a pilot program at Fort Berthold Reserva-
tion be established to begin recording the Mandan,
Hidatsa, and Arickara languages immediately (there is
one fluent Mandan speaker remaining) and to assure
the use of language retention strategies at the follow-
ing levels:

Individual. Native speakers must be supported to help
latent speakers and nonspeakers learn the native lan-
guages by utilizing existing language materials and
creating new materials;

Family. Language immersion activities are to be
organized along with church and family-based activi-
ties—recording hymns, prayers, and so forth, in the
three languages for use throughout the church;

Community. Connecting fluent speakers with
nonspeakers, for example, in senior centers, linking an
elder with a child or clan relative interested in learning
to speak the language or promoting community meet-
ings and conferences about native languages and mak-
ing the languages accessible in the community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third
General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests
that Justice and Witness Ministries and Local Church
Ministries work with the Council for American Indian

1 Ministry to address the concerns raised in this reso-
2 lution.

3
4 Funding for this action will be made in accordance
5 with the overall mandates of the affected agencies
6 and the funds available.

7
8 **8. PRONOUNCEMENT: A UNITED CHURCH**
9 **OF CHRIST MINISTRY AND WITNESS WITH**
10 **MICRONESIANS**

11 Ms. Jaramillo called on Mr. Angel Toro (FLA),
12 Chair of Committee Eleven, who introduced the
13 pronouncement and noted the additional paragraph
14 added to the Statement of Christian Conviction,
15 which was printed in the “yellow packet” distrib-
16 uted to delegates. Mr. Toro also noted the Proposal
17 for Action, also included in the “yellow packet,”
18 which includes three changes:

19
20
21 page 8, column 2, line 23: add the word “else-
22 where” between “and” and “the United States,”

23
24 a new paragraph following the one cited above to
25 read: “Request that Justice and Witness Ministries,
26 in cooperation with partner churches, work together
27 to advocate for health care for survivors,”

28
29 page 9, line 23: change “the Assistant to the Gen-
30 eral Minister and President for Pacific Islander and
31 Asian American Ministry” to “the Minister for Pa-
32 cific Islander and Asian American Relations.”

33
34 Mr. Toro moved adoption of the pronouncement.
35 There was considerable discussion. Two persons
36 from the Marshall Island, Ms. Ella Ben and Ms.
37 Elma Coleman, the latter translating for Ms. Ben,
38 shared their experiences of having lived in the area
39 being addressed. The Rev. Saitumua Tafaioalii
40 (RM), a Samoan, shared insights he gained as a
41 missionary to the Marshall Islands. The Asian Area
42 Secretary of the Common Global Ministries re-
43 ported on responses received from partner
44 churches, the Korean Christian Church in Japan
45 and Kyodan, after they had reviewed a draft of the
46 pronouncement.

47
48 Mr. Jason White (OH) moved to amend the reso-
49 lution by inserting in the final paragraph after “we
50 confess our silent complicity,” the words “and our
51 unfortunate ignorance of.” Following discussion
52 the amendment was defeated. The vote on the pro-
53 nouncement was then called.

54
55 01-GS-37 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-
56 third General Synod adopts the pronouncement “A
57 United Church of Christ Ministry and Witness with
58 Micronesians” and the proposal for action.

APRONOUNCEMENT ON A UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST MINISTRY AND WITNESS WITH
MICRONESIANS

I. SUMMARY

For the last fifteen years, the United States of America’s relationship to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) has been defined by Compacts of Free Association (CFA). The Compacts for the FSM and the RMI are up for renewal in the year 2001. Although Guam, Belau, and the Northern Marianas are considered part of Micronesia, this pronouncement will deal only with the FSM and the RMI because of the urgent nature of the present, ongoing Compact renegotiations.

When the Compact was signed in 1986, Micronesians were not aware of the dire consequences that serving forty years as U.S. colonies and another fifteen years as neocolonies would have for the long term self-sufficiency and true independence goals of the FSM and the RMI. Furthermore, because of “dependency” systems and inequities—in the areas of health, education, and jobs—exacerbated and enlarged by U.S. trusteeship of the FSM and the RMI, many Micronesians are in exile in Hawaii and on the continental U.S. by economic necessity. For example, many Micronesians have moved to North Carolina and other places in the south to work on corporate chicken farms and in low-wage fast food service jobs.

Since the United Church of Christ Marshall Islands is the major denomination in the RMI, and the Congregational Church in Kosrae, United Church of Christ in Chuuk, United Church of Christ Pohnpei, and the Namoneas Congregational Churches Association all have partner relationships with the United Church of Christ (U.S.A.), the majority of Micronesians living in the United States consider themselves members of the United Church of Christ. Accordingly, this Pronouncement calls upon the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to welcome the Micronesians in our midst and to minister with our Micronesian sisters and brothers within our churches and our communities. The Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries (PAAM) has seen the significant participation and growth of Micronesians in the activities of PAAM in the last four years.

This Pronouncement also calls upon our UCC local churches and regional and national bodies to commit themselves to work towards full and just compensation for Micronesian peoples and the overturning of unfair provisions in the agreements during this crucial period of Compact renegotiations in the year 2001.

II. BACKGROUND

A. The Federated States of Micronesia

The Federated States of Micronesia is comprised of four island groups: Pohnpei, Chuuk, Kosrae, and Yap. In 1983, citizens of the FSM were asked to vote in a plebiscite on the Compact of Free Association with the United States. Pohnpei and Chuuk voted against the Compact, but Yap and Kosrae voted in favor of the Compact. While the Compact promises independence, its subtext reveals otherwise. As researched by British scholar Jane Dibblin in a book entitled *Day of Two Suns*, the Compacts of Free Association for both the RMI and the FSM were in fact a virtual U.S. annexation of the FSM and the RMI for military purposes, a denial of self-determination, and a shrugging-off of responsibility for past actions.¹ The U.S. has full authority and responsibility for security and defense matters, which includes the option of establishing military bases and facilities on the islands. Nuclear-armed ships, planes, and submarines have the right to pass through and stop over. Since U.S. security interests overshadow every consideration, self-determination is not a reality in the Compact. Pohnpei and Chuuk voted against the Compact because the people were desirous of a truly nuclear-free Pacific, free from any form of nuclear weaponry.²

On May 24, 1984, then Ambassador to Micronesia, Fred Zeder, testified to the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources that U.S. grants and services, which cannot be matched from other sources, would ensure that Micronesia would not be able to break free until the U.S. chooses to cut the knot of dependency.³ A paper was developed by Glenn Alcalay of Rutgers University in 1986 entitled “From Subsistence to USDA: Strategic Economic Dependence in Micronesia.”⁴

The military thinking behind keeping the FSM and the RMI economically dependent on the U.S. is clearly seen to benefit U.S. security interests. The U.S. is separated from Russia and China by the Pacific Ocean and the islands of Micronesia. The forward bases of Micronesia were also intended to draw fire away from the U.S. mainland, protecting it like “pawns in front of the king on a chessboard”⁵ in the event of war.

Since the FSM does not have a key base like Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands, it has fewer bargaining chips in Compact renegotiations. Under the present Compact, citizens of the FSM and the RMI can enter the U.S. readily without going through the usual immigration and naturalization processes. However, because the word “nonimmigrant” is used to describe the presence of FSM and RMI citizens in the U.S., the U.S. Attorney General’s office has chosen to interpret the word nonimmigrant as meaning not eligible for federal housing

and food stamp subsidies. Therefore, FSM and RMI citizens are forced to pay market rents in public housing so that many families are forced to pay approximately 50-60 percent of their gross income to live in public housing units. Furthermore, Micronesians are not eligible for Section 8 housing subsidies. Just recently, FSM residents in Hawaii were sent letters by the Hawaii Dept. of Human Services stating that effective November 1, 2000, food stamps would be eliminated for Micronesian children who were not born in the U.S. This action was taken despite the fact that FSM citizens are not deemed to be illegal residents in the U.S. And because the FSM has fewer bargaining chips than the Marshall Islands, U.S. negotiators are putting pressure on FSM negotiators to accept smaller compensation packages and to put the issue of unrestricted entry into the U.S. on the bargaining table, despite the fact that the access issue is not on the formal Compact negotiations agenda (i.e., not legally on the table). If unrestricted access to the U.S. is terminated for FSM citizens, the effects would be disastrous in the FSM. Everything from remittances to education to commercial ties could be hurt.⁶

B. Justice for Federated States of Micronesia

On April 18, 1962, President Kennedy signed a National Security Action Memorandum which set forth as U.S. Policy the movement of Micronesia into a permanent relationship with the U.S. within our political framework.⁷ In order to implement the plan, Kennedy turned to Harvard economist Anthony Solomon, asking him to write a survey of Micronesia and to recommend how best to proceed. Solomon’s commission visited the islands of Micronesia during the summer of 1963, and the Solomon Report, as it is known, was issued in October of the same year. The Solomon Report was immediately classified and has remained so ever since with only a sanitized version being made available to the public. The Report called for achieving minimum but satisfactory social standards. Solomon recommended a quick injection of cash and then a plebiscite before the results of the aid faded, in effect, aid was to be used to buy votes—and once success was ensured, aid would be abruptly terminated. At the same time, “Washington should facilitate the general development of . . . loyalties to the U.S.”⁸ That was to be done by bringing leaders to the U.S., introducing a U.S.-oriented curriculum and patriotic rituals into the school system, and increasing college scholarships for Micronesians to study in the U.S. He also urged the launching of a massive Peace Corps program in Micronesia. At one point, there was almost one Peace Corps volunteer for every one hundred Micronesians.⁹ Justice for the FSM, therefore, calls for overturning the U.S. imperialism inherent in the Solomon Report.

It is clear to see that the negotiations presently going on between the FSM and the U.S. are not on a level playing field. Because of forty years of official colonization and fifteen years of unofficial colonization

1 through strategic economic dependency, citizens
2 of the FSM are being told not to rock the boat,
3 especially during this sensitive period when the
4 Compact is being renegotiated. FSM citizens re-
5 siding in Hawaii have expressed frustration that
6 their own government will not support them in their
7 struggle to be considered qualified legal residents
8 in the U.S. and thereby eligible for the federal food
9 stamp program and for federal housing subsidies.
10 FSM residents in the U.S. feel that they are being
11 sold down the river because the U.S. negotiators
12 have an unfair advantage at the Compact table over
13 FSM negotiators. To further strengthen the U.S.
14 position at the bargaining table, the U.S. has re-
15 cently audited FSM expenditures of Compact mon-
16 ies and raised questions about corruption by FSM
17 government officials in Pohnpei and Chuuk.

18
19 Victims of U.S. colonization need to be supported
20 by people of good will in the U.S. who understand
21 the long-term psychological and economic effects
22 of colonization.
23

24 **C. Republic of the Marshall Islands**

25 During numerous hearings before the U.S. House
26 Resources Committee (previously known as the
27 Department of Interior), the RMI has brought
28 Marshallese citizens to testify about the horrors,
29 the pains, and the sufferings the people endured as
30 a result of their exposure to radiation from U.S.
31 weapons-testing. Marshall Islanders also have tes-
32 tified to the continuing suffering and near-geno-
33 cide of the people through their exposure to radi-
34 ation and subsequent dislocation from their home-
35 lands. Public Law 99-239 in the Compact of
36 Free Association was the first attempt by the U.S.
37 government to accept responsibility for “. . .
38 compensation owing to citizens of the Marshall
39 Islands . . . for loss or damage to property and per-
40 son . . . resulting from the nuclear testing program
41 which the Government of the United States con-
42 ducted . . .” (Section 177[a] of the Compact). The
43 U.S. Government also accepted responsibility and
44 liability for the consequences of all of the tests—
45 sixty-seven (67) in all—conducted from June 30,
46 1946 to August 18, 1958.¹⁰

47
48 The United States took over the Marshall Islands
49 from Japan in one of the bloodiest Pacific cam-
50 paigns of World War II and then governed the re-
51 gion until 1986 as part of a U.N. trusteeship agree-
52 ment. In 1946, the people of Bikini and Enewetak
53 atolls were evacuated to make way for a series of
54 nuclear tests. The people of the two atolls were
55 told they could return within a few years, once the
56 testing was completed. The people of Bikini were
57 told by a U.S. military officer in 1946 that their
58 atoll was needed for a project “for the benefit of
59 all mankind.”¹¹ The Marshallese people would
never have consented to the testing if the truth had
been known or told to them. After the tests on Bi-

kini and Enewetak, the bombs grew larger and more
destructive, culminating in the 1954 hydrogen bomb
test that rained fallout on the people of Rongelap and
other neighboring atolls. The bomb, known as Bravo,
was 750 times more powerful than the atomic bomb
dropped on Hiroshima. The 15 megaton blast vapor-
ized the test island, eradicated parts of two adjacent
islets, and created a mile wide crater. Recently declass-
ified documents show that U.S. officials were aware
72 hours before the Bravo test that the winds in the
area were shifting and that if the test was carried out,
radiation would fall on Rongelap and other atolls down-
wind from the test site.¹² The military went ahead with
the test, knowing that human beings in the downwind
atolls would suffer radiation poisoning. In addition, the
food source for the people would be irradiated—no
one knew for how long and to what extent. Thus, the
declassified documents indicate the willingness of U.S.
officials to knowingly put at risk the lives of thousands
of men, women, and children—not just in 1954 when
Bravo was detonated, but for many generations to
come. This callous disregard for human life and for all
habitat in the region is a U.S. legacy which all Chris-
tians are called to address.

Were the Marshallese people being used as guinea pigs
to study the long-term effects of radiation poisoning?
The declassified documents point in that direction. In
1956, Dr. G. Failla, chair of the Atomic Energy Com-
mission (AEC) Advisory Committee on Biology and
Medicine, wrote to AEC head Lewis Strauss: “The
Advisory Committee hopes that conditions will per-
mit an early accomplishment of the plan to return the
Rongelap people. The Committee is also of the opin-
ion that here is the opportunity for a useful genetic study
of the effects on these people.” Three years later, Dr.
C. L. Dunham, head of the AEC’s Division of Biology
and Medicine, reiterated the AEC’s interest. Studying
the Rongelap victims of the Bravo blast will, he wrote,
“. . . contribute to estimates of long-term hazards to
human beings and to an evaluation of the recovery pe-
riod following a single nuclear detonation.”¹³ Having
established the near-perfect long-term human radiation
experiment in 1954, the Department of Energy still
continues to compile data from their Marshallese sub-
jects. On February 24, 1994, Rep. George Miller (D-
Calif.), chair of the House Committee on Natural Re-
sources, convened a hearing on Bravo. Recalling
weather data that demonstrated prior knowledge that
islanders would receive substantial fallout, Rep. Miller
declared that “We have deliberately kept that informa-
tion from the Marshallese. That clearly constitutes a
cover-up.”¹⁴

Christians and peace activists throughout the world
have long acknowledged the devastation of the atomic
bomb dropped on Hiroshima during World War II.
However, most U.S. citizens have not been told the
story of the 67 atomic bombs detonated in the Marshall
Islands and the devastation still continuing to the more
than 60,000 people living on its 29 islands in the year

1 2001. According to Dr. Neal Palafox, who heads a
2 team of doctors who monitor the health of resi-
3 dents in the Marshall Islands on an annual basis,
4 “the radiation from the testing equaled about 7,000
5 atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima.”¹⁵ Dr.
6 Palafox goes on to state that the cancer originated
7 from the testing has reached alarming levels. He
8 concluded that the cancer rates—alarming as they
9 are—at the same time are probably underestimates
10 of the true cancer incidence rates.¹⁶ Dr. Palafox’s
11 study provides the first comprehensive data analy-
12 sis on the incidence rates for certain cancers in the
13 RMI.

14
15 How did radiation affect women’s reproductive sys-
16 tems? Some women who became pregnant in the
17 years following Bravo found they suffered an un-
18 expectedly high number of miscarriages and se-
19 verely deformed babies, often referred to as “jel-
20 lyfish babies.” Katherine Jilej, a midwife and a
21 grandmother, stated: “We are very angry at the U.S.
22 and I’ll tell you why. Have you ever seen a jelly-
23 fish baby born looking like a bunch of grapes, so
24 the only reason we knew it was a baby was be-
25 cause we could see the brain? We’ve had these
26 babies—they died soon after they were born. Our
27 first baby was born in October 1960, after the bomb,
28 when we’d returned to Rongelap. He was born with
29 a big lump on his head and died very, very young.
30 All the food we were eating was irradiated but we
31 didn’t know. I wasn’t even on Rongelap the day
32 the test happened but I went back there in 1957
33 and I was irradiated from eating the food. I think
34 that’s why my son died.”¹⁷

35
36 For many years, the U.S. Department of Energy
37 contracted with Brookhaven National Laboratory
38 to be the sole agency to study the health of Marshall
39 Islanders following exposure to radiation. More re-
40 cently, there has been a request by the Marshallese
41 people for independent studies conducted by health
42 experts from countries outside of the United States.
43 Studies conducted by Brookhaven have been seen
44 by the people as suspect and inadequate. When
45 people were moved back to Rongelap prematurely
46 in July 1957, Brookhaven National Laboratory sci-
47 entists reported: “Even though the radioactive con-
48 tamination of Rongelap Island is considered per-
49 fectly safe for human habitation, the levels of ac-
50 tivity are higher than those found in other inhab-
51 ited locations in the world. The habitation of these
52 people on the island will afford most valuable eco-
53 logical radiation data on human beings.”¹⁸

54 55 **D. Justice for Marshall Islanders**

56 The U.S. government has not played fair in the
57 compensation paid to the Marshallese peoples, nor
58 in the information given to the affected communi-
59 ties. This came to light when people of Bikini were
told that it was safe to return to Bikini. Experts

demonstrated how radiation levels could be lowered
to scientifically-acceptable levels—an annual exposure
of 100 millirems per person—as long as people avoided
eating large amounts of local food. While Bikinians
were told that 100 millirems per person was safe, the
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had quietly
adopted a 15 millirem standard for the resettlement of
radiologically contaminated sites in the United States.¹⁹
This 15 millirem standard has recently been adopted
for the Marshall Islands, but only after the attorney for
Enewetak Atoll, Davor Pevec, found out about the EPA
standard for U.S. residents. This double standard is also
seen in the compensation levels. While Congress has
spent \$12 billion in Hanford, California, without even
putting a shovel in the ground for environmental
cleanup there, the island of Bikini has only received
\$90 million thus far from the United States for
cleanup.²⁰

Recently declassified U.S. nuclear test studies show
that 22 atolls (no longer just the four atolls mentioned
for compensation in the Compact: Rongelap, Enewetak,
Utrik, and Bikini) received nuclear test fallout above
maximum permissible safety levels.²¹ This information
was not provided to Marshall Islands negotiators when
the Compact of Free Association, with its \$150 mil-
lion nuclear compensation to survivors, was agreed
upon in 1983. While greater compensation was given
to American citizens living downwind of the Nevada
Test Site as a one-time lump sum, amounting to a bil-
lion dollars, the \$150 million was not adequate to cover
the claims filed by the victims of radiation poisoning
in the RMI—approximately \$7 billion dollars of com-
pensation claims are still languishing in the U.S. courts
today²² and most victims who have been compensated
have been compensated only partially and in small
monthly payments. Fully one third of the 1,574
Marshall Islands recipients of nuclear test awards have
died without receiving full compensation.²³

The Marshall Island government is asking, in the re-
negotiation of the Compact of Free Association, an
additional \$2.7 billion for damage caused by Ameri-
can nuclear testing. When seen in the light of \$12 bil-
lion for Hanford (just for environmental cleanup), the
amount being requested by RMI is very modest. No
amount of money will ever compensate for the suffer-
ing of the Marshallese people; however, an amount
equivalent to or more than the \$12 billion spent on
cleanup at Hanford would be more just.

The U.S. is now trying to stop lawsuits arising out of
the irradiation of the Marshallese from being heard in
court. The Compact of Free Association contains an
espousal clause, stipulating that the U.S. has paid a
lump sum of \$150 million for damages and from now
on all responsibility falls on the shoulders of RMI. This
unjust clause in the Compact must be overturned in
the light of classified information that was not made
available to RMI negotiators at the time the Compact
was being negotiated and which now reveals the real

1 extent of the testing and the fact that Marshall Is-
2 landers were knowingly put at risk during the Bravo
3 test.

4 **E. The Church and the Pacific Islanders of** 5 **Micronesia**

6 The United Church of Christ has a historic minist-
7 ristry to Pacific Islanders and the people of
8 Micronesia. It began in 1852 when missionaries
9 from the American Board of Commissioners for
10 Foreign Mission (ABCFM) headquartered in Ho-
11 nolulu and Hawaiian missionaries were sent to
12 Micronesia to spread the Gospel to the inhabitants
13 of these remote islands and convert them to Chris-
14 tianity.

15 The Missionaries first landed on the island of
16 Kosrae where they established a station. As the
17 Kosraens became more God-fearing people, the
18 missionaries began reaching out to the other
19 Micronesian islands of Kiribati, Phonpei, Chuuk,
20 and the Marshall Islands. However, Kosrae re-
21 mained the home-base of operation.

22 A mission training school was established on Mwot,
23 Kosrae, to train men and women in church minist-
24 ristry. Pupils were recruited from different islands
25 and sent to this school to study and prepare for minist-
26 rial duties. At the completion of a four-year train-
27 ing session, they returned home full-fledged, or-
28 dained ministers and, if so selected, were assigned
29 to nurture new churches in villages, districts, and
30 different atolls.

31 During the period prior to the breakout of World
32 War II in the Pacific, the Congregational Church
33 in Micronesia, as it was then known, was one of
34 the only two major denominations in Micronesia,
35 and it garnered a larger membership. That was a
36 time when the church was very productive and quite
37 influential in the islands. The church was the cen-
38 ter of every community daily activity. The
39 Micronesians were always dedicated and faithful
40 members of the church. They were taught to be
41 good Christians by practicing the Golden Rule.

42 As the war broke, the American Board of Com-
43 missioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) re-
44 called its overseas missionaries. All of them re-
45 turned to the United States with the exception of
46 one, the Rev. Carl Heine. The departure of the mis-
47 sionaries also brought the closure of the mission
48 training school on Mwot, and it created autonomy
49 for each of the Micronesian island churches.

50 Presently, there are many other denominations that
51 were sent to the region of Micronesia and which
52 have since established strong ties and influence in
53 the communities. However, the denomination that
54 the missionaries first started in the islands, at
55 present known as the United Church of Christ, still

has its individual churches in each district on Chuuk,
Kosrae, and Phonpei of the FSM. The United Church
of Christ is still the major denomination in the Marshall
Islands with at least one church on each atoll and two
or three on the major islands.

After World War II, the administration of these Pacific
Islands shifted from the regime of the Japanese Impe-
rial Army to the protection of the U.S. Navy and after-
wards to the Department of the Interior. Under this pro-
tection, Bikini and Enewetak atolls in the Marshall Is-
lands were used as nuclear testing sites of 67 atomic
bombs.

Fifteen years ago, under separate agreements, these
Pacific Islands of Micronesia negotiated their Com-
pacts of Free Association with the U.S., which created
the independent countries of the FSM and the RMI.
The compacts allow for free entry (immigration) of
FSM and RMI people into the United States to live,
find employment, attend schools, receive better medi-
cal care, and better themselves.

As one of the newest immigrant groups to Hawaii and
the rest of U.S., Pacific Islanders daily face numerous
difficulties socially and economically. Many of these
difficulties must be addressed by our church and people
of conscience. The need to establish places of worship
so Pacific Islanders can worship in their respective lan-
guages is one priority. The UCC needs to renew and
strengthen its commitment to the Pacific Islanders in
its new church starts and assist in providing training in
the new setting.

Over the years, with assistance from the Hawaii Con-
ference UCC, some Micronesian ministries on differ-
ent islands of Hawaii were started. At present there are
eight Chuukese ministries, two Kosraens, three
Marshallese, and a new Pohnpeian ministry. This new
church, with its newly assigned pastor, will begin its
ministry this November on Maui.

In his June address, the FSM Consul General reported
that there are 12,000 people from the FSM who reside
in Hawaii. There are at least 2,000 Marshallese accord-
ing to another source.

The Micronesian population is greater in the continen-
tal United States than in Hawaii, yet there are only five
Marshallese Ministries throughout the continental
United States. There is one Chuukese ministry in Port-
land, Oregon, and one called the Micronesian Outreach
Ministry of the U.S., based in San Diego and started
by Pacific Islander seminarians to address this lack of
island churches and ministries. Thus, the national set-
ting of the UCC needs to make concerted efforts to
address the needs of Micronesians and other Pacific
Islander groups in the United States and offer assis-
tance as they try to establish and supply their own pas-
tors.

1 As in similar cases with other ethnic minority
2 groups who have immigrated to the United States,
3 the Marshallese and the citizens of the Federated
4 States of Micronesia have come to the United States
5 to seek better schooling for their children, better
6 employment opportunities, and currently advanced
7 medical services. Under a separate Compact of Free
8 Association treaty with the U.S. Government, the
9 Micronesians are free to enter, seek employment,
10 live anywhere, and enlist in the Armed Forces in
11 the U.S.

12 13 **III. BIBLICAL, THEOLOGICAL, AND** 14 **ETHICAL RATIONALE** 15

16 “I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot.
17 I wish that you were either cold or hot! So, be-
18 cause you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot,
19 I am about to spit you out of my mouth. For you
20 say, ‘I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing.’
21 You do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable,
22 poor, blind, and naked. Therefore I counsel
23 you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that
24 you may be rich; and white robes to clothe you
25 and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being
26 seen, and salve to anoint your eyes so that you
27 may see. I reprove and discipline those whom I
28 love. Be earnest, therefore, and repent. Listen! I
29 am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my
30 voice and open the door, I will come in to you and
31 eat with you, and you with me. To the one who
32 conquers I will give a place with me on my throne,
33 just as I myself conquered and sat down with my
34 Father on his throne. Let anyone who has an ear
35 listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches”
36 (Rev. 3:15–22, NRSV).
37

38 The Prophet Amos says, “Let Justice roll down like
39 waters, and righteousness like an everflowing
40 stream.” It is just one of the forty pairings of right-
41 eousness and justice that are found in the Hebrew
42 Bible.²⁴
43

44 God expected rulers to rule righteously and justly.
45 Those in positions of power were expected to care
46 for those least able to care for themselves. Wicked
47 rulers did not care to keep harmony among the
48 people and exploited the weak. Henry Kissinger is
49 quoted in 1969 to have said, “There are only 90,000
50 people out there. Who gives a damn?”²⁵
51

52 Since the Commission for Racial Justice was the
53 originator of environmental justice and linked the
54 dumping of toxic waste with people of color, the
55 United Church of Christ, in all its settings, must
56 take seriously the issues of justice and righteous-
57 ness in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and
58 the Federated States of Micronesia. The United
59 Church of Christ, in seeking environmental justice,
must advocate for restoring these nations to
justice.

Micah 6:8 says, “What does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk
humbly with your God?” The radiation from nuclear
and atomic testing still affects Marshallese daughters.
Like the Canaanite woman in the Gospel according to
Matthew, these daughters are asking for healing. The
United Church of Christ, in all its settings, must be
party to the healing of the brothers and sisters in the
Marshall Islands.

Jesus says, “Just as you did it to one of the least of
these who are members of my family, you did it to
me” (Matt. 25:40 NRSV). For more than 150 years,
the United Church of Christ, through its antecedent
bodies, has been in Micronesia. The American Board
for Commissioners for Foreign Missions sent mission-
aries, some of them indigenous Hawaiians, to spread
the Gospel in Micronesia. In more recent history, the
United Church Board for World Ministries and the
Common Global Ministries Board have sent mission-
aries to Micronesia and the Marshall Islands. But the
people of the United Church of Christ have lost any
knowledge of the people or the churches that are in the
Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated
States of Micronesia. Many of these people are still
victimized by warheads of spent uranium which landed
a mere five miles from their homes.

IV. STATEMENT OF CHRISTIAN CONVIC- TION

The God of the Holy Bible requires of us to do justice,
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our
God. Our Lord, Jesus Christ, was moved by the re-
sponse of the Canaanite woman who argued for him to
help her daughter severely possessed by a demon. The
radiation from nuclear and atomic testing, that even
today squeezes the life from Marshallese daughters, is
a demon that needs to be addressed. Christians in
churches in the U.S. are being asked to help heal their
brothers and sisters in the Marshall Islands, many of
whom are Christian and members of the United Church
of Christ in the Marshall Islands. It is incumbent upon
the United Church of Christ, in all its settings, to be-
come aware of the injustice that still prevails, to work
toward the restoration of justice, and to stand in soli-
darity with those who suffer in the Marshall Islands
and in Micronesia.

As the United Church of Christ seeks to live in faithful
solidarity with our Micronesian sisters and brothers in
Christ, we confess our silent complicity as United
States’ citizens in perpetrating nuclear poisoning and
economic exploitation of the people and environment
of Micronesia. We extend our heartfelt and formal
apologies for these sins and ask for forgiveness from
our Micronesian sisters and brothers and from God.
By making this confession, we pray that the blinders
will be removed from our eyes and our silent complicity
transformed into empowered discipleship through
this Pronouncement.

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A PROPOSAL FOR ACTION ON A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST MINISTRY AND WITNESS WITH MICRONESIANS

I. SUMMARY

This Proposal for Action outlines ways in which all the ministries of the United Church of Christ may assist in restoring justice and righteousness to the people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) in developing new Micronesian Ministries and assisting their communities as they make the transition into their new homelands in Hawaii and the United States of America.

II. BACKGROUND STATEMENT

This Proposal for Action is based upon the Pronouncement on a United Church of Christ Ministry and Witness with Micronesians. The Pronouncement presents a policy statement for the United Church of Christ's work with Micronesians, specifically people of the RMI and FSM. This Proposal for Action provides for the program directions, mechanisms for implementation, and funding.

III. IMPLEMENTATION: DIRECTIONAL STATEMENTS AND GOALS

The Twenty-third General Synod gives the responsibility for the implementation of the Proposal for Action to the Pacific Islander and Asian American Implementation Committee.

For the purposes of implementing the United Church of Christ Ministry with Micronesians, the Twenty-third General Synod:

Calls on the Wider Church Ministries (WCM) (including the Common Global Ministries with the Disciples of Christ) and the Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to plan joint strategies for restoring justice and righteousness to the people of the RMI and FSM. WCM and JWM will work with the partner United Church of Christ churches in the RMI and FSM, the Hawaii Con-

1 ference UCC, with PAAM, and North American
2 Pacific and Asian Disciples (NAPAD). Included
3 in these strategies would be ways to pressure the
4 U.S. President, the U.S. Congress, and the related
5 agencies of the U.S. government to provide a more
6 just compensation for the Marshallese people af-
7 fected by the nuclear and atomic radiation caused
8 by 67 tests.

9
10 Calls on the WCM and the JWM to petition the
11 U.S. Government to justly compensate the FSM
12 and the RMI for the cost of strategic economic
13 dependency over the years.

14
15 Calls upon the WCM and JWM to collaborate with
16 the United Methodist Church and other interested
17 denominations to monitor the progress of the U.S.
18 formal apology to the Marshall Islanders for per-
19 sonal injury and property damage from nuclear and
20 atomic tests. The United Methodist Church, at its
21 General Conference in April 2000, passed the reso-
22 lution “Marshall Islands: U.S. Accountability,”
23 similar to the UCC Resolution which was unani-
24 mously passed with one abstention at General
25 Synod 22 in Rhode Island.¹

26
27 Requests the Local Church Ministries (LCM) to
28 monitor the status of people from the RMI and FSM
29 living in Hawaii and elsewhere in the United States
30 and to find ways and identify programs to help
31 Micronesians as they make adjustments in their
32 new homeland.

33
34 Requests that JWM in cooperation with partner
35 churches work together to advocate for health care
36 for survivors.

37
38 Requests the LCM and JWM, in cooperation with
39 the Hawaii Conference UCC, to identify members
40 who will begin a dialog with appropriate federal
41 agencies to define citizens of the FSM and RMI as
42 “qualified nonimmigrants” in order to be eligible
43 for food stamps and housing subsidies. These ben-
44 efits are being terminated and denied to them due
45 to different classification.

46
47 Calls on the United Church of Christ to plan and
48 implement a delegation from the United Church
49 of Christ in the Marshall Islands and radiation sur-
50 vivors to travel to Washington, D.C., to lobby for
51 more compensation. As part of this lobbying ac-
52 tion, the LCM and JWM will jointly attempt to
53 gather all UCC, Christian Church (Disciples of
54 Christ), United Methodist, and other Christian
55 Congress people and/or their senior staff to hear a
56 presentation from this delegation.²

57
58 Requests that the LCM develop a proactive,
59 multiyear program for strengthening existing UCC
Pacific Islander local churches and starting new
churches among the fast growing Pacific Islander
American populations.

Requests that the LCM, in consultation with PAAM,
develop a comprehensive program for strengthening
the educational ministries for lifelong learning in the
varied settings of local churches and conferences. This
program should place special emphasis on Pacific Is-
lander histories and cultures and focus upon such ar-
eas as ministerial leadership recruitment and training
and youth and young adult ministries.

Calls on the LCM to assist in the hiring and placement
of Micronesian pastors who are bilingual and to de-
velop support mechanisms for Pacific Islander
churches.

Calls on the Office of General Minister and President
to monitor the progress of this Proposal for Action
through the Minister for Pacific Islander/Asian Ameri-
can Relations.

Urges all bodies in the United Church of Christ to con-
sult with members of PAAM to secure Pacific Islander
perspectives when making decisions which concern Pa-
cific Islanders as well as the whole Church. Subject to
the availability of funds.

References

1. United Methodist Church resolution, “Marshall Islands: U.S. Accountability,” passed at its General Assembly in April 2000.
2. *In Register Citizen Opinion 2001: A Congressional Directory and Action Guide*, First Session/107th Congress, published by The Episcopal Church, Office of Government Relations, the following religious affiliations are listed: Disciples of Christ—2; Congress people, United Church of Christ—8; Congress people, United Methodist—65; Congress people, Protestant—311; Congress people, total declared Christians—497.

9. RESOLUTION: CALLING FOR MORE JUST, HUMANE DIRECTION FOR ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION

Mr. Angel Toro (FLA) continued presentation of the work of Committee Eleven, introducing the resolution “Calling for More Just, Humane Direction for Economic Globalization.” He pointed out the changes made in committee:

page 158, line 59: change “South Korea” to “Indonesia”

page 159, line 31, first column: add “and to request and encourage that the learnings, questions and concerns surfaced in the various settings be forwarded to the appropriate bodies, and”

page 159, line 42, first column: replace “a commission of pastors, parishioners, and scholars be convened to study” with “Justice and Witness Ministries and Wider Church Ministries in cooperation with pastors,

1 parishioners and scholars be requested to study”
2 page 159, line 2, second column: replace “di-
3 rected” with “requested”
4

5 Mr. Toro moved adoption of the resolution and
6 spoke to it briefly.
7

8 01-GS-38 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-
9 third General Synod adopts the resolution “Call-
10 ing for More Just, Humane Direction for Economic
11 Globalization.”
12

13 **CALLING FOR A MORE JUST, HUMANE** 14 **DIRECTION FOR ECONOMIC GLOBAL-** 15 **IZATION** 16

17 WHEREAS numerous General Synod resolutions
18 have sought to support a more just national and
19 international economic system, including “Justice
20 in the Maquiladoras” (Eighteenth General Synod,
21 1991), “In Support of International Fair Trade”
22 (Nineteenth General Synod, 1993), “Affirming
23 Democratic Principles in an Emerging Global
24 Economy” (Twenty-first General Synod, 1997),
25 and “Ending the Stranglehold of Global Debt on
26 Impoverished Nations” (Twenty-second General
27 Synod, 1999);
28

29 WHEREAS the growth of economic globalization
30 has raised the quality of life for many people
31 (mainly in First World countries), it has lowered it
32 for many others (mainly in Third World countries);
33 it has lowered costs of food and clothing for some,
34 while lowering wages and levels of human rights
35 for others; it has created technological wonders for
36 some areas, while allowing the destruction of rain
37 forests and increases in hunger in others;
38

39 WHEREAS with the rise of globalization, concern
40 over the major International Financial Institutions,
41 such as the World Trade Organization, the World
42 Bank, the International Monetary Fund, North
43 American Free Trade Agreement, and others, has
44 brought protests in numerous countries, as local
45 laborers, merchants, farmers, human rights work-
46 ers, environmentalists, and others have begun to
47 see its effects on their countries;¹ and
48

49 WHEREAS the rules for international commerce
50 set by these institutions have contributed to the in-
51 creases of poverty and environmental degradation
52 in the Third World (for example, loan repayments,
53 required by the G-7 for external debt payments,
54 are ten times higher [relative to income] than the
55 Allies required of post war Germany; “Structural
56 Adjustment Programs,” required by the Interna-
57 tional Monetary Fund to qualify for debt relief are
58 targeted to raise unemployment and lower wages;
59 tariff resolutions, required by the World Trade Or-
60 ganization to enhance free trade, lower environ-

mental standards, and allow powerful transnational
corporations to compete on a level playing field with
small, emerging companies);

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Twenty-
third General Synod of the United Church of Christ
encourage local churches and Conferences to study the
implications of an increasingly globalized world on the
environment and human communities, and that issues
of globalization be raised in adult education programs,
Bible studies, and worship services in our various
churches, Associations, areas, and Conferences (study
guides and worship resources will be made available)
and to request and encourage that the learnings, ques-
tions, and concerns surfaced in the various settings be
forwarded to the appropriate bodies;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local church mem-
bers prayerfully consider becoming involved and/or
more deeply involved with campaigns that seek a more
humane form of globalization which lifts persons and
the environment over markets and profits, including
such things as the continuing Jubilee debt cancellation
campaign and the campaign against sweat shops;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Justice and
Witness Ministries and Wider Church Ministries in
cooperation with pastors, parishioners, and scholars be
requested to study the impact of corporate globaliza-
tion on the poor of the world for the purpose of bring-
ing to the Twenty-fourth General Synod of the United
Church of Christ a pronouncement of our
denomination's response to the issue; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our national de-
nominational leaders in offices of Global Education
and Advocacy Ministry, Justice and Witness Ministries,
and others be requested to work for legislative policies
which advocate a humane and ecologically sound di-
rection for economic and corporate globalization ef-
forts.

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

Note:

1. A survey of International Financial Institutions
protests in the year 2000 can be found in Walden
Bello, “2000: the Year of Global Protest against
Globalization,” *Focus on Trade* 58 (January
2001).

10. RESOLUTION: TO END THE PRESENCE OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY IN THE MU- NICIPALITY OF VIEQUES, PUERTO RICO

Ms. Jaramillo called on Ms. Petra Malleis-Sternberg
(SW), Chair of Committee Twelve, to present the rec-
ommendations of the Committee. Ms. Malleis-
Sternberg moved adoption of the resolution on Vieques,

1 noting that the word “Team” had been left off in
2 typing on the first line of the fourth paragraph. After
3 brief discussion, the vote was called.

4
5 01-GS-39 VOTED: The Twenty-third General
6 Synod adopts the resolution “To End The Presence
7 of the United States Navy in the Municipality of
8 Vieques, Puerto Rico.”

9
10 **TO END THE PRESENCE OF THE**
11 **UNITED STATES NAVY IN THE MUNICI-**
12 **PALITY OF VIEQUES, PUERTO RICO**

13
14
15 To end by peaceful efforts the United States Navy
16 bombing of Vieques and to compel immediately
17 its exit from the island municipality, the Twenty-
18 third General Synod:

19
20 calls on the President of the United States to sup-
21 port and facilitate the implementation of the four
22 areas recommended by the 1999 First Commission
23 of Vieques: (1) immediate demilitarization of
24 Vieques, (2) initiate an ecological recovery and
25 cleanup program, (3) return back to Puerto Rico
26 the land on Vieques illegally appropriated from
27 1936–1941, and (4) provide means for an eco-
28 nomic recovery of the island, which was endorsed
29 by the majority of the people of Vieques and Puerto
30 Rico, and calls upon the federal government for
31 the immediate release of those imprisoned for civil
32 disobedience protests against the United States
33 bombing in Vieques, and calls upon the U.S. gov-
34 ernment to cease making Vieques available to other
35 nation’s military forces;

36
37 calls on the United Church of Christ Conferences
38 to immediately initiate a letter campaign to the
39 President of the United States and members of Con-
40 gress requesting the immediate end of the United
41 States Navy bombing of Vieques, to compel im-
42 mediately the United States Navy’s exit from the
43 island municipality, to immediately initiate the en-
44 vironmental cleanup of the island municipality and
45 surrounding waters, and to initiate an Action Alert
46 Program on Vieques to assist the members of its
47 local churches to monitor the positions taken by
48 members of the United States Congress about
49 Vieques;

50
51 urges that Justice and Witness Ministries delegate
52 to the Public Life and Social Policy Ministry and
53 the Human Rights, Justice for Women, and Trans-
54 formation Ministry Team the responsibility to as-
55 sist the Conferences and other bodies of the United
56 Church of Christ in the implementation of this reso-
57 lution;

58
59 calls on Local Church Ministries to work with lo-
cal United Church of Christ congregations and all
other church settings to engage in education,

prayerful solidarity, and advocacy to end the bomb-
ing;

calls on the Wider Church Ministries to use their world-
wide resources to alert nations who join United States
military practices and maneuvers about their complicity
with ecological environment damages, poor health
conditions, and economic scarcity of the residents of
Vieques, making those nations aware of the risk their
troops carry by the depleted uranium and other toxic
materials utilized in Vieques;

calls on the Office of General Ministries to monitor
the progress of this resolution and initiate joint efforts
with other United States denominations towards simi-
lar goals; and

calls on the Council for Hispanic Ministries and the
Hispanic Ministries Implementation Team to receive
reports from the Covenanted Ministries mandated to
address the issue of Vieques and report to the Twenty-
fourth General Synod.

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

11. SPEAK OUTS!

The following persons spoke during the Speak Out!
Session:

Mr. Marvin Silver (JWM), a member of the Justice and
Witness Ministries Board, called attention to House
Resolution 7, the Community Solutions Act.

Ms. Karna Burkeen (PC) invited those attending the
General Synod to visit the exhibits of the Seminaries
of the United Church of Christ.

The Rev. Marilyn Pagan (ILL) called on the leaders of
the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) to address the housing crisis in
Chicago and elsewhere that has occurred because of
gentrification and land grabbing and because of envi-
ronmental racism.

Mr. Tony Lewis (CA NV, N) told of being raised in the
Missionary Baptist Church and how he struggled with
the idea of the sin of homosexuality. The real problem,
he said, was a failure of hospitality.

The Rev. Richard Braun (SE), a member of the Health
Care Task Force, spoke of new opportunities for change
in the health care industry.

The following persons from the Christian Church (Dis-
ciples of Christ) also spoke: John Bennett, Linda
Creason, Peggy Clark, Dale Butler, and Adelle Lemon.
At this point, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
conducted business. The Rev. Michael Kinnamon was
invited to speak about Churches Uniting in Christ. He

1 invited everyone to attend the Churches Uniting in
2 Christ Inaugural Celebration in Memphis on Janu-
3 ary 18–21, 2002, and to help interpret Churches
4 Uniting in Christ in their home area.

5
6 The remainder of the program was given to the
7 Discernment Process on gay and lesbian persons
8 in the life of the church.

9
10 Before the plenary concluded, Mr. Don Manworren
11 was given special recognition.

12
13 **TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 17, 2001**
14 **Joint Plenary Session**

15
16 The final plenary session of the Twenty-third Gen-
17 eral Synod was opened with a song and a perfor-
18 mance by the children's choir.

19
20 **1. INSTALLATION OF NEW MODERA-**
21 **TORS AND COMMISSIONING OF NEW**
22 **MISSIONARIES**

23 Moderator Nancy Taylor noted this plenary would
24 be the last one for this General Synod and the Gen-
25 eral Assembly. She asked for a pause to recognize
26 and affirm the ministry of those elected to lead the
27 United Church of Christ and the Christian Church
28 (Disciples of Christ). She named Mr. Nathaniel A.
29 Lewis Jr. as the Moderator-elect of the United
30 Church of Christ, Ms. Carol L. Wassmuth, and the
31 Rev. Christine M. Smith as the Assistant Modera-
32 tors-elect.

33
34 Moderator Paul Rivera introduced to the General
35 Assembly, Moderator-elect of the Christian Church
36 (Disciples of Christ), Alvin Jackson, the First Vice
37 Moderator-elect, Patricia Payuyo, and the Second
38 Vice Moderator-elect, Ted Waggoner.

39
40 Moderator Taylor offered words of scripture (Ro-
41 mans 12:1–8), to the elected moderators of each
42 denomination. Moderator Rivera entrusted the re-
43 sponsibility for particular service in the ministry
44 of the church to each of the new moderators, and
45 asked for prayerful consideration of each of them
46 for the duties and responsibilities of their ministry.
47 He asked that each of them prepare to serve with
48 the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory
49 of God. Mr. Rivera called for affirmation of the
50 new moderators by the General Assembly and Gen-
51 eral Synod. The new leaders were presented litur-
52 gical stoles by Ms. Bernice Powell Jackson and
53 the Rev. Richard Hamm.

54
55
56
57
58
59
2. COMMISSIONING SERVICE AND PRE-
SENTATION OF MISSIONARIES

Ms. Pat Tucker Spier and Mr. Dale Bishop presented
and commissioned new missionaries preparing to take
up their positions. They offered thanks to each of them
and their families for responding to God's call.
Tim and Jodi Bobbitt were called with Joshua to serve
with the Disciples of Christ in Argentina.

Ellen and Andrew Collins were called to serve with
the Disciples of Christ in Nepal.

Tim and Diane Fonderlin were called to serve as long-
term volunteers with Habitat International, assigned
to Bangladesh.

Daniel and Sandra Dourdet were called to serve with
the Zimbabwe Synod of the United Congregational
Church of Southern Africa.

James and Carolyn Higginbotham were called to serve
as teachers in China, assigned to Nanjing University
and Nanjing Seminary.

Laslo and Coralyn Medyesy were called to serve with
the Reformed Church in Hungary.

Catherine Nichols were called to serve with the Sabeel
Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center in Jerusalem.

Douglas and Elizabeth Searles were called with
McKenzie and Mickey to serve as teachers in China.

Disciples of Christ item of business called by Paul
Rivera.

3. RESOLUTION: SUPPORT FOR FEDER-
ALLY FUNDED RESEARCH ON EMBRY-
ONIC STEM CELLS

Ms. Taylor called on the Chair of Committee Fifteen,
Ms. Lisa Alston (SE), to present the recommended ac-
tion of the Committee. Prior to hearing from Ms.
Alston, Ms. Taylor reported that the action on the Stand-
ing Rules scheduled for this time slot would be referred
to the Executive Council because of need for further
revisions.

Ms. Alston moved adoption of the resolution on Stem
Cell Research and then yielded her time to Ms. Olivia
White (SC), Professor of Genetics at the University of
North Texas, who spoke on the medical benefits of the
use of embryonic stem cells.

An attempt was made to insert in the first "Be it Re-
solved," following the word "guidelines," the words
"but opposes creation of embryos specifically to har-
vest the cells, and." This was ruled out of order. Fol-
lowing further discussion from the floor, Mr. Kevin
Myers (RM) moved that "the Standing Rules for time

1 granted to presenters be set aside so that the pre-
2 senter of the resolution be granted sufficient time
3 to finish the presentation.”

4
5 01-GS-40 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-
6 third General Synod sets aside the Standing Rule
7 for time granted to presenters so that the presenter
8 of the resolution “Support for Federally Funded
9 Research on Embryonic Stem Cells” be granted
10 sufficient time to finish the presentation.

11
12 Following further discussion, Ms. Taylor called for
13 the vote.

14
15 01-GS-41 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-
16 Third General Synod adopts the resolution “Sup-
17 port for Federally Funded Research on Embryonic
18 Stem Cells.”

19
20 **SUPPORT FOR FEDERALLY FUNDED RE-**
21 **SEARCH ON EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS**
22

23 WHEREAS, Jesus set an example, by his ministry
24 of healing and caring for the sick and disabled, chal-
25 lenging us to follow his example by supporting the
26 healing and caring ministry in our own day;
27

28 WHEREAS, human embryonic stem cells can form
29 virtually any type of human cell and thus have the
30 potential to form tissues for any part of the body;
31

32 WHEREAS, many scientists agree that research
33 on embryonic stem cells is more promising than
34 that of adult stem cells that have only a limited
35 capability to form certain cell types;
36

37 WHEREAS, many scientists believe that embry-
38 onic stem cell research could relieve suffering and
39 possibly cure patients with a variety of disorders
40 such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases, ju-
41 venile diabetes, spinal cord injury, Huntington’s
42 disease, and muscular dystrophy;
43

44 WHEREAS, there are currently over 25,000 fro-
45 zen embryos in in vitro fertilization clinics that
46 probably will eventually be discarded;
47

48 WHEREAS, the National Institutes of Health de-
49 veloped guidelines regulating federally funded re-
50 search on stem cells, provided they were taken from
51 frozen human embryos derived from in vitro fer-
52 tilization and which would be discarded after the
53 treatment of infertile couples;
54

55 WHEREAS, in Spring 2001 the present adminis-
56 tration canceled the inaugural meeting of a National
57 Institutes of Health committee that was to review
58 the applications for federal grants to study human
59

embryonic stem cells;
WHEREAS, there is bipartisan support for research
using human embryos, including many Democratic and
Republican legislators;

WHEREAS, research on embryonic stem cells is al-
ready underway in privately funded laboratories where
regulations and guidelines do not apply;
WHEREAS, the support for federally funded research
will impose ethical guidelines and oversight; and

WHEREAS, by banning the research, we foreclose the
possibility of doing all we can to improve the lot of the
living, and in many cases giving them new life;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-
third General Synod of the United Church of Christ
supports federally funded embryonic stem cell research
within ethically sound guidelines (including concern
for justice, privacy, access to the benefits of the re-
search for all) and the limitations set forth by the Na-
tional Institute of Health;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third
General Synod requests the General Minister and Presi-
dent of United Church of Christ to send a letter to the
President of the United States urging approval of fed-
eral funding for embryonic stem cell research within
National Institute of Health guidelines;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third
General Synod requests Justice and Witness Ministries
to advocate for allocation for stem cell research before
the appropriate Congressional committees;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third
General Synod requests Conferences, Association, and
local churches to work diligently in support of the leg-
islation allowing stem cell research, providing appro-
priate guidelines for such research, and allocating funds
to support the research; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Twenty-third
General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls
upon the Covenanted Ministries to provide leadership
and study materials for education, discussion, and theo-
logical reflection about the ethical issues of develop-
ments in the field of stem cell research.

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

Time was allotted for the Christian Church (Disciples
of Christ) to conduct business.

1 **4. RESOLUTION: SUPPORT OF THE**
2 **COALITION OF IMMOKALEE WORK-**
3 **ERS BOYCOTT OF TACO BELL**

4 Ms. Taylor called on the Chair of Committee Thir-
5 teen, Mr. Teamus L. Newberne (ILL) to present
6 the work of the Committee. Mr. Newberne noted
7 the following adjustments to the text:
8

9
10 The following paragraph of the first “Be it Res-
11 solved” paragraph, had been modified from its
12 original version, and should now read:

13
14 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Twenty-
15 third General Synod calls upon the United Church
16 of Christ in all its settings to boycott all Taco Bell
17 outlets and products until such time as Taco Bell
18 meets with representatives of the Coalition of
19 Immokalee Workers and with representatives of the
20 SixL’s company and other members of the Florida
21 tomato industry to effect substantive action to im-
22 prove the wages and working conditions of the farm
23 workers who pick the tomatoes that go into Taco
24 Bell products; and,

25
26 The following paragraph was added to the resolu-
27 tion as the final “Be it Resolved”:

28
29 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Twenty-
30 Third General Synod calls on the Justice and Wit-
31 ness Ministries to report to the Twenty-Fourth Gen-
32 eral Synod on the results of this action (and in the
33 interim to Executive Council), and to notify the
34 members and churches via regular communications
35 of the progress of the boycott.

36
37 Mr. Newberne yielded time to Ms. Roberta Perry,
38 with a request to grant voice. Following extensive
39 discussion, Moderator Taylor then called for the
40 vote.

41
42 01-GS-42 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-
43 Third General Synod adopts the resolution “Sup-
44 port of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers Boy-
45 cott of Taco Bell.”

46
47 **IN SUPPORT OF THE COALITION OF**
48 **IMMOKALEE WORKERS BOYCOTT OF**
49 **TACO BELL**

50
51 **WHEREAS**, the United Church of Christ has a long
52 history of support for farm workers in their quest
53 for justice and dignity, including support for past
54 boycotts of lettuce, table grapes, and Campbell’s
55 products, as well as the current boycott of Mt. Ol-
56 ive Pickle Company products;

57
58 **WHEREAS**, the Immokalee, Florida based SixL’s
59 company, one of the biggest tomato producers in
the United States, continues to pay the industry’s
lowest piece rate to its pickers, the same piece rate

it paid in 1978 (40 cents for every 32-pound of toma-
toes picked);

WHEREAS, SixL’s has refused to meet with farm
worker representatives to discuss issues of justice and
dignity;

WHEREAS, the SixL’s company contracts with Taco
Bell to provide a year-round supply of tomatoes;

WHEREAS, given the sheer volume of Immokalee
tomatoes it buys to supply its worldwide operations,
and given its size and economic strength, Taco Bell
has power to help bring about more modern and more
equitable labor relations in Immokalee’s tomato fields
but has refused to meet with farm worker representa-
tives such as the Coalition of Immokalee Workers to
discuss justice for farm workers; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2001, the Coalition of
Immokalee Workers, believing that the large corpora-
tions that buy Florida tomatoes must step up to their
responsibility by demanding, and obtaining changes
in the shameful “sweatshop” pay and working condi-
tions suffered by the men and women who pick their
tomatoes, declared a national boycott of Taco Bell;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-
third General Synod calls upon the United Church of
Christ in all its settings to boycott all Taco Bell outlets
and products until such time as Taco Bell meets with
representatives of the Coalition of Immokalee Work-
ers and with representatives of the SixL’s company and
other members of the Florida tomato industry to effect
substantive action to improve the wages and working
conditions of the farm workers who pick the tomatoes
that go into Taco Bell products;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third
General Synod calls upon members of the United
Church of Christ to express their concern for farm
worker justice in letters and calls to Emil J. Brolick,
President and Chief Concept Officer, Taco Bell Corp.,
17901 Von Karman, Irvine, CA 92614-6221 (tel. 949-
863-4500); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-Third
General Synod calls on the Justice and Witness Minis-
tries to report to the Twenty-Fourth General Synod on
the results of this action (and in the interim to the Ex-
ecutive Council), and to notify the members and
churches via regular United Church of Christ commu-
nications of the progress of the boycott.

50
51 **5. RECOGNITION OF LOCAL ARRANGE-**
52 **MENTS COMMITTEE**

53 Moderator Rivera called for recognition of the mem-
54 bers of the Local Arrangements Committee.

55 Don Manworren recognized Tim Murtaugh from the
56 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and gave affir-

1 mation and appreciation to the other volunteers.
2 Edith Guffey presented a plaque to UCC Co-chair,
3 Robert Atkinson and asked other volunteers stand
4 with him to be recognized.

5
6 **6. INVITATION TO THE TWENTY-
7 FOURTH GENERAL SYNOD IN MINNE-
8 APOLIS, MINNESOTA**

9 Ms. Taylor thanked the wonderful hosts in Kansas
10 City. A brief video was presented on Minneapolis,
11 site of the next General Synod, followed by a formal
12 invitation extended by the Rev. Karen Smith
13 Sellers, Acting Conference Minister of Minnesota,
14 and Ms. Edi Apelt, Conference Moderator.

15
16 The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) announced
17 that the next General Assembly would be held in
18 Charlotte, North Carolina, in 2003. Time was
19 given for business of the General Assembly.

20
21
22 **7. RESOLUTION: ACCESS TO EXCEL-
23 LENT PUBLIC SCHOOLS: A CHILD'S
24 RIGHT IN THE 21ST CENTURY.**

25 Ms. Taylor called on Ms. Althea White (NY), Chair
26 of Committee Eight. Ms. White introduced the
27 resolution "Access to Excellent Public Schools: A
28 Child's Right in the 21st Century," noting a minor
29 printing error in the distributed materials. She
30 yielded time to the Rev. Carl P. Wallace, who spoke
31 about the right to an education as the foremost civil
32 rights issue. He called on local churches to become
33 involved and to be more intentional about becoming
34 civil rights advocates.

35 Moderator Taylor called for the vote.

36
37
38 01-GS-43 VOTED: The Twenty-Third General
39 Synod adopts the resolution "Access to Excellent
40 Public Schools: A Child's Right in the 21st Century."
41

42
43 **ACCESS TO EXCELLENT PUBLIC SCHOOLS:
44 A CHILD'S CIVIL RIGHT IN THE 21ST CEN-
45 TURY**

46
47 WHEREAS The National Education Association
48 in its 2000–2001 resolution process declared "that
49 public education is the cornerstone of our social,
50 economic, and political structure and is of utmost
51 significance in the development of our moral, ethical,
52 spiritual, and cultural values";¹ and

53
54 WHEREAS the Children's Defense Fund declared
55 that "equal educational opportunity is a myth in
56 millennial America," and that "overall, America's
57 children are not being educated to the high levels
58 they have a right to expect";² and

59 WHEREAS thirteen million—or one in five—
American children live in poverty,³ the overwhelm-

ing majority of whom attend schools that receive inequitable and inadequate school funding due to the dependence of poor school districts on limited property taxes to support public education; and

WHEREAS these school districts, out of ignorance and racism, tend to marginalize children and families who are not of the dominant culture; and

WHEREAS the public school population of students whose first language is other than English continues to increase, thus placing even more stress on struggling school districts; and

WHEREAS there is a severe shortage of well-qualified teachers, particularly in rural and urban areas, which further perpetuates injustice in the public school system; and

WHEREAS the propensity of the popular press is to bash public schools, public school teachers, and poor families, encouraging the latter to settle for false promises and over-simplistic "solutions" such as vouchers; and

WHEREAS funding for Title I and Title VII of the Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which benefits poor children and the schools that serve them, is in severe jeopardy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

calls on the United Church of Christ in all its settings to proclaim public school support and advocacy for the same as one of the foremost civil rights issues in the twenty-first century;

urges local churches, Associations, and Conferences, consistent with previous actions taken by the Fifteenth General Synod in 1985, "Pronouncement on Public Education," and the Eighteenth General Synod in 1991, "Support of Quality Integrated Education for All Children in Public Schools," to call on local, state and federal governments to enact and enforce laws and policies that support a public education system that provides each child with an equal educational opportunity;

urges local churches to recruit new and uphold existing public educators, students, parents, school boards, and community leaders as activists for the civil right to excellent public education for all children;

encourages local churches and their individual members to take an active role in their local public schools, through church sponsored tutoring, after school activities, mentoring, book drives, or other such support activities as their local public schools may immediately need. Further encourages local churches to identify, become educated about, and work to eliminate systemic barriers to excellent public education for all.

1 requests that Justice and Witness Ministries con-
2 vene a cross-covenanted ministries Public Educa-
3 tion Task Force to engage all parts of the wider
4 church in the work that the AMA/CRJ Public Edu-
5 cation Task Force began.

6
7 requests that this Task Force, in collaboration with
8 the Justice and Witness Ministries, Local Church
9 Ministries, and the Proclamation, Identity, and
10 Communications Team, convene at least once
11 yearly to visit public schools and reflect on their
12 findings for church-wide discernment;

13
14 calls on this Task Force to work with the Ministry
15 for Youth and Young Adult Empowerment to de-
16 velop youth leadership for public school transfor-
17 mation;

18
19 calls on the United Church of Christ Research De-
20 partment, along with this Task Force, to launch a
21 denomination-wide survey to identify and priori-
22 tize challenges public schools face, to which the
23 United Church of Christ may respond;

24
25 calls on this Task Force to develop an umbrella
26 coalition across the thirty-nine Conferences of the
27 United Church of Christ, comprised of clergy and
28 lay persons, public school educators, parents, stu-
29 dents, and civic activists to support public school
30 justice, parent involvement, and equitable public
31 school financing;

32
33 calls on this Task Force to report to the Twenty-
34 fourth and Twenty-fifth General Synods on its
35 progress, including identifying systemic barriers
36 to excellent public education and recommending
37 strategies to address those barriers.

38
39 funding for this action will be made in accordance
40 with the overall mandates of the affected agencies
41 and the funds available.

42
43 Resolution of witness. Requires a two-thirds vote
44 for passage.

45 References

- 46
47 1. National Education Association: Available on-
48 line at <[http://www.nea.org/resolutions/00/](http://www.nea.org/resolutions/00/00a-1.html)
49 [00a-1.html](http://www.nea.org/resolutions/00/00a-1.html)>.
50 2. Children’s Defense Fund: Available online at
51 <[http://www.childrensdefense.org/fair-](http://www.childrensdefense.org/fair-start_faq.html)
52 [start_faq.html](http://www.childrensdefense.org/fair-start_faq.html)>.
53 3. Children’s Defense Fund: Available online at
54 <[http://www.childrensdefense.org/key-](http://www.childrensdefense.org/key-facts_education.html)
55 [facts_education.html](http://www.childrensdefense.org/key-facts_education.html)>.

56
57 The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) con-
58 ducted business.
59

8. RESOLUTION: HEALTH EFFECTS AND IMPACTS OF TOBACCO ON CHILDREN, TEENAGERS, AND THEIR FAMILIES

Ms. Taylor called on the Chair of Committee Four, Ms. Amariyls Ramos (PR), to present the recommended action from Committee Four. She noted a change to the third “Be It Therefore Resolved:” following the words “the Interministry Health Table,” add the words “. . . the Association of United Church Educators, Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries. . . .” Ms. Ramos moved adoption of the resolution on the Effects of Tobacco on Children, Teenagers, and Their Families. After discussion, Moderator Taylor called for the vote.

01-GS-44 VOTED: The Twenty-Third General Synod adopts the resolution “Health Effects and Impacts of Tobacco on Children, Teenagers, and Their Families.”

HEALTH EFFECTS AND IMPACTS OF TOBACCO ON CHILDREN, TEENAGERS, AND THEIR FAMILIES

WHEREAS, God’s good gift of creation includes our bodies, and we are called to be good stewards of our life and health;

WHEREAS, part of our responsibility for sharing in the shepherding activities of society as citizens is to help create conditions for the health of our communi- ties;

WHEREAS, tobacco is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States;

WHEREAS, worldwide, every ten seconds another person dies as a result of tobacco use;

WHEREAS, smoking of tobacco products is a major cause of illness that contributes to the premature death of hundreds of thousands people living in the United States;

WHEREAS, each day three thousand young people become regular smokers;

WHEREAS, four to five million youth aged twelve to seventeen are current smokers;

WHEREAS, smoking rates among youngsters continue to rise and are at their highest levels in nineteen years;

WHEREAS, tobacco companies are targeting their promotional efforts to children and youth with the result that ninety percent of new smokers are teenagers or younger;

WHEREAS, exposure to environmental tobacco smoke worsens symptoms of asthma and causes respiratory infections in children;

1 WHEREAS, we recognize that the right of indi-
2 viduals to use tobacco products in religious cer-
3 monies should be preserved; and

4
5 WHEREAS, it is our Christian responsibility to
6 speak out and take action against those who would
7 seek profit and wealth by promoting tobacco;

8
9 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-
10 third General Synod recommends that Justice and
11 Witness Ministries call upon the appropriate Jus-
12 tice and Witness Ministry Teams, the Parish Life
13 and Leadership Team in Local Church Ministries,
14 Health and Wholeness in Wider Church Ministries,
15 local churches, Associations, and Conferences to
16 be in discussion about the implications of recent
17 research on the health impacts of tobacco usage on
18 children, teenagers, and their families;

19
20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-
21 third General Synod requests that Justice and Wit-
22 ness Ministries encourage local churches, Confer-
23 ences, and Associations to engage in collaborative
24 community and national efforts that are aimed at
25 preventing and/or reducing youth tobacco use in-
26 cluding:

27
28 sponsoring self-help groups for persons who want
29 to stop smoking,

30
31 providing children and youth group learning op-
32 portunities that educate them about the health ef-
33 fects of smoking and smokeless tobacco, and

34
35 providing educational sessions for parents on how
36 to guide and talk with their children about tobacco;

37
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-
39 third General Synod requests that Justice and Wit-
40 ness Ministries convene the United Church of
41 Christ Parish Nurse Network, the United Church
42 of Christ Physician's Network, the United Church
43 of Christ Health Task Force, the Interministry
44 Health Table, the Association of United Church
45 Educators, Council for Youth and Young Adult
46 Ministries, and other interested and identified bod-
47 ies to work in concert to identify ministry models
48 and strategies to show how church members and
49 churches can respond to the tobacco issue; and

50
51 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that covenanted
52 ministries, organizations, health and human service
53 institutions associated with the United Church of
54 Christ, Conferences, Associations, local churches,
55 and members of the United Church of Christ ex-
56 press compassion and concern for persons who are
57 currently addicted to the use of tobacco products
58 and be urged to join in education and advocacy
59 activities to advance legislation that reduces the
smoking of tobacco products without being puni-
tive towards individuals who do smoke.

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

References

Health and Wellness Program, JWM
Public Life and Social Policy, JWM
David Jenkins, Ph.D., United Church of Christ,
Chapel Hill
Ted Johnson, Ed.D., West Parish UCC, Andover

The Rev. William Ingraham (MI) called for point of
personal privilege. He talked about the National Of-
fices' intentional work to maintain diversity among the
staff. A comparison would be made in the fall of 2001
of the current and prestructure staffing of the National
Offices, between the old and new staffs.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Edith Guffey and Mr. Don Manworren noted that
the business of the General Synod and the General
Assembly was officially completed. Mr. Manworren
reported that there were 8,045 Disciples in attendance,
1,500 of whom were youth. General Minister and Presi-
dent, Dick Hamm, thanked the moderators of the Chris-
tian Church (Disciple of Christ). Moderator Paul Rivera
called forward Lanny Lawler, First Vice-Moderator,
and presented him with a plaque in appreciation of his
service. Ms. Guffey and Mr. Hamm thanked all of the
staff that was responsible for making the General Synod
and the General Assembly meetings successful.

10. FINAL REPORT OF THE TWENTY-THIRD GENERAL SYNOD CREDENTIALS COMMIT- TEE

Ms. Guffey gave the final report of the Credentials
Committee as follows: there were 711 Conference
Delegates, 200 Covenanted Ministries and Ex-Officio
Delegates, 74 Associate Delegates, 33 Voice-without-
Vote Delegates, 24 Honored Guests, 1,754 Visitors,
440 Youth, 118 Ministries Staff, and 40 General Synod
Staff for a total of 3,394 United Church of Christ per-
sons at the Twenty-third General Synod!

Words of thanks were extended to Moderators: Nancy
Taylor, Dick Harter, and Linda Jaramillo. Chalices were
presented to each of them, as the audience responded
with a standing ovation.

11. FINAL SPEAK OUT!

Ms. Taylor called upon the participants of the final
Speak Out!

Ms. Cynthia Dobson McBride (Disciples of Christ)
urged fellow Disciple colleagues to act on the decision
on Churches Uniting in Christ. She called on them to
form study groups with the United Church of Christ,
to perform communion with the Methodist, or a con-
cert with the African Methodist Episcopal or Zion

1 churches, as a way of becoming one with other de-
2 nominations.

3
4 Ms. Maureen Mattern (Disciples of Christ) stressed
5 the need for cell phones and pagers to be turned
6 off or on silent mode during business.

7
8 Ms. Lucy Maier (Disciples of Christ) named per-
9 sons who were left off the memoriam list: Pauline
10 Tims, Jenny and Imogene Hayes.

11
12 Mr. Michael Immel (Disciples of Christ) issued a
13 plea to overcome bigotries and phobias and be more
14 intentional about becoming open and affirming.

15
16 Mr. Dale Butler (Disciples of Christ) gave thanks
17 for missionaries. He spoke against homosexuality
18 and how it relates to the mission of the welcome
19 table.

20
21 Moderator Taylor recognized Dick Sparrow, UCC
22 Speak Out! Coordinator.

23
24 Mr. David Inglis (RM) encouraged all United
25 Church of Christ churches to confront the Boy
26 Scouts of America regarding its policy on gay
27 members.

28
29 The Rev. Julia Rendon (IA) expressed concern for
30 the national budget and pastoral compensation. She
31 challenged churches to give more in support of the
32 smaller rural churches that are struggling to sur-
33 vive.

34
35 Mr. James Boodley (NY) thanked the Disciples for
36 their discernment process. He felt they were both
37 thoughtful and graceful in their approach to the is-
38 sue of homosexuality.

39
40 The Rev. Robert Martin (MICH) invited groups to
41 commit a portion of their tax rebates to mission.

42
43 The Rev. Arthur Cribbs (CA NV, S) gave thanks
44 for the passage of the public education resolution.
45 He invited everyone to take back to their congre-
46 gations the brochure "Separate and Unequal."

47
48 The Rev. Daehler Hayes (RI) suggested reaching
49 out to three persons twenty times to reach the en-
50 tire world with the Haitian greeting.

51
52 The Rev. Maria Palmer (SOC) shared that of the
53 10,000 ordained ministers, there are less than 250
54 who are under the age of 35. She expressed the
55 hope of more young people going into the minis-
56 try.

57 58 **12. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS**

59 Rita Nakashima Brock noted the bittersweetness
of the concluding of the General Synod and the
General Assembly. She saw the mission of both of

these entities as touching the world in important ways
and as witnessing to God's word. Dale Bishop spoke
of the nonvoting participants in attendance who came
just because it is church. The church is a gift, and their
acts were acts of faithfulness.

Moderator Paul Rivera responded on behalf of all of
the moderators.

13. MOTION TO ADJOURN AT CONCLUSION OF WORSHIP SERVICE

The wrap-up video, "A Look Back," was shown.

Ms. Taylor called for the adjournment of the General
Synod at the conclusion of the evening worship ser-
vice.

The Benediction was offered.

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APPENDIX A
STANDING RULES FOR THE TWENTY-THIRD GENERAL SYNOD

**THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE
GENERAL SYNOD**

1. The General Synod is the representative body of the United Church of Christ and is composed of delegates chosen by the Conferences, from among the members of its Local Churches, the voting members of the Boards of Directors of Justice and Witness Ministries, Local Church Ministries, Office of General Ministries, and Wider Church Ministries, of ex officio delegates; these shall constitute the voting delegates. The ex officio delegates with vote are the members of the Executive Council, including the Officers of the United Church of Christ, the Moderator, and Assistant Moderators. There are also associate delegates who have voice without vote (United Church of Christ Constitution, Para. 53, and Bylaws 190-191).

ACCREDITATION AND SEATING OF VOTING DELEGATES AND ASSOCIATE DELEGATES

2. Delegates will be accredited by the General Synod Registrar or the Assistant Registrar or their agents at the registration desk upon presentation of proper credentials.
3. Conference Ministers are responsible for certifying substitutes to fill vacancies in their delegation. These persons shall be registered by the Registrar or the Assistant Registrar and accredited as delegates.
4. Composition of delegations can be challenged by voting or associate delegates only. Delegate seats which are contested will remain vacant until the General Synod Credentials Committee (Bylaw 204) makes a recommendation to the Synod and a decision is made by majority vote of the Synod.
 - A. A challenge of a delegation shall be made to the Executive Council and/or the Credentials Committee at least one month prior to the General Synod for appropriate consideration and recommendation to the General Synod.
 - B. In the event of a challenge to the composition of a delegation, the Credentials Committee shall consider the matter on the basis of the (1) provisions of the Conference for electing its General

Synod delegates and (2) provisions as described in Paragraph 186 of the Bylaws for the composition of the Conference delegations.

5. Voting delegates (Bylaws 185-189) wearing the proper badge will be seated in the specifically designated delegate section. Covenanted Ministry delegates shall be seated together by Covenanted Ministry, except that those who are Conference Ministers shall be seated with their conference delegates, and those who are representing another Covenanted Ministry shall be seated with the delegates of the Covenanted Ministry to which they were elected. Each Covenanted Ministry delegation shall be seated separate from the other Covenanted Ministry delegations.
6. Associate delegates (Bylaw 190 and 191) wearing the proper badge will be seated in the specifically designated associate delegate section, except the chairperson of the governing board and the chief executive officer of each Conference who may be seated with their Conference delegation.
7. No other persons will be allowed in the delegate section except Non-Delegates having voice without vote as described below and persons designated by the General Synod Administrator as General Synod staff, national staff liaisons, and persons with press credentials. All delegates, associate delegates, non-delegates having voice without vote, and other persons mentioned in this paragraph must have appropriate credentials from the General Synod Registrar.

ACCREDITATION AND SEATING OF NON-DELEGATES HAVING VOICE WITHOUT VOTE

8. Any chairperson or chief executive officer of any national program agency, both temporary and permanent, created by General Synod action, who is not either a voting delegate or an associate delegate (Bylaws 184-191) shall be accorded the privilege of voice without vote and of seating with the associate delegates.
9. When the interests of their respective institutions or groups are before the General Synod, the chief executive officers of the institutions related to the Council for Higher Education or the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries shall have the privilege of voice without vote.

- 1 10. A group is composed of at least 25 members
 2 of the United Church of Christ who have
 3 come together because they are persons of a
 4 particular constituency or interested in a
 5 specific issue or concern. Such groups may
 6 have voice without vote under the following
 7 conditions:
 8
- 9 A. The General Synod may vote, on recom-
 10 mendation of the Business Committee, to
 11 grant to not more than two non-delegate
 12 representatives of a group the privilege
 13 of voice without vote and of seating with
 14 the associate delegates, if the group
 15 meets the following criteria:
 16
- 17 1. The group must consist of at least 25
 18 members of the United Church of
 19 Christ and more than one Conference
 20 must be represented in its membership.
 21
 - 22 2. The group must show cause to the Business
 23 Committee why elected delegates cannot
 24 effectively represent its cause or concern to
 25 the General Synod.
 26
 - 27 3. The two non-delegate representatives
 28 given voice without vote will hold
 29 membership in a local church of the
 30 United Church of Christ.
 31
- 32 B. Any request for voice without vote privi-
 33 leges at the General Synod must be made
 34 in writing to the General Synod Business
 35 Committee in care of the Office of
 36 General Ministries of the United
 37 Church of Christ no later than thirty days
 38 before the General Synod meeting. A list
 39 of at least 25 current members including
 40 local church membership reflecting
 41 membership in more than one conference
 42 must accompany all requests.
 43
- 44 C. For groups not formally related to the
 45 United Church of Christ, privilege of
 46 voice without vote ends with the adjourn-
 47 ment of General Synod.
 48
- 49 11. Honored Guests, Former Officers of the
 50 United Church of Christ, and the Moderator
 51 of each past General Synod; Chief Executive
 52 Officers of formerly Recognized and Estab-
 53 lished Instrumentalities, and Commission of
 54 Racial Justice, who retired from these posi-
 55 tions, and Ecumenical Guests who are not
 56 associate delegates may be accorded the
 57 privilege of voice without vote and of seating
 58 with the associate delegates by vote of the
 59 General Synod.

PROCEDURES FOR COMMUNICATING AND CONSIDERING FORMAL MOTIONS

12. Matters of concern to members of the United Church of Christ may be presented in the form of Formal Motions for consideration by a General Synod. Formal Motions are Proposed Pronouncements; Proposals for Action; and Resolutions and Other Formal Motions.

A. Proposed Pronouncements

1. Definition: A Pronouncement is a statement of Christian conviction on a matter of moral or social principle and has been adopted by a 2/3 vote of a General Synod. It is based on biblical, theological, and ethical grounds. Until adopted, the statement presented for consideration by a General Synod is a Proposed Pronouncement. Proposals for Action shall not be included in Proposed Pronouncements. (See B. Proposals for Action, below.)
2. Sources: A Proposed Pronouncement may be submitted only by:
 - a. a General Synod delegate or delegate-elect with the written concurrence of at least ten additional General Synod delegates or delegates-elect from two or more Conferences;
 - b. a Local Church, with the written concurrence of at least five other Local Churches of the United Church of Christ;
 - c. an Association;
 - d. a Conference;
 - e. a Covenanted, Associated, or Affiliated Ministry or other body as defined in Article VI of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.
3. Procedures for Considering Proposed Pronouncements are:
 - a. A Copy of the Proposed Pronouncement must be sent to the Office of General Ministries of the Church at least eight months before the opening of a General Synod.
 - b. The Office of General Ministries will send the Proposed Pronouncement to the Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and delegates at least six months in advance of a General Synod. It shall be labeled "Proposed Pronouncement-Circulated for Discussion and Comments."
 - c. The Executive Council shall designate a committee or other group to review the Proposed Pronouncement and make recommendations to a General Synod. The initiator(s) of the Proposed Pronouncement shall designate a person

1 to support the Proposed Pronounce-
2 ment before the committee or group
3 designated by the Executive Coun-
4 cil. Additional persons may provide
5 support or opposition.

- 6 d. The Office of General Ministries
7 will receive responses to the Pro-
8 posed Pronouncement from Local
9 Churches, delegates, delegates-
10 elect, Associations, Conferences,
11 Covenanted, Associated, or Affili-
12 ated Ministries or other bodies as
13 defined in Article VI of the Bylaws
14 of the United Church of Christ,
15 including the record of any votes
16 taken. The Office of General Minis-
17 tries will provide one copy of each
18 response to the committee or group
19 designated to review the Proposed
20 Pronouncement, retaining one copy
21 in the Office of General Ministries.
22 A report shall be made to the
23 General Synod of the volume and
24 character received.
- 25 e. The committee or group designated
26 by the Executive Council to review
27 the Proposed Pronouncement shall
28 have the following duties:
29 1. To coordinate the responses
30 received;
31 2. To hold open hearing(s) after
32 proper notice.
33 3. To present, after such hearing(s),
34 to a plenary session of the Gen-
35 eral Synod its recommendations
36 for action. Such action may be
37 approval, disapproval, amend-
38 ment, consolidation, referral, or
39 no action. A substitute motion or
40 other amendment which radically
41 alters the basic intent or direction
42 of the original Proposed Pro-
43 nouncement, however, shall be
44 ruled out of order.
- 45 f. Copies of the Proposed Pronounce-
46 ment and the recommendations of
47 the committee or group reviewing
48 the Proposed Pronouncement must
49 be distributed to the delegates before
50 action can be taken.
- 51 g. If adopted, the Pronouncement shall
52 be communicated throughout the
53 United Church of Christ and to the
54 public.
- 55
- 56 4. Format: A Proposed Pronouncement
57 and its supporting materials shall be
58 submitted and circulated in the follow-
59 ing format (Proposed Pronouncements
and supporting materials which do not
follow this format will be returned for
revision):

- a. A brief title with an information
sheet indicating the source of the
Proposed Pronouncement, date of
submission, and any other informa-
tion pertinent to the Proposed Pro-
nouncement.
- b. A brief summary (an abstract)
- c. Background statement indicating
significance and rationale for the
Proposed Pronouncement.
- d. Biblical, theological, and ethical
rationale for the Proposed Pro-
nouncement.
- e. The statement of Christian convic-
tion upon which the General Synod
will vote.
5. The Statement of Christian Conviction
is the only portion of the Proposed Pro-
nouncement which will be voted on by the
General Synod. Committees functioning for
the General Synod, however, shall consider
and may amend any portion of the Proposed
Pronouncement.

B. Proposals for Action

1. Definition: A Proposal for Action is a
recommendation for specific directional
statements and goals implementing a Pro-
nouncement. (A Proposal for Action may be
submitted and circulated in anticipation of
the adoption of a Proposed Pronouncement.)
2. Sources: Proposals for Action may be
submitted only by:
a. a General Synod delegate or delegate-
elect, with the written concurrence of at
least ten additional General Synod dele-
gates or delegates-elect, from two or
more Conferences;
b. a Local Church, with the written concur-
rence of at least five other Local Churches
of the United Church of Christ;
c. an Association;
d. a Conference;
e. a Covenanted, Associated, or Affiliated
Ministry or other body as defined in
Article VI of the Bylaws of the United
Church of Christ.
3. Procedures for Considering Proposals for
Action are:
a. A copy of the Proposal for Action must be
sent to the Office of General Ministries of
the church at least eight months before the
opening of the General Synod.
b. The Office of General Ministries will send
the Proposal for Action to the Local
Churches, Associations, Conferences,
proposed implementor(s), and delegates at

1 least six months in advance of a
2 General Synod. It shall be labeled
3 “Proposal for Action-Circulated for
4 Discussion and Comments.”

5 c. The Executive Council may designate
6 a committee or other group to review
7 the Proposal for Action and make
8 recommendations to the General
9 Synod, or the Executive Council may
10 present the Proposal for Action with
11 its own recommendation to the
12 General Synod. The initiator(s) of the
13 Proposal for Action shall designate a
14 person to support the Proposal for
15 Action before the committee or group
16 designated by the Executive Council.
17 Additional persons may provide sup-
18 port or opposition.

19 d. The Office of General Ministries
20 will receive responses to the
21 Proposals for Action from Local
22 Churches, delegates, delegates-
23 elect, Associations, Conferences,
24 Covenanted, Associated, or Affili-
25 ated Ministries and other bodies as
26 defined in Article VI of the Bylaws of
27 the United Church of Christ including
28 the record of any votes taken. The
29 Office of General Ministries will
30 provide one copy of each response to
31 the committee or group which may
32 have been named by the Executive
33 Council to review the Proposals for
34 Action and one copy to the initiator(s)
35 of the Proposals for Action, retaining
36 one copy in the Office of General
37 Ministries. A report shall be made to
38 the General Synod of the volume and
39 character of the responses received.

40 e. The proposed implementors shall be
41 required to provide to the General
42 Synod a statement of feasibility and
43 an estimate of the financial implica-
44 tions for the Church at the national
45 level of the Proposal for Action.

46 f. Copies of the Proposal for Action
47 and the recommendations pertaining
48 to it, including a statement of finan-
49 cial implications, must be distributed
50 to the delegates before action can be
51 taken.

52 g. If adopted, the Proposal for Action
53 shall be communicated throughout
54 the United Church of Christ, to the
55 public and to those named as
56 implementors.

57
58 4. Format: A Proposal for Action shall
59 include the following (Proposals for
Action and supporting materials which
do not follow this format will be re-

turned for revision):

- a. A brief title with an information sheet indicating the source of the Proposal for Action, date of submission, and any other information pertinent to the Proposal for Action.
- b. A brief summary (an abstract).
- c. Background statement indicating the Pronouncement(s) or the Proposed Pronouncement(s) on which it is based, the Synod(s) at which it was adopted or is proposed, and the rationale for the Proposal for Action.
- d. The names of the implementor(s) expected to develop the strategies and program to carry out the Proposal for Action.
- e. The directional statements and goals upon which the General Synod will vote.
- f. A statement that the implementing body is responsible to develop the strategy and program of the directional statements and goals.
- g. A statement that the implementation of the Proposal for Action is subject to the availability of funds.

5. The Directional Statements and Goals are the only portions of the Proposal for Action that will be voted on by the General Synod. Committees functioning for the General Synod, however, shall consider and may amend any portion of the Proposal for Action.

C. Resolutions—and Other Formal Motions

1. Definitions:

- a. Resolution of Witness: A Resolution of Witness is an expression of the General Synod concerning a moral, ethical, or religious matter confronting the church, the nation, or the world, adopted for the guidance of the Covenanted, Associated, or Affiliated Ministries or other bodies as defined in Article VI of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ; the consideration of local churches, associations, conferences, and other bodies related to the United Church of Christ; and for a Christian witness to the world. It represents agreement by at least 2/3 of the delegates voting that the view expressed is based on Christian conviction and is a part of their witness to Jesus Christ. The text of the proposed resolution should be so phrased as not to bring into question the Christian commitment of those who do not agree.
- b. Prudential Resolutions: A Prudential Resolution establishes policy, institutes or revises structure or procedures, authorizes

1 programs, approves directions, or
2 requests actions by a majority vote.
3 c. Other Formal motions include
4 actions other than those provided
5 for above by majority vote.

- 6 2. Sources: A Resolution or Other Formal
7 Motion may be submitted by
8 a. any three delegates or delegates-
9 elect from two or more Conferences,
10 b. a Local Church,
11 c. an Association,
12 d. a Conference,
13 e. a Covenanted, Associated, or
14 Affiliated Ministry or other body as
15 defined in Article VI of the Bylaws of
16 the United Church of Christ.

17
18 3. Procedures for Considering Resolu-
19 tions and Other Formal Motions are:

- 20 a. Proposed Resolutions and Other
21 Formal Motions shall be submitted
22 before the following deadlines:
23 1. A copy of the Resolution or
24 Other Formal Motion must be
25 sent to the Office of General
26 Ministries of the Church by
27 February 15, before the
28 opening of the General Synod.
29 The Office of General Minis-
30 tries shall send copies to del-
31 egates by May 15.
32 2. A Resolution or Other Formal
33 Motion which could not have
34 been anticipated or submitted in
35 conformance with the above
36 deadline must be received by
37 the Office of General Ministries
38 of the Church at least three weeks
39 prior to the opening session of
40 the General Synod at which it is
41 to be considered.
42 3. A Resolution or Other Formal
43 Motion which could not have
44 been anticipated or submitted
45 three weeks prior to the opening
46 session of the General Synod
47 may be presented to the Office
48 of General Ministries during
49 those three weeks, or by a
50 voting delegate to the Executive
51 Council on the day of registra-
52 tion, or at a designated point in
53 the agenda of Synod where new
54 business may be introduced by
55 title only, or when there is no
56 other business before the Synod
57 provided that there will remain
58 twenty-four hours for study
59 before action is taken by the
Synod. The presenter must be
accompanied by two other

delegates, at least one of
whom must be from a second
conference, and must provide
at least 1000 copies of the
proposed Resolution or Other
Formal Motion for distribution to
the Executive Council, Business
Committee, Officers, chairper-
sons of committees, delegates,
and to each conference.

- b. Every Resolution or Other Formal Motion
received prior to the General Synod shall
be referred to the Executive Council or,
during the General Synod meeting, to the
Business Committee. The Executive
Council or Business Committee shall, in
respect of each proposal, either (1) present
its own recommendations to the General
Synod or (2) assign it to a committee or
other group for review and recommenda-
tion to the General Synod. Such recom-
mendations may include approval, disap-
approval, amendment, consolidation, refer-
ral, or no action. (see Rule 22)
c. No Resolution or Other Formal Motion
shall be considered by the General Synod
if similar action has been taken during one
of the two previous General Synods unless
the proposal would significantly change
the previous action. The burden of proof
shall remain with the presenter.
d. Copies of each Resolution or Other For-
mal Motion and the recommendation
pertaining to it must be distributed to
delegates at least one-half day in advance
before action can be taken.
4. Format: Resolutions and Other Formal Mo-
tions shall be presented in the following
format:
a. A brief title with information provid-
ing the source of the Resolution or Other
Formal Motion, the date of submission,
and any other information pertinent to the
Resolution or Other Formal Motion. If
presented at General Synod, the names
and conferences of the delegates present-
ing the Resolution or Other Formal Mo-
tion shall be included.
b. A brief summary of the Resolution or
Other Formal Motion, if appropriate.
c. The biblical, theological, and ethical
rationale; the financial implications;
and the expected outcome, if appropriate.
d. The text of the motion.
e. A statement, if appropriate, that the
implementation of the Resolution or
Other Formal Motion is subject to the
availability of funds. There is no financial
guarantee of any kind other than the
annual budget determined by the Execu-
tive Council (73 GS 81).

1 f. A statement, if appropriate, that the
2 implementing body is responsible for
3 developing the strategy and program
4 designed to implement the Resolu-
5 tion or Other Formal Motion.
6

7 13. No more than four Proposed Pronounce-
8 ments, Proposals for Action, Reports with
9 Recommendations, Resolutions, and Over-
10 tures may be admitted to the agenda from
11 any single source.
12

13 14. Reports to be made to succeeding General
14 Synods on a Pronouncement, Proposal for
15 Action, Resolution, or Other Formal Motion
16 may be requested for no more than the three
17 General Synods immediately following that
18 General Synod.
19

20 **PROCEDURES FOR PROPOSED AMEND-** 21 **MENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND** 22 **BYLAWS** 23

24 15. Article XII of the Constitution of the United
25 Church of Christ provides for and governs
26 the amendments to the Constitution and
27 Bylaws.
28

29 **REPORTS TO THE GENERAL SYNOD** 30

31 16. Reports to the General Synod with no action
32 required shall be placed on file. All reports
33 made within the context of the meeting shall
34 be contained in the official minutes of the
35 meeting.
36

37 **CONDUCT OF THE BUSINESS OF THE** 38 **GENERAL SYNOD** 39

40 17. A quorum for the conduct of business at
41 General Synod shall consist of 1/3 of the
42 voting delegates, provided that in this num-
43 ber at least 2/3 of the Conferences are repre-
44 sented by at least one delegate each (United
45 Church of Christ Constitution, Para. 53).
46

47 18. All proceedings of the General Synod shall,
48 unless otherwise provided for, be governed
49 by current edition of Robert's Rules of Order
50 (United Church of Christ Bylaw 182).
51

52 19. Main motions, not in distributed printed
53 material, and substantive amendments shall
54 be presented to the moderator in writing,
55 signed by the maker and seconder. Only
56 voting delegates may make motions.
57

58 20. When a matter has been referred to a com-
59 mittee or group during the General Synod for
review prior to its presentation to a plenary
session for debate and action, the recommen-

dated made to a plenary session by such com-
mittee or group shall be considered an original
main motion fully open to amendment by the
General Synod, except a recommendation which
radically alters the basic intent or direction of the
original matter referred to a committee or group
shall be regarded as a substitute motion requiring
a majority vote of the General Synod for consid-
eration.

21. The agenda as adopted by the General Synod
may be changed by 2/3 vote or general consent
upon recommendation of the Business Commit-
tee or motion from the floor.

22. Debate shall conform to the following provi-
sions:

A. Delegates and others wishing to be recog-
nized shall obtain use of a microphone,
address the moderator, and identify them-
selves by name and Conference or other
represented body.

B. Pro and con microphones may be designated
by the moderator as required.

C. A delegate may not speak on an issue and
conclude by moving the previous question.

D. A delegate may not present a combined
motion to close debate on an amendment
to a motion and the main motion.

E. No one may speak to the same debatable
motion more than twice except to answer
questions from the floor or the moderator.

F. A maximum of three minutes for the first
speech is allowed the maker of the motion;
subsequent speakers are limited to two
minutes each, which can be divided into
two speeches.

G. During timed floor debates and speak outs,
microphones will be turned off at the expira-
tion of a speaker's time provided for in the
General Synod Standing Rules.

H. When time restrictions on speakers are re-
quired by these Standing Rules, an extension
of time may be granted by the presiding
moderator to the following persons:

1. Speakers requiring translation into English
from another language (time needed for
the translation shall not be counted in the
time allotment) and speakers who require
sign language translation;
2. Speakers whose fluency in English is
limited and for whom translation is not
available;

1 3. Speakers with disabilities that affect
2 mobility and/or speech.

3
4 A request for an extension of time shall be
5 indicated to the floor parliamentarian who
6 shall notify the presiding moderator.

7
8 I. Opportunity will be provided for two
9 delegates speaking in favor and two
10 delegates speaking in opposition to a
11 motion before an amendment can be
12 made.

13
14 J. A motion to limit or extend the limits of
15 debate is itself undebatable; such motion
16 requires a second and a 2/3 vote unless
17 decided by general consent.

18
19 K. Non-delegates, not otherwise authorized
20 to speak, may speak only by a 2/3 vote of
21 the General Synod.

22
23 23. Voting shall conform to the following provi-
24 sions:

25
26 A. Votes shall be decided by the delegates
27 present and voting. Abstentions shall not
28 be counted in the total.

29
30 B. Voting shall be conducted on main mo-
31 tions, amendments, and other motions by
32 the moderator by show of voting cards
33 (not voice vote) except:
34 1. When a standing vote is necessary
35 as decided by the moderator; or
36 2. When a counted vote is required by
37 decision of the assembly or by the
38 moderator.

39 40 **MINORITY RESOLUTIONS**

41
42 24. Requirements. In the case where a Formal
43 Motion, Constitution and/or Bylaw amend-
44 ment, or Priority is adopted by less than
45 75% of the votes cast, a minority resolution,
46 expressing a minority viewpoint on the same
47 subject matter, may be proposed at the same
48 or the next business session of that General
49 Synod.

50
51 25. Procedures to be followed when a minority
52 resolution is to be considered shall conform
53 to the following provisions:

54
55 A. A delegate who plans to propose a minor-
56 ity resolution should, at the time of the
57 consideration of the original proposal,
58 request of the moderator that the percent-
59 age of votes in the affirmative be deter-
mined and recorded so that eligibility for
proposing a minority resolution can be
established.

B. A minority resolution is to be voted upon
only by those who voted in opposition to
the original proposal. Each Conference
shall be responsible to determine the eligi-
bility of its own delegates in such a vote.

C. To become a matter of record of General
Synod, a minority resolution shall require
a majority vote of those voting as desig-
nated in 25B, above.

D. An adopted minority resolutions shall be
attached to the action to which it relates.

PROCEDURES FOR NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

26. The Nominating Committee shall make
nominations from the platform as provided
by the Constitution and Bylaws. Nomina-
tions may also be made from the floor.
(Members of the Nominating Committee are
nominated by the Executive Council. Some
members of the Office of Communication
are nominated by the Executive Council and
other National bodies of the United Church
of Christ. These nominations are made from
the platform by the Business Committee.)

27. Biographical information on each candidate
shall be made available by the Nominating
Committee for those it nominates, by the
Executive Council and other National bodies
of the United Church of Christ for those they
nominate, and by a delegate making a nomina-
tion from the floor. The Nominating Committee,
the Executive Council, and other National bodies
of the United Church of Christ shall submit their
information to the General Synod not later than
the opening of the business session in which the
Nominating Committee reports to the General
Synod. A delegate making a floor nomination
shall submit the required biographical informa-
tion to the Office of General Ministries by the
close of the business meeting during which the
nomination is made.

28. Written consent of each nominee other than
floor nominees is required prior to election
and should be submitted to the Office of General
Ministries. The person making the floor nomina-
tion shall provide verification of the consent of
the nominee in a form acceptable to the Office of
General Ministries pending receipt of written
confirmation.

29. All nominations shall be presented by name
only. Biographical information for all nomi-
nees shall be distributed in printed form.

1 30. The Business Committee shall administer the
 2 nomination and election procedures. The
 3 Executive Committee of the Nominating
 4 Committee will be a resource to the Business
 5 Committee in the nomination and election
 6 procedures. The Office of General Ministries
 7 shall provide adequate staff assistance to the
 8 Business Committee and the Nominating
 9 Committee.

10
 11 31. Election by ballot shall be required only
 12 when an election is contested.

13
 14 32. If more than one nomination is made for the
 15 Executive Council from any one Confer-
 16 ence, the General Synod shall vote on which

name shall appear on the final ballot. A three
 minute nomination speech shall be allowed for
 each nominee prior to this vote.

33. When the election is contested, the sequence
 of names shall be varied on the printed ballots.
 Nominations made from the floor shall be so
 identified on the ballots.

34. All elections shall be decided by plurality
 except for those specified in Standing Rule 35.
 Votes for write-in candidates and abstentions
 shall not be counted.

35. Requirements and limitations for nominations
 are set forth on the following chart:

	Bio. Info. Required (Max Words)	Floor Nomina- tions Allowed	Nominating Speech (Max.Mins.)	No. of Seconding Speeches Allowed	Seconding Speech (Max.Mins.)
Moderator	50	Yes	5	2	2
Assistant Moderators	50	Yes	3 (only when contested)	No	No
Executive Council	50	Yes	3	No	No
Nominating Committee	50	Yes	3	No	No
Commissions, Committees, Covenanted Ministries	15	Yes	No	No	No

All nominating and seconding speeches shall be made from the platform.

36. The Moderator and Assistant Moderators of
 the General Synod shall be elected by major-
 ity vote, a majority being based on the
 number of votes cast for the office. The
 results and number of votes cast for each
 shall be announced to the delegates in a
 timely manner.

If no candidate receives a majority of votes
 cast on any ballot, the next ballot will include
 the two candidates receiving the largest
 number of votes and all other candidates who
 receive more than the average number of votes
 cast per candidate on the previous ballot.

1 **PROCEDURE AND CALL AND ELECTION**

2
3 37. In the General Synod year in which the Gen-
4 eral Minister and President or the Associate
5 General Minister of the Church is to be
6 called by election or reelection, candidates
7 will be presented to the General Synod by
8 the Executive Council. A single presentation
9 for each candidate may be made, each to be
10 no longer than 10 minutes.

11
12 38. In the General Synod year in which the Ex-
13 ecutive Minister for Justice and Witness
14 Ministries, Wider Church Ministries, or
15 Local Church Ministries is to be called by
16 election or reelection as an Officer of the
17 Church, a candidate will be presented to the
18 General Synod by the Board of Directors of
19 the appropriate Covenanted Ministry. A
20 single presentation for the candidate may be
21 made, each to be no longer than 10 minutes.

22
23 39. Candidates for the Offices of General
24 Minister and President, Associate General
25 Minister, Executive Minister for Justice and
26 Witness Ministries, Executive Minister for
27 Wider Church Ministries; and Executive
28 Minister for Local Church Ministries may
29 each make a speech no longer than 10
30 minutes prior to the call by election.

31
32 40. An affirmative vote of at least 60% of the
33 legal votes cast is necessary for each candi-
34 date to be called and elected by the General
35 Synod to serve as an officer of the church.

36
37 **GENERAL RULES**

38
39 41. Meeting expeditors (such as pages) shall
40 perform duties as designated by the Business
41 Committee and shall be non-delegates.

42
43 42. Only printed matter and other matter (in-
44 cluding commercial) which has been ap-
45 proved by the Business Committee may be
46 distributed on the floor of the General Synod
47 and within its environs. Such material must
48 contain the identity of the originator.

49
50 43. The Business Committee will announce any
51 necessary rules pertaining to photographs
52 being taken during the General Synod
53 meetings. These rules may be changed in the
54 manner as other General Synod Standing
55 Rules.

56
57 44. Recording the procedures of General Synod
58 is the responsibility of the Office of General
59 Ministries.

45. Planned demonstrations and celebrations on
the floor and visitor's gallery of the General
Synod plenary sessions must have prior approval
of the Business Committee or be ruled out of
order.

46. There shall be no smoking in the meeting hall
during the business meetings of the General
Synod.

47. All sessions of the General Synod and its del-
egate committees are open to the public and the
news media while the Synod is in session.

48. The Joint Planning Committee for the Common
Gathering, in consultation with the host Confer-
ences and Region (CC/DC), will determine the
number of offerings to be received at General
Synod 23 and shall announce the offering (s) at
the Spring, 2001, meeting of Executive Council.

In the event that an exceptional need arises after
the Spring meeting of the Executive Council or
during the General Synod itself, the Business
Committee of the General Synod may authorize
an additional offering to meet that need during
the General Synod.

49. These General Synod Standing Rules shall
be originally adopted as a group by 2/3 vote.
Thereafter, any rule(s) may be amended or
rescinded by a 2/3 vote. Some rules may be
suspended for a single instance by majority
vote bringing into effect the standard parlia-
mentary rule if one exists.

50. When General Synod is not in session, the
Executive Council acting as General Synod ad
interim may amend the Standing Rules, as
necessary, to facilitate the collection, processing,
and distribution of items of business for a subse-
quent General Synod. Notification must be sent
to local churches, conferences, and delegates
regarding such action(s) at least one year prior to
the beginning of the subsequent General Synod.

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APPENDIX B
RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO IMPLEMENTING BODIES

RESOLUTION: JUSTICE AND PEACE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

WHEREAS the present administration has slowed down the reunification of North and South Korea;

WHEREAS with the advent of the current advisors to the President, the United States government is moving towards a cold war mentality;

WHEREAS the present administration is pursuing a missile defense system that threatens to undo the nuclear proliferation treaties;

WHEREAS the present administration is not abiding by the commitments of the Kyoto Environmental Summit to reduce carbon dioxide emissions which would reduce global warming and therefore preserve island nations in the Pacific Ocean;

WHEREAS the incidents with the Ehime Maru, the intelligence plane's accident over Chinese territory, and the nuclear submarine docking in Japan without the agreement of a twenty-four hour notice, all point to the deterioration of relationship with these Asian Countries;

WHEREAS the United Nations has called on the United States and other nations with interest in Pacific Nations to decolonize and to set these nations free;

WHEREAS the General Synod, having discerned that God wants the United Church of Christ to be a church working for justice and peace and, therefore, have adopted many resolutions regarding East Asia, Southern Asia, and the Pacific; and

WHEREAS the General Synod has proclaimed that the integrity of creation is what God wants, and has adopted resolutions to combat global warming;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on the Justice and Witness Ministries and the Wider Church Ministries to study the resolutions of past General Synods regarding East Asia, Southern Asia, and the Pacific Islands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod of the United Church of Christ, calls on the Covenanted Ministries of the United Church of Christ to continue to implement these resolutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Covenanted Ministries of the United Church of Christ report progress to each meeting of the Executive Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Collegium of Officers of the United Church of Christ write to the president of the United States, the vice president of the United States, the secretary of defense and the secretary of state, expressing the General Synod's position on these crucial issues; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod calls on the United Church of Christ in all its settings to become more aware of the critical nature of the Asia and the Pacific regions and to take action to promote the integrity of creation, justice, and peace in those regions.

1
2 **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A NEW TRIAL FOR MAURICE CARTER**
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6 WHEREAS there are clear and compelling dis-
7 crepancies in the pursuit of justice in the Maurice
8 Carter case; and
9

10 WHEREAS the justice system itself must correct
11 these discrepancies; and
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13 WHEREAS the people of God are called to seek
14 justice, and
15

16 WHEREAS the Michigan Conference United
17 Church of Christ, gathered at its annual meeting
18 at Hope College, Holland, Michigan, on June 1-
19 2, 2001, adopted a “Resolution in Support of a
20 New Trial for Maurice Carter” (by a vote of 147
21 yes, 7 no, 2 abstentions) in which it:
22

23 (a) expressed its support, through its prayers
24 and witness as the Body of Christ, of the
25 ministers and congregations in the Benton
26 Harbor area who are seeking justice for
27 Maurice Carter and his family;
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(b) asked its Conference Minister, in conjunction
with the ministers and congregations of the
Benton Harbor area, to communicate in writ-ing
to the Berrien County Prosecutor, Mr. James
Cherry, and the Attorney General of the State of
Michigan, Ms. Jennifer Granholm, to pursue a
new trial for Maurice Carter;

(c) asked its Conference Minister to encourage the
Berrien County Prosecutor and the Attorney
General of the State of Michigan to thoroughly
review this case and to make recommendations
to the legislature for appropriate action so that
future miscarriages of justice might be pre-
vented; and

WHEREAS the Michigan Conference United Church
of Christ also resolved that its “Resolution in Support
of a New Trial for Maurice Carter” should be forwarded
to the General Synod in Kansas City for consideration
and written support;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-
third General Synod joins the Michigan Conference in
calling for a new trial for Maurice Carter.

1
2 **EMERGENCY RESOLUTION TO END THE DEATH OF MIGRANTS ON THE**
3 **UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER BY OFFERING WATER IN CHRIST’S NAME**
4

5
6 WHEREAS our Bible gives a clear description
7 of how we are to greet, treat and embrace the alien,
8 migrant and neighbor in our midst.

9
10 WHEREAS the number of migrants dying as they
11 cross into the United States is at an all-time high
12 and needs an emergency response from our church
13 and all sectors of our society;

14
15 WHEREAS Humane Borders is an active faith-
16 based organization capable of providing humani-
17 tarian assistance and substantive policy change;

18
19 WHEREAS following at least seventeen deaths
20 in one twenty-four hour period (May 24, 2001),
21 federal, state, county, and private land managers
22 are now calling on Humane Borders to install and
23 maintain water stations on their property;

24
25 WHEREAS the United Church of Christ through
26 its One Great Hour of Sharing offering has sup-
27 ported Humane Borders and its efforts to minis-
28 ter to the migrants; and

WHEREAS our U.S.-Mexico border is increasingly
militarized with the continuous addition of US Border
Patrol agents;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General
Synod of the United Church of Christ meeting July
13–17, 2001, in Kansas City, Missouri, endorses the
efforts of Humane Borders giving humanitarian assis-
tance to migrants and seeking positive change in the
U.S. border policies;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that individuals, con-
gregations, and denominational organizations are asked
to share the joys and cost of supporting this lifesaving
ministry through contributions, membership, and com-
munications;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States
Immigration and Naturalization Service be advised that
our General Synod objects to policies that systemati-
cally endanger migrants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the president of
the United States is urged to effect policy changes to
reduce the number of migrant deaths.

1
2 **A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO DEVELOPMENT IN GENETIC TECHNOLOGY**
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6 WHEREAS: The General Synod of the United
7 Church of Christ has repeatedly called for a Chris-
8 tian response to developments in genetic technol-
9 ogy via

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11 • 14th General Synod (1983) Resolution: Con-
12 cern About the Moral and Ethical Implications of
13 Genetic Engineering
14
15 • 16th General Synod (1987) Resolution: The
16 Church and Genetic Engineering
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18 • 17th General Synod (1989) Pronouncement: The
19 Church and Genetic Engineering
20
21 • 21st General Synod (1997) Resolution: The
22 Cloning of Mammalian Species, and

23
24 WHEREAS: The media are increasingly filled
25 with stories about dramatic new developments in
26 genetic technology and the dangers of misuse of
27 this new knowledge, and

28
29 WHEREAS: From March 31—April 12, 2000,
30 twenty-four lawyers, physicians, and theologians
31 from South Central Conference gathered at Slum-
32 ber Falls Camp to discuss these developments in
33 genetic technology and their moral, ethical, so-
34 cial, and theological implications and produced a
35 message on this subject to the churches, and

36
37 WHEREAS: Contrary to popular opinion, the
38 Colloquium Membership discovered through their
39 legal members that there is no Article, Clause, or
40 Phrase in the United States Constitution that pro-
41 tects or guarantees the privacy of a person in this
42 country, and

43
44 WHEREAS: The Privacy Act of 1974 by the
45 United States Congress and signed into law is of
46 significance, but it does not have the strength that
47 an Amendment to the Constitution would exer-
48 cise and carry greater weight regarding ethical,
49 moral, and legal matters of privacy of the indi-
50 vidual.

51
52 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the
53 Twenty-third General Synod adopts the “Message
54 of the Colloquium on Genetics,” and

55
56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-
57 third General Synod encourages the associations
58 and local churches to provide opportunities and
59 resources for their members to become informed
about developments in genetic technology and the
moral, ethical, social, and theological implications
raised by these developments, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third
General Synod requests the Office of the General Min-
ister and President of the United Church of Christ and
the Justice and Witness Ministries to initiate a Privacy
Amendment to the United States Constitution and iden-
tify other allies in support, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this
Message and Resolution be sent to the president of the
United States, governors, senators, and members of
Congress from the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, and
Texas for consideration and action.

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

Resolution of witness. Requires a two-thirds vote for
passage.

CALL FOR STAFFING TO ADDRESS ECOJUSTICE CONCERNS

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has by resolutions, pronouncements, and proposals for action over many years proven itself to be deeply concerned with issues of the environment, including, but not limited to, issues of ecojustice and environmental racism, air and water quality, sustainable growth, and matters of national and international environmental policy, and

WHEREAS a review of Synod history between 1975 and 1999 identified over twenty actions that deal explicitly with various environmental concerns, and

WHEREAS the Seventeenth General Synod recognized the role of the Church in environmental issues by adopting the priority, “Integrity of Creation, Justice and Peace,” affirming that these issues are central to our identity, and called on many instrumentalities of the church to address these issues, and

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has encouraged member conferences and churches to examine their own role within their community and to adopt a posture of being a “Whole Earth Church” or “Whole Earth Conference,” and

WHEREAS issues of environmental integrity and sustainability are of great and increasing importance to individuals, communities, and the global ecosystem, and

WHEREAS God has created all things (Genesis 1—2, John 1:1–5), joined in relationship with all creatures (Genesis 9:8–17, Job 38—41), and redeems all of creation (Romans 8:18–25, Colossians 1:15–20), and

WHEREAS God calls humans to strive toward shalom—peace, justice, and harmony for all of creation, and

WHEREAS responding to God’s love and grace requires that people in the modern world rethink the place and purpose of humanity within God’s creation. and

WHEREAS in our modern world, a faithful response to God’s creation, redemption, and call toward shalom requires more than ministries of justice and witness, but also requires education, pastoral care, spiritual direction, acts of service, and new perspectives in worship, and

WHEREAS under the current structure of the denomination, individual members, churches, and

conferences, as well as secular and religious bodies outside of the church, do not have a clear point of contact for information, assistance, and leadership in areas involving environmental faithfulness, and

WHEREAS other secular and religious bodies outside of the church have ongoing, active and vital environmental offices which could benefit conferences, churches, and individual members of the United Church of Christ if such contact was facilitated, and

WHEREAS prior actions of General Synod make clear the intent that faithful attention to environmental issues requires leadership, program, and resources from all parts of the national church, addressed to local churches as well as ministries in other settings, and

WHEREAS “ecojustice” refers both to the intertwined areas of environment sustainability and social justice and to theological and spiritual perspectives that affirm the integrity of creation, and

WHEREAS it has become clear that ecojustice cannot be broadly addressed in Covenanted Ministries without staff assigned to that theme;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod affirms the many actions by previous Synods which have dealt with the integrity of creation and environmental issues and looks to that history of action as an indicator of broad theological and ethical conviction in support of ecojustice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod urges the four Covenanted Ministries to evaluate the extent to which their programming and staffing reflect the United Church of Christ’s deep and historic commitment to ecojustice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the four Covenanted Ministries are encouraged to identify clearly the program areas and the member of their staff that address ecojustice concerns.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod requests the Executive Council to provide ongoing encouragement and support to the Covenanted Ministries as they work individually and collaboratively for ecojustice.

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

Prudential resolution. Requires majority vote for passage.

1
2
3 **RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PRINCIPLES FOR REFORM OF**
4 **THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

5 WHEREAS our criminal justice policies in the
6 United States have resulted in an imprisonment
7 rate that is higher than that of any other country,
8 and

9
10 WHEREAS the resulting imprisonments are se-
11 riously flawed by economic disparity and racial
12 profiling, and

13
14 WHEREAS a high majority of those serving
15 prison terms have committed crimes of nonvio-
16 lence which could be more effectively addressed
17 in treatment or diversion programs, and

18
19 WHEREAS criminal justice policies in the United
20 States are currently directed toward punishment
21 of offenders and seldom address the needs of the
22 victims, and

23
24 WHEREAS the present approach to criminal jus-
25 tice and violence is simply not working as dem-
26 onstrated by:

- 27
28 • a continuing high crime rate; a high recidivism
29 rate among those who have “paid their debt to
30 society”
31
32 • extremely high personal and social cost to the
33 victims and offenders who are discarded by soci-
34 ety
35
36 • a heavy burden on the financial resources of ev-
37 ery community, and

38
39 WHEREAS the restorative justice principles be-
40 ing adopted by many communities offer a posi-
41 tive alternative to punitive/retributive principles,
42 and

43
44 WHEREAS this movement offers opportunities
45 for the pain of victims to be heard and addressed;
46 expects offenders to take responsibility for the
47 harm they have caused; and, when possible, brings
48 together victim, offender, and community mem-
49 bers to form an agreement about how amends can
50 be made, and

51
52 WHEREAS this movement offers a redemptive
53 path to a productive and acceptable role in soci-
54 ety for the offender as opposed to joining a grow-
55 ing body of permanent outcasts, and

56
57 WHEREAS participants in these community-
58 based processes find them to be energizing, em-
59 powering, and healing, giving victim and offender
a sense of ownership in the resolution of their own

conflict and giving community members a greater sense
of hope and possibility,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-
third General Synod of the United Church of Christ
calls upon Justice and Witness Ministries and its Crimi-
nal Justice and Human Rights Staff to develop and pro-
mote an educational campaign that sets forth restor-
ative justice principles as well as examples of:

- where and how the principles have become working
expressions within the life of local churches
- where and how they have become ministries and mis-
sions within the broader community
- where and how churches and larger judicatories have
succeeded in affecting public policy, laws, and institu-
tional change in the judicial system

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the goal of this
educational effort is to create and facilitate a social
transformation through effective advocacy that leads
to public, private, and faith programs that more nearly
express justice for all people of every class, race, and
gender and brings shalom to our communities,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General
Synod call on all churches, associations, and confer-
ences to actively promote these goals.

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

Resolution of witness. Requires a two-thirds vote for
passage.

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APPENDIX C
RESOLUTIONS NOT PASSED

OPPOSITION TO THE SIECUS DECLARATION—RESOLUTION #1

WHEREAS the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, the Rev. John Thomas, acting on behalf of the General Synod, signed the SIECUS document called the “Religious Declaration on Sexual Morality, Justice, and Healing,” and

WHEREAS this declaration calls for the blessing of same sex unions, and

WHEREAS this declaration affirms the ordination of sexual minorities (homosexuals, bisexuals, and transgender persons), and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod of the United Church of Christ

- Opposes the signing of the SIECUS Declaration by the Rev. John Thomas

- Requests that the Rev. John Thomas retract his action taken on behalf of the United Church of Christ

- Disavows itself from this declaration and its stated positions

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

Prudential resolution. Requires majority vote for passage.

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OPPOSITION TO THE SIECUS DECLARATION—RESOLUTION #2

WHEREAS the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, the Rev. John Thomas, acting on behalf of the General Synod, signed the SIECUS document called the “Religious Declaration on Sexual Morality, Justice, and Healing,” and

WHEREAS the SIECUS Declaration supports abortion on demand, and

WHEREAS forty million babies have been aborted in the United States since 1973, and

WHEREAS ninety-five percent of these abortions are for the purpose of birth control, and

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has supported abortion, including partial-birth abortions,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod of the United Church of Christ

- Upholds the sanctity of life in the womb
- Promotes a pro-life position where abortion is outlawed except for rape and incest, abnormalities of the unborn, and extreme health risks to the mother
- Condemns the practice of partial-birth abortions
- Calls upon the Rev. John Thomas to withdraw his support of the SIECUS Declaration, which allows for abortion on demand

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

Resolution of witness. Requires a two-thirds vote for passage.

1
2 **DECLARE JUBILEE: A CALL FOR A NEW DAY OF UNITY IN THE SPIRIT**
3 **FOR THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
4
5

6 WHEREAS the Biblical Declaration of Jubilee lib-
7 erated God s people from the obligations and debts
8 of the past to renewed freedom in Covenant and
9 Worship, and
10

11 WHEREAS through the gift of restructuring the
12 United Church of Christ is now in the dawn of a
13 new day in our life together, and
14

15 WHEREAS the United Church of Christ was called
16 into existence in order that “all may be one,” com-
17 ing together “in order to express more fully the
18 oneness in Christ of the churches composing it, to
19 make more effective their common witness in Him,
20 and to serve His kingdom in the world” (Preamble
21 to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ),
22 and
23

24 WHEREAS many resolutions and actions of our
25 previous General Synods were taken in response
26 to cultural and social conditions of the time, and
27

28 WHEREAS some resolutions and actions of Gen-
29 eral Synod have generated contention rather than
30 celebration, division rather than unity, and alien-
31 ation rather than mission,
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BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Twenty-third
General Synod, the first

General Synod of our new United Church of Christ,
meeting in Kansas City, declare a Jubilee, laying aside
the actions and resolutions of all previous General Syn-
ods in order to liberate the church to live its new be-
ginning, while fully appreciating the witness each
Synod gave to their own moment in history.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third
General Synod call the whole church to a renewal of
our unity in Christ on no other basis than our bond of
peace which makes us “one body with one Spirit, one
Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us
all, who is over all and through all and in all”
(Ephesians 4:3–4).

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

Prudential resolution. Requires majority vote for pas-
sage.

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NEWS MEDIA GUIDELINES RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has continually sought to recognize and respect the right of minorities; and

WHEREAS the personal faith of some of our sisters and brothers in the United Church of Christ does not allow them to support all of the actions of General Synod; and

WHEREAS news media reports in the past have often led to a perception on the part of the reader that the General Synod speaks for the United Church of Christ, thus causing anguish for some members of the United Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS the General Synod seeks at all times to carry out its covenantal responsibilities for the members, churches, Associations and Conferences of the United Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS in carrying out its covenantal responsibilities, the General Synod, as with all the set-

tings, agencies, and leaders of the United Church of Christ speaks only in an advisory/prophetic role to the United Church of Christ.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests that official press reports of the actions of General Synod always include the sentence, "The General Synod of the United Church of Christ speaks only to, but not for, the United Church of Christ and its members."

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

Prudential resolution. Requires majority vote for passage.

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REAFFIRMING THE TRINITARIAN BASIS OF OUR ECUMENISM

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ acknowledges as its sole head Jesus Christ, Son of God and Savior, and it acknowledges as kindred in Christ all who share in this confession. It looks to the Word of God in the scriptures, and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to prosper its creative and redemptive work in the world. It claims as its own the faith of the historic Church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers, and

WHEREAS in the United Church of Christ we are committed to be united and uniting as evidenced by our ecumenical relationships and partnerships with denominations in this country and around the world who share our profound belief in the trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; salvation through the atonement and resurrection of Jesus Christ; and the central role of the Bible and the great ecumenical creeds in our life together, and

WHEREAS these relationships should be held in honor and should shape our life in the context of the universal communion of the saints, and

WHEREAS some of our actions, pronouncements, and positions as a Synod and denomination have caused consternation, doubt, and tension in these ecumenical relations, and

WHEREAS we would appear to have actively engaged in more intentional cooperation and joint projects with the Unitarian Universalist Association than with most of our covenanted ecumenical partners, and

WHEREAS this engagement is one of the actions that threatens our unity with our ecumenical partners, and

WHEREAS the Unitarian Universalist Association promotes a religion, which is neither self-defined nor generally recognized to be Christian, nor does it affirm those beliefs and ecumenical creeds which form the foundation of our ecumenism, and

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has never entered by formal consent of Synod into a covenant relationship with the Unitarian Universalist Association,

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED by the Twenty-third General Synod meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, that all projects, publications, proclamations, and agencies that have been jointly engaged

in with the Unitarian Universalist Association be suspended, pending a prayerful study by our local United Church of Christ churches of the history and theological appropriateness of this relationship as well as the projects, publications, and proclamations that have emanated from it.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a report of the study and response from the local churches be reported to the Twenty-fourth General Synod in 2003 for further action.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resources and personnel currently involved in joint projects with the Unitarian Universalist Association be redirected to building efforts of mutual cooperation with those denominations and fellowships with whom we are in covenanted relationships.

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

Prudential resolution. Requires majority vote for passage.

APPENDIX D
OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF COUNCILS AND BOARDS ELECTED
AT THE TWENTY-THIRD GENERAL SYNOD

In order to identify all nominees within the required categories, one or more of the following code numbers immediately follows the name of each nominee:

Clergywoman 1A	Laywoman 2	Minority (any) 4
Clergyman 1B	Layman 3	Under 30 5

General Minister and President

Four-Year Term
 John H. Thomas 1B (Ohio)

Carol Munro-Mosely 1A (CHSM)
 Elizabeth Nordbeck 1A (CTE)
 Sally Paulsell 2 (CC/DOC)
 Zaida Maldonado-Pérez 2/4 (HC)
 Harold Smith 1B (PB)
 Nancy White Horse 2/4/5 (At-Large Youth)

Executive Minister —Local Church

Ministries

Four-Year Term
 José A. Malayang 1B/4 (Ohio)

Justice and Witness Ministries

Class of 2007

Elena Barrantes 2/4/5 (ME)
 Howard B. Brown Jr. 3/4 (CONN)
 Gary Chapman 1B (IOWA)
 David Claypool 3/5 (RM)
 Daryl Cruz 3/4/5 (PSE)
 Sandra Gadsden 2/4 (FLA)
 Amber Hodges 2/5 (KO)
 Gregory Jones 1B/4 (IK)
 Valentino Lassiter 1B/5 (OH)
 Rosemary Santos 2/4 (RI)
 Melisa Toepke 2/5 (NOPL)
 Elizabeth Zaborowski 2/5 (SW)

Moderator

Two-Year Term
 Nathaniel Lewis 3/4 (CANV)

Assistant Moderators

Two-Year Term
 Christine Smith 1A (MINN)
 Carol Wassmuth 2 (IOWA)

Class of 2005

Kathy Ellsworth 2 (WASH)
 Julio Figueroa 3/4 (PR)
 Charles Johnson 3/4 (VT)
 Eric Maurer 3 (SE)

Executive Council

Class of 2007

Eduardo Capillar 1B/4 (NOPL)
 Laura Donaldson 2 (NY)
 Juan M. Pacheco Guad 3/4 (PR)
 Megan Hoelle 2/5 (CPC)
 Jeremy Hylan 3/5 (MICH)
 Peter Lin 3/4 (WASH)
 Sharon MacArthur 2/4 (CANVN)
 Kathy Plumb 2 (MINN)
 Bela Poznan 1B (CASY)
 Robert Sandman 3/4 (OH)
 Lori Souder 1A (SW)
 Carol Spangenberg 2 (PNE)
 Ray Young 3 (MONT-N.WY)

Class of 2003

Paul Bryant-Smith 1B (PNE)
 Martha Dayag 2/4 (HI)
 Bert Martin 3 (MINN)
 Vilma Thompson 2/4 (MASS)

Class of 2005

Marshall Eckblad 3 (WIS)
 Aaron Gould 3 (ME)

Groups

Billie Louise Bentzen 2 (UCCDM)
 Joan Brannick 2 (PB)
 Christina Castro 2/4/5 (At-Large Youth)
 Susan Davies 1A (Seminaries)
 Norma Ellington-Twitty 2/4 (CCDOC)
 Yvette Flunder 1A/4 (MRSEJ)
 Stacy Kullgren 2/5 (CYYAM)

Class of 2003

Jennifer Craig 2 (MASS)
 James E. Foucher Jr. 1B/4 (FLA)
 Jennifer Moss 1A (SE)

Local Church Ministries

Class of 2007

Rich Fluechtling 3 (WISC)
 Jean Johnson 2 (CPC)
 Krista Keisling 2 (PSE)
 Gloria Little 2/4 (MINN)
 Jill Marie 2 (PW)
 Linda Martin 2 (NEB)
 Rhonda Myers 2/4 (VT)
 Mary Pope 2/4 (SOC)
 Jessica Roberts 2/5 (IOWA)

Groups

Peggy Bronson 2/4 (UCCDM)
 Brian Cope 1B (CE)
 Hector Franco 3/4/5 (CYYAM)
 Sandra Hulse 1A (UCF)
 Richard McBride 1B (CHE)

1 Lisa Tait 1A/4 (SE)
2 Angel Toro 1B/4 (FLA)
3 Jean Wade 2 (RM)

4 **Class of 2005**

5 Diane Bennekamper 1A (ME)
6 Tom Gough 1B (MONT)
7 David Murata 3/4 (HI)
8 Atanasio Osphaldo 1B/5 (SD)

9 **Class of 2003**

10 Jason Henderson 3/4/5 (NH)
11 Sandra Shipman 2 (PC)

12 **Groups**

13 Don Barnes 3 (PB)
14 Cheryl Cramer 2/4 (UBC)
15 W. Dow Edgerton 1/B (Seminaries)
16 Janice Hale 2/4 (CCDOC)
17 Larry Johnson 1B/4 (CHE)
18 Mary Lambrecht 2/5 (At-large Youth)
19 LiErin Probasco 2/5 (CYYAM)
20 Alfonso Román 1B/4 (CHM)
21 Michael Simon 3/4/5 (PAAM)

22 **Wider Church Ministries**

23 **Class of 2007**

24 Ruth V. Beckman 2 (RI)
25 Clinton Cannon 3 (WASH)
26 Jean Doane 2 (CPC)
27 Anita Fussell 2 (NEB)
28 Alicia Gian 2/4/5 (KS)
29 Deann Hesker 2/5 (ILS)
30 Margaret Jacoby 2 (CANVS)
31 Barbara Pence 1A/5 (PSE)
32 Aniko Szucs 2 (CASY)
33 Amanda Wright 2/5 (IK)

34 **Class of 2005**

35 Ruth Brandon 1A (MASS)
36 Hazel Moore 2/4 (SC)
37 Mary Ann Neevel 1A (WIS)

38 **Class of 2003**

39 Robert Bottoms 1B (IL)
40 Thomas M. Brooke 3 (SOC)
41 John Millen 3 (PW)
42 Ramon Miranda 3 (PR)
43 Loraine A. Tuenge 1A (FLA)

44 **Groups**

45 Emily Barrows 2/5 (At-large Youth)
46 Diane Christopherson 1A (Coalition)
47 Martha Cruz 1A/4 (PB)
48 Robbie Gilchrist 3/5 (CYYAM)
49 Bill Land 1B/4 (MRSEJ)
50 Christy Newton 1A/5 (CCDOC)
51 Jerry Northrup 3/4 (At-Large)
52 Bryan Sickbert 1B (CHHSM)
53 Marilyn Stavenger 1A (Seminaries)

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58
59 Key: Clergywoman = 1A; Clergyman = 1B; Laywoman = 2; Layman = 3; Minority (any) = 4; Under 30 = 5

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