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MINUTES
TWENTY-FIFTH GENERAL SYNOD

Come Listen, Go Serve, God is Still Speaking

GEORGIA WORLD CONGRESS CENTER

ATLANTA, GEORGIA
JULY 1 – JULY 5, 2005

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 1, 2005

First Plenary Session

1. GENERAL SYNOD CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING CELEBRATION

Moderator Norman W. “Jack” Jackson (FL) called the Twenty-fifth General Synod to order at 2:30 p.m. and invited the assembly to share in an opening prayer. Moderator Jackson also welcomed those who were watching on the website, UCC.org.

Moderator Jackson introduced Ms. Pat DeJong (CA NV, N) who guided the delegates in a variety of presentations, including video highlights of the Twenty-fourth General Synod, and a familiar spiritual with new words.

Moderator Jackson and Assistant Moderators, Ms. Annie Wynn Neal (SE), and Mr. Eric C. Smith (ME) were introduced. Ms. Edith Guffey placed commemorative stoles on each and charged each with the responsibilities of leading the Twenty-fifth General Synod.

Ms. DeJong acknowledge the Twenty-fifth General Synod theme “Come Listen, Go Serve, God Is Still Speaking” with excerpts from the recent United Church of Christ commercial, network news reactions, editorial cartoons, and to the delight of the delegates, introduced the two “bouncers,” Mr. Osmin Hernandez and Mr. Danilo Begovic, from the video, whose dialogue with Ms Guffey brought applause from the delegates.

A modern parable was presented, including the “bouncers” reprising their roles, and refusing multiple guests including “Sponge Bob,” at a worship service.

2. MODERATOR’S WELCOME

Moderator Jackson welcomed the delegates and visitors to the Twenty-fifth General Synod and called the first session of business to order.

3. INTRODUCTION OF GENERAL SYNOD LEADERSHIP

Mr. Jackson reminded the delegates of the two assistant moderators who would be sharing moderating responsibilities.

Moderator Jackson introduced Parliamentarians, Mr. Bob Frieberg (SD) who will serve as stage Parliamentarian and Mr. Mal Bertram (MASS) who will serve as delegate’s parliamentarian. Each alerted the delegates to appropriate procedures. The role of Youth Stewards was explained and they were invited to stand.

Moderator Jackson introduced staff members Mr. Lee Foley, who prepared the advance materials, and Ms. Destiny Shellhammer, Registrar.

The Agenda Committee and the Executive Committee’s respective responsibilities during and after the Twenty-fifth General Synod were also described.

4. REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Moderator Jackson called on Ms. Trina Williams, (CA NV, S), Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, who moved the Twenty-fifth General Synod adopt the report of the Credentials Committee. That report indicated there were 884 Voting Delegates, 17 Ecumenical Delegates, 17 Honored Guests, 80 Associate Delegates, 125 General Synod and National Staff, 163 Youth Visitors, and 1453 registered guests, for a total of 2744 persons present.

1 Ms. Williams also informed the delegates that the Credentials Committee had directed the staff to work with
2 Conferences in the on-going effort to increase the percentage of delegates under the age of thirty at future General
3 Synods.

4
5 05-GS-1 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the report of the Credentials Committee as presented.
6

7 **5. QUORUM DECLARED**

8 Moderator Jackson declared a quorum was present and the Twenty-Fifth General Synod was in session.
9

10 **6. ANNOUNCEMENT OF TELLERS**

11 Mr. Jackson referred the delegates to the Executive Council report containing the list of delegates who agreed to be
12 Tellers. He then invited the Tellers to stand to be recognized. They are as follows:

13 Bonnie Bardot, CT	Jerry Bennett, IS	Jennifer Dickenson, SD
14 Judy Feldman, FLA	Shelby Fenstermacher, PC	Gary Ferner, NY
15 Renee Fink, CA	Marian Rouse Finney, CA	MacArthur Flournoy, CA NV, N
16 Ivan Garcia, PR	Brian Grover, SD	Sharon Guffey-Lewis, IOWA
17 Chelsea Hall, VT	Miryam Hammond, NH	Charlotte Havlicak, CPC
18 Karl Hayes, SOC	William Hendricks, CAC	Kris Hewitt, IL
19 Dennis Landaw, OHIO	Elena Mertus, RI	Hazel Moore, WCM
20 Faye Morrison, CA NV, N	James Olaya, OHIO	Adam Smithers, NY
21 Renie Stamm-Kirk, CA NV, N	Charles Widbin, MOMS	

22
23 **7. ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD AGENDA**

24 Moderator Jackson reminded the delegates that the Executive Council acts as the Business Committee and
25 Committee of Reference of the General Synod during its sessions. He also reminded the delegates of the Standing
26 Rules, particularly relating to debate.

27
28 Mr. Jackson called on Mr. Winston Baldwin, Chairperson of the Executive Council, who moved the agenda for the
29 Twenty-fifth General Synod be adopted as printed, and the Business committee authorized to make any necessary
30 adjustments.

31
32 Moderator Jackson recognized Ms. Edith Guffey who presented changes to the agenda that were known at the time.
33 Regretfully our speaker for Saturday's plenary, Ms. Coretta Scott King, is ill and will be unable to be present.
34

35 05-GS-2 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the Agenda as printed, and authorizes the Business
36 Committee to make any necessary adjustments.
37

38 **8. ADOPTION OF THE STANDING RULES**

39 Mr. Baldwin moved the adoption of the Standing Rules.
40

41 05-GS-3 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the Standing Rules
42

43 **9. DESIGNATION OF RESOURCE PERSONS GRANTED VOICE WITHOUT VOTE**

44 Mr. Baldwin moved the Twenty-fifth General Synod grant voice without vote to those persons who have been
45 approved by the Business Committee as designated resource persons.
46

47 05-GS-4 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod grants voice without vote to those persons who have been
48 approved by the Business Committee as designated resource persons for the presentation of reports, resolutions, or
49 other concerns that are on the agenda of the General Synod. The privilege is extended only for the time that the
50 particular item of business is under consideration and may be extended at the request of the Moderator or
51 appropriate Committee Chair.
52

53 **10. DESIGNATION OF GROUPS GRANTED VOICE WITHOUT VOTE**

54 Mr. Baldwin indicated that Standing Rule 10 authorizes the Executive Council to recommend to the General Synod,
55 groups whose representatives shall be granted voice without vote while the General Synod is in session. Mr.

1 Baldwin moved the Twenty-fifth General Synod grant voice without vote to the designated groups and their stated
2 representatives.

3
4 05-GS-5 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod grants voice without vote to the following designated groups
5 and their stated representatives.

6
7 1. **The Association of United Church of Christ Intentional Interim Ministers**

8 Susan Lincoln Northern California, Nevada Conference
9 David Kniker Illinois Conference

10
11 2. **The Association of United Church Educators**

12 K. Ray Hill Southern Conference
13 Ted Huffman South Dakota Conference

14
15 3. **Biblical Witness Fellowship**

16 William Boylan Massachusetts Conference
17 David Runnion-Bareford New Hampshire Conference

18
19 4. **Christians for Justice Action**

20 Kwame Osei Reed Central Atlantic Conference
21 Amelie Sell Pennsylvania Southeast Conference

22
23 5. **Focus Renewal Ministries**

24 Vernon Stoop Pennsylvania Southeast Conference
25 John Werley New York Conference

26
27 6. **Network for Environmental and Economic Responsibility of the UCC**

28 Peter Sawtell Rocky Mountain Conference
29 John Gill Southeast Conference

30
31 7. **UCC Professional Chaplains and Counselors**

32 Martha Jacobs New York Conference
33 Kathryn Morse South Central Conference

34
35 8. **Military Chaplains Association**

36 Janis Dashner Central Atlantic Conference
37 (no other representative)

38
39 9. **United Church of Christ Musicians Association**

40 Margaret Tucker South Central Conference
41 (no other representative)

42
43 **11. ADDITION TO DESIGNATION OF GROUPS GRANTED VOICE WITHOUT VOTE**

44 Mr. Rob Gormbley (MASS) moved the Twenty Fifth General Synod suspend the Standing Rules to grant voice
45 without vote to the Seminarians for the United Church of Christ. Such voice to be limited to the pronouncement
46 “Ministry Issues, Forming and Preparing Pastoral Leaders for God’s Church. “

47
48 05-GS-6 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod suspends the Standing Rules to include the Seminarians of the
49 United Church of Christ in the listing of Designated Groups Granted Voice Without Vote.

50
51 **12. GREETINGS FROM THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE**

52 Rev. Timothy Downs, Southeast Conference Minister, welcomed delegates and visitors to the Twenty-fifth General
53 Synod meeting in Atlanta.

54
55 Mr. Downs introduced Ms. Desiree Pedescleaux-Andrews, and Mr. Bennie Liggins, co-chairs of the General Synod
56 Local Arrangements Committee, who spoke about the Conference’s accomplishments, it’s remarkable recent

1 growth, the committee's preparation, and introduced many of the committee members, as well as ecumenical
2 partners who were serving in a variety of capacities.

3
4 **13. INITIAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

5 Moderator Jackson called on Mr. Winston Baldwin and Ms. Reba Walker, Chairperson and Vice Chairperson
6 respectively, of the Executive Council for a report of the activities of the Executive Council in the 2003-2005
7 biennium

8
9 The Chairs and Vice-Chairs of each of the Covenanted Ministries Board were called to the stage and introduced.

10
11 The Executive Committee, with the assistance of all the Covenanted Ministries as well as in cooperation with the
12 Affiliated and Associated Ministries, sought to address the financial realities facing the national setting of the
13 church.

14
15 The Executive Committee, by previous General Synod action, was requested to initiate an evaluation of the new
16 structure of the national setting of the church. That work was accomplished and issues of concern are being
17 addressed.

18
19 The Still Speaking Initiative work was authorized by the Executive Council. A report of the Initiative will be heard
20 on Saturday morning.

21
22 A number of proposed Bylaws changes will be before the delegation for consideration including, but not limited to,
23 the composition of Executive Council and the process for electing officers of the church when incumbents are
24 seeking reelection.

25
26 Delegates were directed to three reports that were in advance materials. Those reports were:

27 1) Report of Full Communion with the Church of South India; 2) Report on Interfaith Relations; and 3) Report
28 from the Hispanic Ministries Implementation Team.

29
30 No action by delegates on the first report will be necessary, as the Executive Council has approved continuing
31 dialogue with the Church of South India toward the goal of full communion.

32
33 The two remaining reports will require action by the General Synod.

34
35 Mr. Baldwin moved the Twenty-fifth General Synod receive the resource for Inter-religious Relations with
36 appreciation and commend it to the Conferences and local churches of the United Church Christ, and that the
37 recommended further steps be considered as resources allow.

38
39 05-GS-7 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod receives the resource for Inter-religious Relations with
40 appreciation and commends it to the Conferences and local churches of the United Church Christ, and that the
41 recommended further steps be considered as resources allow.

42
43 Mr. Baldwin moved the Twenty-fifth General Synod receive the report of the Hispanic Ministries Implementation
44 Team and continue its' existence for the 2005-2007 Biennium.

45
46 05-GS-8 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod receives the report of the Hispanic Ministries Implementation
47 Team and continues its' existence for the 2005-2007 Biennium.

48
49 Mr. Baldwin placed before the delegates the names of the nominees to the General Synod Nominating Committee,
50 including the names of persons who will serve on the Nominating Committee from the historically under-
51 represented groups.

52
53 **LAYPERSONS**

54 Jane Barthell
55 Catharine Cline Bryant
56 Sharon Crousore

53 **CLERGY**

Charles Brauchler
Ralph Brown
M. Jane Hess

1 Rev. Malayang talked about the “Congregational Vitality Initiative” which is all about “creating and renewing the
2 Church of Jesus Christ.” CVI is a wholistic resource approach to working with churches, associations, conferences
3 and national entities. Congregational vitality within the United Church of Christ is faithfully fulfilling God’s
4 mission of redemption, justice and peace in the world, locally and beyond, effectively demonstrating Jesus Christ’s
5 welcoming, compassionate and transforming ministry for all people and authentically experiencing the Holy Spirit’s
6 joyful presence, renewing power and wisdom.

7
8 **18. INTRODUCTION OF HONORED GUESTS AND THE CELEBRATION OF THE MINISTRY OF THE**
9 **REV. WILLIAM R. HULTEEN**

10 Assistant Moderator Annie Wynn Neal introduced Mr. Winston Baldwin who moved that previous Officers,
11 Executives and Moderators be granted voice without vote.

12
13 05-GS-10 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod grants voice without vote to previous Officers, Executives and
14 Moderators.

15
16 Previous Officers:

17 Joseph and Harriette Evans
18 Avery and Peg Post
19 Paul and Mary Sherry
20 Dale Bishop.
21 Carol A. Joyce and Neal Luebke
22 Charles and Catherine Lockyear.

Past Moderators:

John Krueger
Denise Page Hood

23
24 Instrumentality Executives:

25 Thomas and Sandy Dipko
26 Earl Miller
27 Mary Susan Gast and Roger Straw
28 Yvonne Delk
29 Arthur Cribbs
30 Scott and Jean Libbey
31 David and Sandy Hirano

32
33 Mr. Baldwin introduced Ms. Doris Powell, Mr. Robert Chase, Ms. Lois Powell, and Mr. Wallace Ryan-Kuoiwa, all
34 who continue to serve as staff of Covenanted ministries. The delegates expressed their appreciation with a standing
35 ovation.

36
37 Rev. Joe Malayang invited the delegates to remember our church leaders who have died since the Twenty-fourth
38 General Synod. He celebrated the ministry of the Rev. William “Bill” Hulteen in a tribute, and led the delegates in a
39 prayer of remembrance.

40
41 **19. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

42 Ms. Guffey expressed appreciation to all General Synod staff members and especially thanked Ms. Susan
43 Dickerman and Mr. Dale Hempen who were floor coordinators.

44
45 Ms. Guffey introduced Ms. Edie Rasell (OH), Minister for Labor Relations and Community Economic
46 Development, who spoke about the current labor struggle in the hotel industry, specifically the Starwood
47 Corporation that owns Sheraton / Westins hotels. Last year in San Francisco 4,300 workers were locked out and are
48 still working without a contract. The union representing the workers intends to boycott hotels owned by Starwood,

1 targeting nine cities, including Atlanta. Ms. Guffey is sending a letter to Peachtree Plaza expressing our views and
2 will include language in all future contracts that will allow us to break a contract without incurring costs. More
3 information is available at the Justice and Witness booth.

4
5 Ms. Guffey reminded delegates of the Speak Out! rules.

6
7 A Red Cross Blood Drive will be held Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

8
9 Professional photo opportunities with the “bouncers” will be held until 7:00 p.m., and then again from
10 8:30 – 10:00 p.m. in both print and electronic image at the “Still Speaking” booth.

11
12 **20. ADJOURNMENT**

13 Assistant Moderator Neal declared the General Synod in recess until 7:30 p.m.

14
15 **Rev. Bernice Powell Jackson delivered the call to worship, which was followed by a prayer and blessing over
16 the water, reaffirmation of baptism and a sprinkling of the congregation.**

17
18 **Rev. John Thomas delivered the sermon theme for the day “Come to the Waters, Come!” based
19 on Isaiah 55:1-11.**

20
21 **FRIDAY EVENING, JULY 1, 2005**

22 **Second Plenary Session**

23
24 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

25 Assistant Moderator Eric Smith called the second plenary of the Twenty-fifth General Synod to order at 7:30 p.m.

26
27 **2. SPEAK OUT!**

28 Mr. Smith reminded the delegates and visitors of the ground rules that should be observed for the Speak Out!
29 Moderator Smith then welcomed Speak Out! participants.

- 30
- 31 1. Ms. Becky Anton (CA NV, N), as part of the parish nurse network, invited participants to their
32 booth to take advantage of health screenings and massages.
 - 33
 - 34 2. Mr. David Denham (CAC), Disability Ministries, reminded General Synod participants of the
35 anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. He celebrated the United Church of Christ's
36 ongoing work in becoming a church accessible to all.
 - 37
 - 38 3. Ms. Susan Waldron (CONN) Coordinator of the Women's Celebration VII Conference, invited
39 General Synod participants to attend the event scheduled for March 17-19, 2006, in Burlington,
40 VT.
 - 41
 - 42 4. Mr. Greg Kelso (CA NV, S) issued a call for support of HR 1217, which is a Bill before Congress
43 that would close the School of the Americas.
 - 44
 - 45 5. Mr. Ken Fuller (CAC) asked General Synod participants to join Cleveland Park Congregational
46 Church in a retreat and Holy Land tour.
 - 47
 - 48 6. Mr. Bill Chidester (OHIO) liver transplant recipient, gave thanks to God and to the Pension Board
49 for its high quality of insurance care.
 - 50
 - 51 7. Ms. Norma DeSaeger (CA NV, N) appealed for support for reparations for persons in the Marshall
52 Island who were victims of the nuclear testing. She also invited General Synod participants to
53 visit the Pacific Islander/Asian American Ministries booth and assist with writing letters to elected
54 officials.
 - 55

- 1 8. Ms. Andrian Maxey (Youth and Young Adult Ministries) asked for more recognition and support
2 of youth and young adults during this General Synod.
3

4 **3. INTRODUCTION OF ECUMENICAL DELEGATES AND PARTNERS**

5 Mr. Smith called on Rev. Lydia Veliko, Minister for Ecumenical Relations, to introduce the Ecumenical Delegates
6 and Partners, attending the General Synod.
7

8 Rev. Chris Hobgood, The General Minister and President from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
9

10 Rev. Ashley Seaman, pastor at Wellshire Presbyterian Church in Denver, Colorado, and a new Presbyterian
11 Church, USA representative to the Executive Council, and a Formula of Agreement partner
12

13 Rev. Randall Lee, ecumenical officer for the ELCA, and the Rev. Robert Kelley, retired bishop in the
14 ELCA and current ELCA representative to the United Church of Christ Executive Council, and a Formula
15 of Agreement partner
16

17 Rev. Suzanne Hodges, pastor in Rochester, New York, and a new representative from the Reformed
18 Church in America to the United Church of Christ Executive Council, and a Formula of Agreement partner
19

20 Bishop Earl McCloud from the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Bishop McCloud is one of the
21 newest colleagues as he serves as ecumenical officer for the AME Church, one of the Churches Uniting in
22 Christ partners.
23

24 Ms. Jeanette Holt, the Associate Director for the Alliance of Baptists, representing one of the newest
25 ecumenical partners
26

27 **4. INTRODUCTION OF OVERSEAS GUESTS**

28 Assistant Moderator Smith called on Rev. Bennie Whiten, the Acting Executive Minister for Wider Church
29 Ministries, to introduce the Overseas Guests.
30

31 From East Asia and the Pacific:

32 The Rev. Hiroko Ueda, Executive Secretary, United Church of Christ in Japan; General Secretary, Council
33 on Cooperative Mission
34

35 The Rev. Soo-Kil Park, General Secretary, Korea Christian Church in Japan
36

37 Working on AIDS projects in China:

38 Dr. Gang Li, Professor and Vice Director, and Mr. Kun Tang, a graduate student in the Department of
39 Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Peking University Health Science Center Beijing, and Mr. Zhongyin
40 Zhang, President of Zhecheng Succor (HIV/AIDS) Society Zhechent, Henan
41

42 From Southern Asia:

43 The Rev. Enos Dos Pradhan, General Secretary, Church of North India
44

45 From the Middle East:

46 Mr. Jonathan Kuttub, international human rights lawyer and board member of the Sabeel Ecumenical
47 Liberation Theology Center in Jerusalem
48

49 From Europe:

50 The Rev. Dr. Wilhelm Hueffmeier, President of the Union of Evangelical Churches in Germany with which
51 the United Church of Christ enjoys a relationship of church communion or *kirchenemeinschaft*
52

53 From Latin America and the Caribbean:

54 The Rev. Ricardo Esquivia, National Coordinator of the Restoration, Life and Peace Commission of the
55 Council of Evangelical Churches of Colombia
56

1 Rev. Whiten moved that voice-without-vote status be granted to these overseas guests.

2
3 05-GS-11 VOTE: The Twenty-fifth General Synod grants voice without vote to these overseas guests.

4
5 Rev. Whiten invited Rev. Hiroko Ueda, General Secretary, Council on Cooperative Mission and Executive
6 Secretary of the United Church of Christ in Japan to offer words on behalf of global partners, both present and
7 distant.

8
9 Rev. Ueda invited General Synod participants to attend the workshop on partner churches. She spoke of the hope
10 for new partnerships.

11
12 **5. INTRODUCTION AND SPEECH OF NOMINEE FOR JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES**

13 Assistant Moderator Smith began the first of four introductions of persons who are being presented to the General
14 Synod for election as Officers of the United Church of Christ. He noted the procedure for presenting them, and
15 named the nominees as follows:

16
17 Ms. Linda Jaramillo is the nominee for Executive Minister, Justice and Witness Ministries
18 Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte is the nominee for Executive Minister, Wider Church Ministries
19 Rev. Jose Malayang is the nominee for Executive Minister, Local Church Ministries
20 Rev. John Thomas is the nominee for General Minister and President.

21
22 Ms. Rose Lee (CA NV, N), Chair of the Board of Directors of Justice and Witness Ministries, presented the nominee
23 for Executive Minister of Justice and Witness, Ms. Linda Jaramillo.

24
25 Ms. Jaramillo first gave thanks to Rev. Bernice Powell Jackson and the Justice and Witness Ministries staff, for their
26 leadership and work. She talked about the formative experiences of her personal life that were responsible for her
27 journey in the community of justice, and her call to this ministry.

28
29 Mr. Smith thanked Ms. Jaramillo and Ms. Lee.

30
31 **6. COMMUNITY BUILDING**

32 Mr. Smith called upon Ms. Pat DeJong who led delegates and visitors in a time of community building.

33
34 **7. MIX IN '06 ANNOUNCEMENT**

35 Mr. Smith called on Ms. Linda Jaramillo and Ms. Betty Brewer Calvert to tell delegates and visitors about "MIX in
36 '06."

37
38 Two denominations will meet together in one place, June 21, 2006, in Indianapolis, a joyous result of partnership as
39 churches, and as women. The gathering expects to welcome 5,000 sisters from the United Church of Christ and the
40 Disciples of Christ.

41
42 **8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

43 Assistant Moderator Smith called on Ms. Edith Guffey, Administrator of the General Synod, for announcements.

44
45 Ms. Guffey reminded the delegates and visitors to sign up for this afternoon's Speak Out! with Mr. Dick Sparrow at
46 the conclusion of this Plenary at the back of the hall.

47
48 Ms. Guffey noted the reception for Honored Guests, and the Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice
49 Convocation.

50
51 Assistant Moderator Smith declared the Second Plenary of the Twenty-fifth General Synod to be complete at
52 9:30 p.m.

1 **SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 2, 2005**

2 **Third Plenary Session**

3
4 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

5 Assistant Moderator Annie Wynn Neal called the Third Plenary session of the Twenty-fifth General Synod to order
6 at 10:00 a.m. and announced the meeting would begin with Speak Out!

7
8 **2. SPEAK OUT!**

- 9
- 10 1. Ms. Flo Waldron, visitor, (CONN) invited all women to the New England UCC Women's Event
11 during Spring Break, March 17-19, 2006 in Burlington VT.
 - 12
 - 13 2. Ms. Jane Clarke, visitor, (MASS) invited all to join the UCC Healthy Steward's Trek on Sunday
14 morning.
 - 15
 - 16 3. Mr. William Johnson (OHIO), VP of CHHSM, invited all to visit Booth #1 in the Health and
17 Wellness area to learn more about the 77 Health and Human Services Ministries.
 - 18
 - 19 4. Mr. Bob Molsberry (IOWA) called attention to the Disabilities Ministries Booth in Justice &
20 Transformation area. He will be signing copies of his book "Blind Sided By Grace: Adjusting to
21 the World of Disability."
 - 22
 - 23 5. Ms. Janet Matthews (OHIO) announced the Eastern Ohio Association is searching for a new
24 Association Minister. She asked all to look for persons passing out information regarding this
25 position.
 - 26
 - 27 6. Ms. Gwen Heard, visitor, (CAC) called attention to the challenge for human rights and civil rights
28 for residents of the District of Columbia. Residents pay taxes, but have no representation. She
29 asked that all support legislation that will give District of Columbia residents the same rights as
30 other states in our country.
 - 31
 - 32 7. Ms. Judith Fooch (NH) announced the New Hampshire Conference, which is an Open &
33 Affirming, Justice & Peace, mostly accessible, and not very diverse conference is about to call a
34 new Conference Minister. She asked for support and invited interest.
 - 35
 - 36 8. Mr. John Hudson (MASS) shared the history of a group home for developmentally challenged
37 persons. Now Mr. Hudson's church includes over 40 developmentally challenged adults. He
38 challenged all churches to deal with developmentally disabled adults and wants to set up a
39 network of others interested in doing likewise. Mr. Hudson asked all to check the UCC
40 Disabilities Ministry Table.
 - 41
 - 42 9. Ms. Margaret Tucker (TX) informed all of the UCC Musicians Association which has supported
43 musicians within the United Church of Christ for the past eleven years. Ms. Tucker suggested two
44 ways to support/thank musicians: provide membership in Association and/or send musicians to
45 the Conference of Church Musicians in Lancaster, PA next summer.
 - 46
 - 47 10. Mr. Dave Mears (IOWA), member of Executive Council and Chair of Special Mission Offering
48 Committee, asked "Is your church '5 for 5'? If not, why not?" Visit the Stewardship display to
49 find out about the five special offerings of the United Church of Christ.
 - 50
 - 51 11. The Hawaii Conference would like to present leis to all members of the Collegium as a way of
52 saying thanks!
 - 53

54 The Moderator thanked all who participated in the Speak Out!

55
56

1 **3. UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST POLITY REVIEW**

2 Assistant Moderator Neal called upon Moderator Jack Jackson to give a brief lesson on United Church of Christ
3 polity as a reminder of what it means when the General Synod takes action on a resolution. Mr. Jackson reminded
4 the body that the United Church of Christ speaks “to” and not “for” the local churches. The United Church of Christ
5 is not a denomination that dictates policies, procedures, or beliefs. Article Nine of the United Church of Christ
6 Constitution states that no power vested in the General Synod shall invade the autonomy of Conferences,
7 Associations or Local Churches. Mr. Jackson charged all participants to be mindful that as we work and worship
8 and discern in the name of Jesus Christ, our work should be a reflection of a community of faith.
9

10 **4. INTRODUCTION AND SPEECH OF CANDIDATE FOR EXECUTIVE MINISTER FOR LOCAL**
11 **CHURCH MINISTRIES**

12 Assistant Moderator Neal introduced Mr. Angel Toro (FL), Chair of the Board of Directors of Local Church
13 Ministries, who introduced the Rev. Jose Malayang, the nominee for the Executive Minister for Local Church
14 Ministries.
15

16 The Rev. Jose Malayang thanked all for the privilege of serving the United Church of Christ. Mr. Malayang noted
17 that this General Synod is all about vitality and life, especially all local churches that are partners in this vitality. We
18 must address vital issues in our churches and communities, as well as the development and nurturing of leadership
19 and relationships.
20

21 **5. REPORT ON WORSHIPPING INTO GOD’S FUTURE**

22 Assistant Moderator Neal introduced Mr. Sid Fowler who served as one of the primary staff members for the work
23 on the *Report on Worshipping into God’s Future*, as charged by the Twenty-fourth General Synod. Mr. Fowler then
24 introduced Jose De Jesus, Marjorie Royle, Maren Tirabassi, Christopher Grundy, Sonia Ivette Marales-Matos,
25 Lauaki Agaiotupu Pouesi, Gregory Milton, and Richard Bruxvoort-Culligan, who helped with the study. Through a
26 slide presentation, the committee described the discussions of our worship life, research into worship practices, and
27 possible strategies to complement the *Book of Worship*. (Refer to booklet “Summary and Strategies” for a more
28 complete report
29

30 **6. COMMUNITY BUILDING**

31 The Moderator called upon Ms. Pat DeJong, who led the group in a time of community building.
32

33 **7. RECOGNITION OF NEW AND RETIRING CONFERENCE MINISTERS**

34 Assistant Moderator Neal, called upon the Rev. Davida Foy Crabtree, Conference Minister of the Connecticut
35 Conference and Chair of the Council of Conference Ministers, to introduce those who began their ministry as
36 Conference Ministers since our last General Synod and to recognize those who have retired since that time.
37

38 Ms. Crabtree introduced the following new Conference Ministers:

- 39 Rt. Rev. Koloman K. Ludwig, (CA SY)
- 40 Rev. Charles Buck (HI)
- 41 Rev. David Hansen (KO)
- 42 Rev. Roddy Dunkerson (NEB)
- 43 Rev. Marja Cooons-Torn (PC)
- 44 Rev. Charles Barnes (RI)
- 45 Rev. Randy Hyvonen (MONT-NO WYO)
- 46 Rev. Tom Rehling (RM).
- 47

48 Ms. Crabtree next introduced the following Interim, Acting and Transitional Conference Ministers:

- 49 Rev. Jack Richards, (FLA)
- 50 Rev. Gene Kraus (IS)
- 51 Rev. Lark Hapke (IOWA)
- 52 Rev. Steve Sterner (MASS)
- 53 Rev. Lynne Simcox (MONT-NO,WYO)
- 54 Rev. Jack Seville (OHIO)
- 55 Rev. Bill Royster (SC)
- 56 Rev. Susan Henderson (NH)

1 Rev. Bill McConnell (NH)
2 Rev. David McMahill (MINN)
3 Rev. Mark Miller (PNW).

4
5 Ms. Crabtree introduced the following who have retired since the last General Synod:

6 Rev. Susan Ingham (IOWA)
7 Rev. John Schaeffer (MONT-NO WYO)

8
9 She then introduced three Conference Ministers who are soon to retire:

10 Rev. Gene Ross (CPC)
11 Rev. Hector Lopez (CPC)
12 Rev. A. Gayle Engel (MOMS).

13
14 Finally Ms. Crabtree introduced four Conference Ministers who will soon leave or have already left Conference
15 Ministry, to service in other roles:

16 Rev. Arnold Thomas (VT)
17 Rev. Jean Alexander (ME)
18 Rev. Nancy Taylor (MASS)
19 Rev. Doug Borko (FL)

20 21 **8. REPORT OF THE STILL SPEAKING INITIATIVE**

22 Assistant Moderator Neal called upon Mr. Ron Buford to give a report of the Still Speaking Initiative. A video
23 presentation celebrated the support of the Still Speaking initiative as well as the many ways United Church of Christ
24 congregations are discovering ways to connect with the campaign. Mr. Buford noted that to date more than 2,349
25 churches (40%) of United Church of Christ congregations representing 55% of United Church of Christ members
26 have opted-in to the Still Speaking Initiative, with plans to continue from now through the end of 2007. Our
27 Church's Wider Mission giving has increased \$249,000 ahead of the same time last year. But best of all, Mr.
28 Buford concluded, people who have given up on God and church are finding their way home. Mr. Buford
29 introduced Mr. Michael Jordan of Gotham Advertising Agency, who came up with the "bouncer" ad idea. In the
30 last 30 days, Mr. Buford announced that we have raised more that \$660,000 in order to run another series of ads.
31 The Collegium has agreed to approach their Boards asking them to challenge the entire church to raise \$1.5 million
32 by offering to match every share (\$500) with a share of equal value between now and the end of October.

33
34 On behalf of the Business Committee, Moderator Jackson moved that the Twenty-fifth General Synod recognize Mr.
35 Milton Hurst as an honored guest and grant him voice without vote at the Twenty-fifth General Synod.

36
37 05-GS-12 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod recognizes Mr. Milton Hurst as an honored guest and grants
38 him voice without vote at the Twenty-fifth General Synod.

39 40 **9. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT**

41 Assistant Moderator Annie Wynn Neal explained that the Committee of Reference is the group appointed by the
42 Executive Council to make recommendations as to the disposition of business at General Synod. She then
43 introduced Ms. Krista Betz, Chair of the Committee of Reference. Ms. Betz explained the steps in determining
44 recommendations. Ms. Betz reported the Committee received thirty-one items of business by the February 15
45 deadline, including two Proposed Pronouncements that were received as required in November, eight months prior
46 to Synod. Three items were received between February 15 and three weeks prior to Synod. Three new resolutions
47 were introduced as new business during Plenary Session One. At this time, twenty-four items have been
48 recommended to committees of the General Synod and one has been assigned directly to a plenary of General
49 Synod. A summary of the reports is as follows:

50
51 *First Report of the Committee of Reference (March 12, 2005 – revised 6/27/05 and 6/30/05 by the Executive*
52 *Committee)*

- 53 1. **Establishing Representative and Senatorial Synods** (Prudential Resolution): to committee
- 54 2. **Religion Freedom for Native Hawaiian Prisoners** (Resolution of Witness): to committee
- 55 3. **Tear Down the Wall** (Resolution of Witness): to committee
- 56 4. **Promoting Peace for all in the Sudan** (Resolution of Witness): to committee

- 1 5. **Calling the United Church of Christ to declare itself to be a “Fair Trade” Denomination** (Prudential
2 Resolution*): to committee.
- 3 6. **Called to Wholeness in Christ: Becoming a Church Accessible to All** (Prudential Resolution): to a
4 plenary of the General Synod
- 5 7. **Call for Environmental Education and Action** (Prudential Resolution): to the implementing body
- 6 8. **Support of Fair and Just Compensation for Lay Employees of the United Church of Christ**
7 (Prudential Resolution): to committee
- 8 9. **For the Common Good** (Resolution of Witness): to committee
- 9 10. **Marriage Equality** (Resolution of Witness): to committee
- 10 11. **Selective divestment from companies involved with Israel’s Occupation of the West Bank and Gaza,**
11 **the Building of the “Security Fence,” and the Israeli Settlements within Palestinian Territory**
12 (Prudential Resolution): to committee
- 13 12. **Another World is Possible: A Peace with Justice Movement in the United Church of Christ**
14 (Prudential Resolution): to committee
- 15 13. **United Church of Christ support for the International Criminal Court** (Resolution of Witness): to
16 committee
- 17 14. **Saving Social Security from Privatization** (Resolution of Witness): to committee
- 18 15. **Calling for a Study of Divestment of Church funds from Companies that Profit from the**
19 **Perpetuation of Violence and Injustice in Israel and Palestine** (Prudential Resolution): to committee
- 20 16. **Affirming our Identity in Jesus Christ** (Prudential Resolution): to committee
- 21 17. **In Support of Equal Marriage Rights for All** (Resolution of Witness): to committee
- 22 18. **The United Church of Christ is a Christian Denomination where Jesus Christ is Lord** (Prudential
23 Resolution): to committee
- 24 19. **Marriage is Between One Man and One Woman** (Resolution of Witness): to committee.
- 25 20. **Supporting Congregations and Providing Guidance for Stewardship of God’s Creation During the**
26 **Coming Period of Declining Fossil Fuels** (Prudential Resolution): to the implementing body
- 27 21. **In Support of Ministries to our Campuses of Higher Education** (Prudential Resolution): to committee
28

29 *Second Report of the Committee of Reference – June 30, 2005*

- 30 22. **Resolution in Support of Making Fast Food Fair Food** (Resolution of Witness): to committee
- 31 23. **Resolution to Advance the Cause of the Most Disadvantaged in the Budgetary and Appropriations**
32 **Process** (Resolution of Witness): to committee
33

34 *Third Report of the Committee of Reference – July 2, 2005*

- 35 24. **Resolution: A Call for Truth-Telling and Standards of Ethics in Public Life** (Resolution of Witness):
36 to committee
- 37 25. **Resolution: Calling for Investigations into Human Rights violations in the Philippines** (Resolution of
38 Witness): to committee
- 39 26. **Resolution: Hope in a Time of Terror** (Resolution of Witness): to committee
- 40 27. **Resolution: For Selective Investment and Meaningful Engagement with the Crisis in the Middle East**
41 (Prudential Resolution): to committee
42

43 **Additional Note Regarding Business:** The Executive Council has also assigned to Committees of the General
44 Synod the following items: The Bylaw Changes, The Form and Function Committee Report, The Ministry
45 Issues Pronouncement and Proposals for Action.
46

47 Ms. Betz moved that the Twenty-fifth General Synod adopt the recommendations of the Committee of Reference as
48 presented.
49

50 03-GS-13 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the recommendations of the Executive Council
51 Committee of Reference.
52

53 On behalf of the Business Committee, Mr. Winston Baldwin moves that the Twenty-fifth General Synod adopt one
54 more business item titled “Supreme Court Justice Nomination.” If adopted, it is to be referred to a committee of
55 General Synod.
56

1 05-GS-14 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the business item titled “Supreme Court Justice
2 Nomination” to be referred to a committee of the General Synod.

3
4 **10. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

5 The offering from Friday evening worship totaled \$7448.00 and will be given to the Cravath Fund at Uplands
6 Retirement Village, Pleasant Hill, Tennessee.

7
8 There are several changes in locations of various luncheons/dinners. Please note these changes.

9
10 There are also changes to some committees due to space issues. These changes will also be announced after Plenary
11 Five.

12
13 There are additional copies of business items in the registration area for community groups.

14
15 **11. ADJOURNMENT**

16 Assistant Moderator Neal declared the third plenary session complete and General Synod in recess at 11:52 a.m.
17 We will now move to community groups.

18
19 **General Synod Plenary 4**
20 **Saturday Evening, July 2, 2005**

21
22 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

23 Moderator Jack Jackson called the Fourth Plenary session of the Twenty-fifth General Synod to order at 7:30 p.m.
24 Mr. Jackson welcomed everyone and announced the meeting would begin with Speak Out!

25
26 **2. Speak Out!**

- 27
28 1. Mr. Bob Ellis (IN/KY) asked that we remember our armed forces today and always and asked that the
29 United States flag be on stage on Monday and that we pledge our allegiance.
- 30
31 2. Ms. Martha Jacobs (NY), and from the United Church of Christ Chaplains who are a part of the Council of
32 Health and Human Services Ministry (CHHSM), explained that chaplains require endorsement and she
33 asked for the continued support from the denomination. She reminded delegates that all are called to serve.
- 34
35 3. Ms. Mary Ruth (SOC) spoke for Volunteer Ministries. They are collecting school kits for Church World
36 Services (CWS) for world distribution. She thanked all who have participated. A few more volunteers are
37 needed to sew more bags.
- 38
39 4. Ms. Shelly Dieterle (CA NV, N) announced a meeting at 9:30 p.m. for 20-30 year old clergy networking.
- 40
41 5. Ms. Laverne Joseph, (CA NV, S), CEO of Retirement Housing Foundation (RHF), spoke of the need for
42 more affordable housing. He asked for congregations to help find affordable housing in their area and
43 explained the need is growing faster than supply.
- 44
45 6. Mr. Alan Miller (PNE) introduced David Quinn who had bicycled here from Pennsylvania. Karen Kresge
46 is in need of a lung transplant. David is raising money to help her pay for this transplant. He asked for
47 prayers from the General Synod.
- 48
49 7. Mr. Howard Self (IS), a member of the National Disasters Ministry which celebrated its five-year
50 anniversary yesterday, reminded delegates that the ministry is funded by One Great Hour of Sharing and is
51 present throughout the world when help is needed.
- 52
53 8. Mr. Curt Preston (MA) is disappointed that UCC Insurance does not cover oral contraceptives. He
54 suggested everyone contact Rev. Ken Ulmer at the Pension Boards to make their feelings known.
- 55
56

- 1 9. Ms. Donna and Mr. Ray Gentry (SW) announced a Walk Across America for the 13th Phoenix
2 Affirmation, beginning in Phoenix, March 1, 2006, and ending in Washington, D.C.
3
4 10. Ms. Jan Dashner (IS), a United Church of Christ chaplain in the armed forces, believes the chaplains bring
5 a different presence of pastoral care to all members of the armed forces.
6
7 11. Mr. Kwame Osei Reed (CAC) spoke of a volunteer core from Westmoreland United Church of Christ.
8 More information can be obtained at the Christian for Justice Action booth.
9

10 The next Speak Outs! are scheduled for Monday morning.

11 **3. REFLECTIONS ON THE COMMUNITY GROUPS**

12 Mr. Bob Witham, Coordinator for Community Groups, gave feedback from the group leaders who reported
13 members were open and respectful of one another. He thanked everyone for participating.
14

15 **4. INTRODUCTION AND SPEECH OF CANDIDATE FOR GENERAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT**

16 Mr. Winston Baldwin, Chair of the Executive Council, introduced Rev. John H. Thomas, nominee for General
17 Minister and President.
18

19
20 Rev. Thomas spoke of the need for church leaders to have “a centered spirit, not a thick skin.” He spoke of his
21 commitments in his final term:

- 22 • to extend the renewal movement that understands extravagant welcome and evangelical courage
- 23 • to encourage a revived commitment to evangelism,
- 24 • to call our church to faithful generosity, and to the goal of seeing one billion dollars in giving by 2007,
- 25 • to respond to the call of our global partners,
- 26 • to work at ending the war in Iraq, and
- 27 • to continue a call to theological integrity and liturgical excellence.
28

29 Rev. Thomas stated that “regardless of how odd or unwelcome, this office has often placed me in the position of
30 blessing, of acknowledging sacredness in our church and in our world. That has been, and continues to be, an
31 enormous privilege.”
32

33 **5. KICK-OFF OF 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

34 Moderator Jack Jackson announced that at General Synod 2007 the United Church of Christ will celebrate fifty
35 years of ministry. He called on Mr. Robert Witham and Ms. Persida Mendez. Mr. Witham is Chair of the 50th
36 Anniversary Committee and Ms. Mendez is chair of the Council of Hispanic Ministers. Mimes presented a skit
37 which introduced the logo and theme: Let It Shine - The UCC at 50 Years.” The presentation ended with everyone
38 joining in singing “This Little Light of Mine.”
39

40 **6. ATTENDEES OF 1957 GENERAL SYNOD**

41 Moderator Jackson asked for all those who had attended the first General Synod in 1957 to stand and be recognized.
42

43 **7. AWARDS AND PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

44 Moderator Jackson introduced Ms. Edith Guffey who presented the following awards and led everyone in a prayer
45 of thanksgiving for the recipients.
46

- 47 Pacific Islander Asian American Ministries
- 48 Wider Church Ministries
- 49 United Black Christians Esther D. Ewing Awards
- 50 Church Excellence Award
- 51 Justice and Witness Ministries
 - 52 Martha Dayag Justice Award
 - 53 Oliver Powell Justice Award
 - 54 Hawaiian Culture and Spirituality Support Group – Dorothy Day Justice Award
 - 55 Local Church Justice Award

1 Nkosi Johnson Justice Award
2 Rev. William Sloane Coffin, Lifetime Achievement “Blessed are the Peacemakers” Award
3 Local Church Ministries
4 Excellence in Teaching Award
5 Pilgrim Press Mayflower Award
6 United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries Award
7 United Church of Christ Mental Illness Network Dell Award
8 Outstanding Contributions to New Church Development Award
9 Antoinette Brown Awards
10 Honored Lay Women
11
12

13 **8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

14 Ms. Edith Guffey gave the announcements.

15
16 The blood drive is open tomorrow from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

17
18 The reception for honored guests will be in the Omni Hotel/North Tower.

19
20 She encouraged delegates to stop by exhibitors, especially those who are not in the main traffic area.

21
22 Lost and Found items should be sent to the General Synod office.

23
24 The after hours concert scheduled for today will be combined with the concert tomorrow.

25
26 The Pension Boards Fund is sponsoring a fun run which will start tomorrow morning. She encouraged delegates to
27 stop by the booth for more information.

28
29 Emergency exits were identified.

30
31 There is an open meeting of the Mental Health Network at noon on July 3 at the CNN food court, which is next to
32 Arby’s. All are welcome.

33 34 **9. RECOGNITION OF THE MINISTRY OF BERNICE POWELL JACKSON**

35 The ministry of Rev. Bernice Powell Jackson was recognized. Ms. Yvonne Delk spoke grateful words of Ms.
36 Jackson and her ministry. Ms. Deborah DeWinter spoke on behalf of the World Council of Churches. The Justice
37 and Witness Staff sang some songs to Ms. Jackson. Rev. John Thomas spoke on behalf of the Collegium of
38 Officers.

39
40 Rev. Jackson thanked Justice and Witness Ministries and the United Church of Christ for the love, kindness and
41 support they have shown the last four years.

42
43 Moderator Jackson declared the fourth plenary complete at 9:25 p.m. and we moved directly into worship.

44
45 **The theme for worship was “Listen” and the Rev. Claudia De La Cruz (NY) delivered the sermon.**

46
47 **At 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Prayers celebrated the partnership of the American Missionary Association**
48 **and the Congregational Church.**

49
50 **SUNDAY MORNING, JULY 3, 2005**

51 **Fifth Plenary Session**

52 53 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

54 Assistant Moderator Eric Smith called the Fifth Plenary of the Twenty-fifth General Synod to order immediately
55 after the closing of Morning Prayers.
56

1 **2. INTRODUCTION AND SPEECH OF NOMINEE FOR WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES**
2 **EXECUTIVE**

3 Mr. Curtis Rueter, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Wider Church Ministries, introduced Rev. Cally
4 Rogers-Witte, nominee for Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries. She spoke of her gratefulness to the
5 many persons in her past, particularly her husband, parents and mentors, such as Rev. Reuben Sheares, who have
6 supported her through the years. She spoke of her calling to this position and her love of the United Church of
7 Christ. She emphasized the importance of “partnership and critical presence.”
8

9 **3. RECOGNITION OF REV. BENNIE WHITEN’S MINISTRY**

10 Mr. Curtis Reuter introduced the Rev. Bennie Whiten, Interim Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries, and
11 expressed sincere thanks and appreciation to him and his wife, Sue. Rev. John Thomas expressed his profound
12 gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Whiten for his ministry. Mr. Whiten spoke briefly and thanked everyone for their
13 kind words and support.
14

15 **4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

16 Assistant Moderator Eric Smith introduced Ms. Edith Guffey who announced the following:
17

18 There is no bar of the house this evening for worship and everyone can sit wherever they like.
19

20 Ms. Joyce Holladay has a book for sale and a signing at 9:45 p.m. in the World Congress Center.
21

22 Go to room 410A tonight for elections of Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries.
23

24 Communion will be served by order of Corpus Christus on Monday.
25

26 The blood drive is today from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
27

28 The Clergy Network is gathering tonight at the Omni in Cottonwood Rooms A&B
29

30 Celebrate with church and family this evening with the Still Speaking Initiative staff in the East Plaza.
31

32 Committee room changes to larger rooms: Committee# 1- B405, #2- B406, #3- B407
33

34 Members of the press are not admitted into the bar of the house, but will be admitted in some of the committees.
35

36 Delegates then moved directly to committee work.
37

38 **5. ADJOURNMENT**

39 Assistant Moderator Eric Smith declared the fifth plenary of the Twenty-fifth General Synod to be complete at
40 9:55 a.m.
41

42 **MONDAY MORNING, JULY 4, 2005**

43 **Sixth Plenary Session**
44

45 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

46 Assistant Moderator Annie Neal called the Sixth Plenary of the Twenty-fifth General Synod to order at 8:30 a.m.
47

48 **2. SPEAK OUT!**

49 Ms. Neal welcomed the group and announced the meeting would begin with the Speak Out!
50

- 51 1. Mr. Tom Eckert (SE) noted the availability of a map of the Congregational Church and AMA
52 colleges as of 1946 located in the display area. Delegates and visitors were invited to visit the
53 booth and take a look at the map that highlights churches, people, events and many of the AMA
54 colleges.
55
56

- 1 2. Mr. Ryan Henderson (PSE) talked about Defiance College, Ohio and its Design for Leadership
2 distance learning program which offers degrees and certificates in leadership development.
3 Delegates and visitors were invited to visit the booth in the exhibit area.
4
- 5 3. Ms. Kelly Burd (OHIO) of the Christian Vegetarian Association, invited visitors and delegates to
6 open their minds to the suffering of animals, and acknowledge the long history of Christ's call
7 for the relief of suffering of others. Delegates and visitors were invited to visit their booth in the
8 Justice and Witness Ministries area.
9
- 10 4. Ms. Christina Westropp and Mr. R. J. Meyer (MINN) talked about Pilgrim Point Camp's
11 recovery from wind storm damage. They solicited volunteers and funds to help clean up and
12 cover expenses for volunteers and staff overtime.
13
- 14 5. Ms. Carolyn Thompson (MASS) United Church of Christ Disabilities Board, reminded delegates
15 and visitors that July 25 marks the fifteenth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
16 She then encouraged conferences and congregations to continue their work with persons with
17 disabilities and to develop resource materials.
18
- 19 6. Mr. John Ellis (CAC) of Economic Justice Ministry appealed to Conferences to urge Congress to
20 pass the Central America Free Trade Agreement and provide more assistance to Central
21 America.
22
- 23 7. Mr. James Seifert (PSE) gave thanks to the United Church of Christ for being a partner in the
24 "Formula of Agreement" partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Churches in America.
25
- 26 8. Ms. Jean Tyler (NE) reminded delegates and visitors to recognize the gifts of ministry that
27 persons with disabilities have to offer to the Church.
28
- 29 9. Mr. Steve Zorbaugh (PC) exalted the name of the Lord, and reminded General Synod participants
30 of God's presence in all that we do.
31
- 32 10. Ms. Jill Graham (MASS), presented highlights of the strengths of the Massachusetts Conference
33 that is in a season of renewal. She also announced the Conference profile would be available in
34 the fall, but flyers and search committee members are present at General Synod and are available
35 for conversation.
36
- 37 11. Ms. Virginia Ford (MASS) stated God is still speaking and this is an opportunity to expand
38 ecumenism: God's October Surprise, called to celebrate the confluence of religious communities
39 and culture.
40
- 41 12. Ms. Trina Williams (CA NV, S) challenged delegates and visitors to ask someone with the
42 yellow tag that says, "Ask me my story about marriage," and to be open to hearing stories of joy,
43 frustration, anger and hope.
44

45 **3. PRESENTATION OF GENERAL SYNOD AWARDS**

46 Assistant Moderator Neal called upon Moderator Jack Jackson to come forward and present the first award to the
47 Rev. Walter Brueggeman.
48

49 Mr. Jackson described Rev. Brueggeman as the unofficial theologian for the United Church of Christ, long
50 recognized for depth of scholarship and passion to the scriptures and loyalty to the Church. His scholarship offers
51 us images and theological doorways to open the scripture. His scholarship for the church is dynamic, exploratory,
52 and growing, while nailing us to the wall with the Word. Rev. Brueggeman's academic credentials were reviewed:
53 Eden Theological Seminary, Columbia Theological Seminary, and he was described as amazingly productive in
54 scholarship, teaching, lecturing and writing.
55

1 Rev. Brueggeman spoke about his journey and how he has spent his whole ministry with the United Church of
2 Christ and its predecessor traditions. He recalled the Blue Catechism of the Evangelical tradition, specifically
3 question 72: Wherein is the humiliation and exultation of Christ briefly expressed? Answer: Phil 2:5-11, which
4 Rev. Brueggeman quoted. He then went on to say that right before that lyrical, Christological passage, the author of
5 Philippians tells us: “do not look to your own interests, but to the interests of others.” He cautioned us that the
6 Church is always tempted to look to our own interests, but that Christ gives us power to look beyond our own
7 interests to the interests of others.

8
9 Ms. Neal called on Rev. Bernice Powell Jackson to give the second award to Rev. Andrew Young.

10
11 Rev. Powell said that Rev. Young gives new meaning to ‘patriot and pastor’. Rev. Young, along with his wife, are
12 children of the Congregational Church. As part of this journey, he joined the staff of the National Council of
13 Churches Youth Department, helping young people understand their faith in the context of the world. He changed
14 the face of the South and our nation. He marched, was jailed and beaten, and provided care for those engaged in
15 nonviolent struggle for civil rights. He has often served as pastor to pastors. Little was known about the United
16 Church Board for Homeland Ministries paying his salary during the time he served with Dr. King. Rev. Young was
17 the first African American elected to the House of Representatives since reconstruction and Ambassador to the
18 United Nations. He was chosen because of his work in human rights. His meeting with representatives of the PLO
19 brought his service as Ambassador to the United Nations to an abrupt end. He served as Mayor of Atlanta and chair
20 of the Olympic Committee. Rev. Young’s call includes father, prophet, pastor and patriot.

21
22 Rev. Young responded by saying that he owes everything to this church. His parents and grandparents received
23 their educations through American Missionary Association colleges. His grandparents taught him that “to whom
24 much has been given, much is expected.”

25
26 He somehow found his way to seminary, to Alabama and to Georgia. His way to politics was kindled by the
27 concept that politicians are pastors. He served as council to President Jimmy Carter in response to South African
28 relations and apartheid. As Mayor of Atlanta, he had the vision and context that through interaction with churches,
29 Atlanta could become a holy city, with barriers broken down and openness to the world. This was celebrated in the
30 1996 Olympics.

31
32 Much of what he learned, he learned in Sunday school at Central Congregational Church in New Orleans, another
33 context for deep learning. During service at the National Council of Churches, he was one of two black
34 representatives out of 1600. The National Council of Churches consisted of a number of gay representatives who
35 had found a place of ministry there, when their local churches and denominations were not open to them. They told
36 him he could not fight the battle for civil rights because he was too emotional. They said: “let us fight this battle for
37 you; one day you may have the chance to speak for us.” He is glad “God is Still Speaking.” He is glad to be part of
38 the church that wrote the constitution of the United States, and glad to be part of the church of the Amistad. He
39 hopes that the United Church of Christ never shirks from its mission. After forty-five years, what seemed
40 controversial now seems simple. We are all compelled to speak the truth and bear the scorn. There is no education
41 without controversy, no resurrection without crucifixion.

42
43 Ms. Neal gave thanks to both Rev. Brueggeman and Rev. Young.

44 45 **4. RESOLUTION: PROMOTING PEACE FOR ALL IN THE SUDAN**

46 Assistant Moderator Neal announced the beginning of the first Committee reports, and reminded the delegates of the
47 microphone procedures.

48
49 Ms. Neal asked all of the committee chairs to rise and be recognized by the Twenty-fifth General Synod, and
50 thanked the Committee Process Facilitators, Ms. Sheldon Culver, Mr. Dennis Friche-Mouri and Ms. Wanda Harris-
51 Watkins.

52
53 Ms. Neal called on Ms. Amity Royer, chair of Committee Nine to present the recommended actions from that
54 committee. Ms. Royer thanked members of the committee for their work, briefly described the work of the
55 committee, and noted the committee’s recommendation to give this resolution unanimous support. She then moved
56 the adoption of the resolution “Promoting Peace for all in the Sudan.”

1
2 05-GS-15 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the resolution “Promoting Peace for all in the Sudan.”
3

4 **PROMOTING PEACE FOR ALL IN THE SUDAN**
5

6 WHEREAS the crisis in the Darfur region of the Sudan continues unabated, and
7

8 WHEREAS violence and threats against the lives, health, homes, and security of the people of the region persist,
9 and
10

11 WHEREAS women in particular have been victims of brutal rape, have been captured and kept as sexual slaves, and
12 have been denied their physical, emotional, economic, and human rights;
13

14 WHEREAS official policies of exploitation, racial discrimination, and marginalization have been used to incite
15 social divisions and cultural animosities for political control and ideological ends, and
16

17 WHEREAS the Sudan Council of Churches and the New Sudan Council of Churches have condemned the role of
18 the Sudanese government in perpetuating the atrocities, and
19

20 WHEREAS the international community including the United States has condemned the assault on the people of
21 Darfur as genocide, but has not taken effective action to pressure the government of the Sudan to end the assault,
22 and
23

24 WHEREAS the lack of security and restrictions on access in western Sudan have hindered the provision of
25 humanitarian aid by international agencies, and
26

27 WHEREAS the conflict in Darfur should not be separated from the continuing conflict between the northern and
28 southern regions of the Sudan,
29

30 LET IT THEREFORE BE RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ
31 deploras the suffering of the Sudanese people over the course of decades of conflict, and particularly in the current
32 crisis in the Darfur region; and
33

34 LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon
35 the Sudanese government to cease hostile actions against civilians, to end support for militant groups committing
36 violence, and to engage immediately in efforts to end the crisis in Darfur; to continue to work diligently to seek a
37 just and peaceful resolution to the conflict against factions in the southern regions; and to institute national policies
38 and encourage civil institutions that respect the language, culture, and religious rights and practices of all Sudanese,
39 regardless of race, gender, or color; and
40

41 LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ supports
42 efforts of the international community to intervene in bringing security to the region to ensure that the basic rights of
43 the people are guaranteed, including the commitment of the African Union to provide peacekeepers to the region;
44

45 LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that, given the continued systematic violence and widespread murder of
46 civilians, the boards call upon the U.S. government to intensify efforts with the United Nations and the international
47 community to seek a comprehensive peace in the Sudan that would end the conflict throughout the nation and ensure
48 access to security and natural resources for all Sudanese; and requests Justice and Witness Ministries and Wider
49 Church Ministries through Common Global Ministries to advocate with the U.S. and the U.N. authorities to be so
50 committed; and
51

52 LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon
53 the congregations and members of the United Church of Christ to engage in prayer, study and public witness
54 regarding the Sudan through resources available through Justice and Witness Ministries, the Common Global
55 Ministries, and Church World Service; and encourages the coordination of worship, educational and public witness

1 efforts among our ecumenical partners and non-governmental organizations that emerged from the United Nations
2 World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance (WCAR); and
3

4 LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ
5 encourages congregations and members of the United Church of Christ to participate in the Dear Sudan campaign.
6

7 LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ
8 encourages members to contribute generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing and Week of Compassion
9 (Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) special appeals to support efforts to deliver humanitarian relief and supplies
10 to the region and efforts to aid the refugees and internally displaced of the Sudan.
11

12 Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the
13 affected agencies and the funds available.
14

15 **5. RESOLUTION: HOPE IN A TIME OF TERROR**

16 Chairperson Royer continued the report of Committee Nine introducing the resolution “Hope In a Time of Terror.”
17 Ms. Royer did not speak to the resolution, but moved the adoption of the resolution.
18

19 05-GS-16 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the resolution “Hope in a Time of Terror.”
20

21 **HOPE IN A TIME OF TERROR**
22

23 WHEREAS on August 1 through 7, 2004, a delegation from Penn Central Conference of the United Church of
24 Christ met in joint colloquy with delegations from the Synods of the Rhineland and Berlin-Brandenburg of the
25 United Evangelical Church in Germany to discuss the impact of post-modern thinking on their understandings of
26 Christian theology; and
27

28 WHEREAS the participants in the colloquy included discussion of terrorism, security, freedom, justice and peace in
29 the wake of the tragic use of airplanes as weapons on 11 September 2001; and
30

31 WHEREAS the colloquy participants were moved to draft a joint statement on “Hope in a Time of Terror,” in
32 response to the current world situation and offer that statement to their respective church bodies, including the Penn
33 Central Conference of the United Church of Christ;
34

35 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ receives with thanksgiving and endorses the
36 joint statement, “Hope in a Time of Terror,” the text of which follows:
37

38 *UEK / UCC Penn Central Conference Colloquy*

39 *August 6, 2004*

40 *Precious Blood Spiritual Center, Lancaster, Pennsylvania;*

41 *“Hope in a Time of Terror”*

42 *We are meeting in a time troubled by the threat of terrorism and war, resulting in strains in the relationship between*
43 *our governments. Taking up these issues we have discussed the following points:*

44 *The generous, open-society practices of the United States following World War II developed a worldwide trust in the*
45 *U. S. as a model democratic nation. More recently, the horror of the terrorist attacks on 9/11 rekindled sympathy*
46 *for America among the peoples of the world. However the United States by starting a preemptive war, rejecting the*
47 *admonitions of allies and the U. S., and disregarding international covenants and treaties, has turned that sympathy*
48 *into widespread concern and even fear.*
49

50 *In Germany, church demonstrators against the war in Iraq are uncomfortable because they are grateful for the role*
51 *of the U. S. in the past but now are accused of being anti-American. Many weekly candlelight vigils, such as those*
52 *in Neuruppin, always include the reading of greeting from American friends. On a personal level, German*
53 *participants in this colloquy were not sure whether friends they had met before had also changed, and whether the*
54 *UCC statements opposing the war represent the general opinion of UCC congregations. The fear of division in our*
55 *churches due to polarization has deterred many from openly discussing these questions.*
56

1 *In this situation we feel the need to clarify and reclaim the values we share. War, even when it is undertaken as a*
2 *last resort, is never a solution to economic or political problems. We especially believe that there is no military*
3 *solution to the problem of international terrorism.*

4
5 *We asked ourselves what our churches can do to further peace. These are some of our answers: We can*

- 6
- 7 • *explore our own traditions of war and peace. Are there “just wars? What is a “just peace church?”*
- 8 • *enter into dialogue with people of different cultures.*
- 9 • *resist extremism in our own culture and others by seeking to develop understanding and trust.*
- 10 • *discuss the whole topic of war and peace in our congregations.*
- 11 • *pray and preach for peace, questioning the use of force and praising people who serve reconciliation.*
- 12 • *inform ourselves about the suffering of individual victims and other costs of war.*
- 13 • *reconsider our way of life and how our extraction of resources affects other nations.*
- 14 • *keep up the hope of changing policies through information, boycotts, and other forms of public action.*
- 15 • *joyfully celebrate our community on the way.*
- 16

17 *We commit ourselves to continuing our conversation, to deepening our understanding of our faith and enjoying each*
18 *other’s friendship bonding our two churches as a gift of God.*

19
20 THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that The Twenty-fifth General Synod calls upon Justice and
21 Witness Ministries to develop the strategy and program to implement this resolution.

22
23 Funding for this action will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds
24 available.

25
26 **6. RESOLUTION: IN SUPPORT OF FAIR AND JUST COMPENSATION FOR LAY EMPLOYEES OF**
27 **THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

28 Ms. Neal called on Chairperson Nancy Peoples to present the recommended action from Committee Ten. The
29 resolution “In support of Fair and Just Compensation for Lay Employees of the United Church of Christ” was
30 assigned to this committee.

31
32 Ms. Peoples briefly described the work of the committee, and noted the committee made no substantive changes and
33 voted unanimously to recommend the General Synod approve the resolution. She then moved, on behalf of
34 Committee Ten, that the Twenty-fifth General synod adopt the Resolution “In Support of Fair and Just
35 Compensation for Lay Employees of the United Church of Christ.” Speaking to the resolution, she hoped this action
36 of General Synod will encourage local churches to take this issue seriously. She stated we in the United Church of
37 Christ seek fair wages of others, but often fail to look inward. She said the committee is aware that 3% is a small
38 amount, but it is a start, and the committee urges that all United Church of Christ entities begin as soon as possible.

39
40 05-GS-17 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the resolution “In support of Fair and Just
41 Compensation for Lay Employees of the United Church of Christ.”

42
43 **IN SUPPORT OF FAIR AND JUST COMPENSATION FOR LAY EMPLOYEES OF THE UNITED**
44 **CHURCH OF CHRIST**

45
46 WHEREAS, the Twelfth General Synod (1979) recommended a fair salary and employee fringe benefits for lay
47 employees of the United Church of Christ, stating, in part, “The Church’s struggle for economic and social justice in
48 society must include fair wages and benefits for its own workers...;” and

49
50 WHEREAS, the resolution “Support of Pension Protection for Lay Employees,” adopted by the Fourteenth General
51 Synod (1983) states, in part, “lay employees, whether full-time or part-time, need the protection of the Social
52 Security system and an additional annuity plan to accrue benefits at all their positions in order to acquire adequate
53 total pension benefits for retirement”; and

1 WHEREAS, neither the underlying economic conditions nor the financial needs of employees have changed
2 significantly since those resolutions were adopted; and
3

4 WHEREAS, in faithfulness to our theological convictions, it is essential that we work in partnership with employers
5 to develop mechanisms to achieve greater economic justice for all employees;
6

7 THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ
8 reaffirms its historic support of economic and social justice in society; and
9

10 LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ reaffirms
11 the actions of the Twelfth and Fourteenth General Synods regarding fair wages and benefits for the Church's own
12 workers and the need for providing pension benefits for retirement; and
13

14 LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests
15 that the Parish Life and Leadership Ministry Team, in cooperation with the Council of Conference Ministers and the
16 Pension Boards – United Church of Christ, undertake a vigorous program of educating and encouraging all churches
17 and employers of the United Church of Christ to meet these obligations as employers; and
18

19 LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges that all
20 United Church of Christ employers covenant to provide their lay employees with an annual contribution of no less
21 than 3% of compensation toward retirement income.
22

23 Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the
24 affected agencies and the funds available.
25

26 **7. BYLAW CHANGES AS AMENDED**

27 Ms. Neal called on Mr. Roy Mosley, Chair of Committee Thirteen, who moved the adoption of The Bylaws of the
28 United Church of Christ, as amended.
29

30 The Moderator invited Mr. Mosley to speak to the resolution. He described the Committee's review and
31 deliberation of the proposed changes. He stated the Committee worked cooperatively with Executive Council
32 representatives to understand the proposed changes. To simplify their work, the Committee deliberated first on the
33 concepts and secondly over the language. He stated that consensus allowed the Committee to work cooperatively
34 and amicably while they addressed issues of concern. He then reviewed the changes orally.
35

36 Mr. Robert Lee, Executive Council, noted as a point of order that documents with the proposed changes, had not
37 been made available to the delegates. Ms. Neal reminded the delegates they were responsible for downloading the
38 changed documents. Ms. Megan Hoelle (CPC), as a point of order, suggested that when there are significant
39 amendments, delegates should be provided with written revisions.
40

41 Ms. Neal made the parliamentary decision to delay the resolution and the election in order to provide written
42 documents to the General Synod delegates.
43

44 **8. RESOLUTION: REAFFIRMING JESUS CHRIST AS OUR LORD AND SAVIOR AND** 45 **REAFFIRMING OUR HISTORIC UCC CROSS, CROWN, & ORB WITH MOTTO SYMBOL**

46 Assistant Moderator Neal called on Mr. Jeff Filkins, chair of Committee Eleven to present the substitute resolution
47 "Reaffirming Jesus Christ as Our Lord and Savior and Reaffirming Our Historic UCC Cross, Crown and Orb with
48 Motto Symbol."
49

50 Mr. Filkins thanked Committee members for their discernment. He agreed with the intended proposes of the
51 original resolutions which were numbers seventeen and eighteen, that are now combined into one glorious
52 affirmation.
53

54 Mr. Madison Shockley (CA NV S) expressed opposition to the resolution. He felt this to be a peculiar and
55 progressive moment in this denomination. His local church would not meet the qualifications of being a United
56 Church of Christ church according to this resolution. He asked that the resolution be amended to reaffirm

1 conformity and not openness of mind. Ms. Rochelle Stackhouse (PNE) spoke in support of the revised resolution
2 specifically as it relates to the final “BE IT RESOLVED.” Mr. Edgar Rosa (PNE) was opposed to the revision and
3 felt there is not enough encouragement to affirm both the humanity and divinity of Christ, there is a need to
4 emphasize the triune expression of God, and the basis of his church tradition is the covenant of people and God
5 through service. Mr. David R. Bereford (NH) stood in affirmation of the fine work of this committee.

6
7 Ms. Neal called for the vote on the substitute resolution.

8
9 05-GS-18 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the resolution “Reaffirming Jesus Christ as Our Lord
10 and Savior and Reaffirming Our Historic UCC Cross, Crown and Orb with Motto Symbol.”

11
12 **REAFFIRMING JESUS CHRIST AS OUR LORD AND SAVIOR AND REAFFIRMING OUR HISTORIC**
13 **UCC CROSS, CROWN, & ORB WITH MOTTO SYMBOL**

14
15 WHEREAS the United Church of Christ, in its Constitution, “acknowledges as its sole head, Jesus Christ, Son of
16 God and Savior;” and

17
18 WHEREAS the Constitution of the United Church of Christ declares that our Church “claims as its own the faith of
19 the historic Church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers;”
20 and

21
22 WHEREAS these testimonies of our mothers and fathers in the faith all confess in conformity to Holy Scripture that
23 Jesus Christ is truly human and truly divine; and

24
25 WHEREAS our membership in ecumenical councils and our relationships of full communion have renewed our
26 commitment to the ecumenical faith in the humanity and divinity of Jesus Christ; and

27
28 WHEREAS the Orders for Baptism, Confirmation and Reception of Members published in the Book of Worship and
29 New Century Hymnal invite candidates or their sponsors, in accordance with Article V.10 of the UCC Constitution,
30 to profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord or Sovereign; and

31
32 WHEREAS the historic registered trade-mark of the UCC, includes the Cross, Crown & Orb with Motto and

33
34 WHEREAS the liturgies and hymnals published by the UCC--including the Book of Worship and the New Century
35 Hymnal – affirm that Jesus Christ is our Sovereign, both human and divine; and

36
37 WHEREAS our Church’s witness to justice and peace is grounded in the authority of Jesus Christ who is the Word
38 of God;

39
40 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, meeting in
41 Atlanta, Georgia, celebrates and reaffirms our Church’s faith in Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, whose true
42 humanity and divinity are declared in our Constitution, our liturgies, our hymnals, and our ecumenical
43 commitments; and

44
45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-Fifth General Synod reaffirms the historic UCC Cross, Crown, Orb
46 and Motto symbol, and strongly commends its continued use in publications, periodicals, letterheads, websites,
47 videos, display advertising and other visual means of communication produced by all settings of the Church; and

48
49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-Fifth General Synod commends to the congregations of the United
50 Church of Christ the Orders for Baptism, Confirmation and Reception of Members published in the Book of
51 Worship and New Century Hymnal.

52
53 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod encourages all who proclaim the Sovereignty of
54 Jesus in their words to discern the implications of that proclamation for the way they live their lives.

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

3
4 **9. RESOLUTION: IN SUPPORT OF MINISTRIES TO OUR CAMPUSES OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**

5 Ms. Neal called Ms. Sylvia Ferrel Jones, chair of Committee Twelve to present the work of the committee.

6
7 Ms. Jones moved the Twenty-fifth General Synod approve the amended resolution “In Support of Ministries to Our
8 Campuses of Higher Education.”

9
10 Ms. Jones thanked the recorder and technical service assistant for their work. She stated the Committee sought to
11 affirm the importance of campus ministries and other outreach ministries to college students. The Committee saw
12 the responsibility of General Synod as that of making policy, not being directive to the national staff. She stated the
13 committee urges Conferences, Associations, and other United Church of Christ entities, to increase Our Church’s
14 Wider Mission giving so the national office can increase support for this important ministry. She also mentioned the
15 Committee had the privilege of speaking to Rev. Jose De Jesus and Ms. Kimberly Whitney of the national staff, as
16 they sought to discern God’s will.

17
18 Mr. James Darnell (ILL) moved to amend the resolution to eliminate some of the revised language and reinstate the
19 original language. The motion was seconded.

20
21 Mr. Darnell addressed the original intention of the resolution to provide a strong statement of support for campus
22 ministries. He stated General Synod has set the precedent of directing the types of national staff. He stated that
23 General Synod has deliberated and passed six young adult resolutions in the past fifteen years, and none have been
24 implemented. He asked for some accountability in Local Church Ministries. He demanded that campus ministry
25 concerns be heard and ministries respected.

26
27 Ms. Neal then requested discussion for and against this amendment. Mr. Dave Johnston (IK) felt that General
28 Synod is buffeted by an abundance of need, and needs to demonstrate conviction. He then asked people who were
29 in attendance at Synod in large part because of the impact of a campus minister to stand.

30
31 Ms. Leslie Taylor (OH) stated that she has benefited as a recipient of campus ministry at a United Church of Christ
32 college and seminary. She is a former national staff member and feels that positions can’t continue to be added
33 without a source of income to support them. She opposed the amendment, but supports an increase in Our Church’s
34 Wider Mission so the position can be fully supported.

35
36 Mr. Gregory Morrise (MA) reminded delegates of how his generation was hugely touched by the work of campus
37 ministries, and he believes that the United Church of Christ should seek to lift up young adults in all of their
38 ministries, issues and needs. He also reminded participants that Jesus never made it to age thirty-five.

39
40 As a point of information, the committee was questioned about its rationale in removing some of the original
41 language.

42
43 Ms. Jones addressed the question. When the resolution was drafted there was no one in national staff serving in any
44 of the positions targeted in the resolution. Last month one of these positions was filled. The Committee felt the
45 resolution to be too directive, but affirmed the importance of campus ministries and a call to churches to increase
46 Our Church’s Wider Mission. It is important that local churches step up to the plate.

47
48 Following further discussion from delegates, Assistant Moderator Neal clarified the amendment before the house,
49 and called for a vote on the amendment.

50
51 The proposed amendment was defeated.

52
53 Ms. Neal directed delegates to return to the main motion, the amended resolution as it came from the committee.

54
55 05-GS-19 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the amended resolution “In Support of Ministries to
56 our Campuses of Higher Education.

1 **IN SUPPORT OF MINISTRIES TO OUR CAMPUSES OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

2
3 WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has been invested in the intellectual, spiritual and moral formation of future
4 leaders, both lay and ordained; and

5
6 WHEREAS on a world scale only one out of 100 people has access to higher education and whereas that one person
7 will make decisions that affect the other 99; and

8
9 WHEREAS the future leaders of our church, our country and, indeed, our world, can be found in our institutions of
10 higher learning from community colleges to graduate and professional schools; and

11
12 WHEREAS a plethora of competing voices are heard on those campuses and the church needs to have the resources
13 to be there as an alternative voice of the loving, serving and healing way of
14 Jesus Christ; and

15
16 WHEREAS the recent removal of all campus ministry staff in the national offices of the United Church of Christ in
17 Cleveland was done without notification to date of such removal to United Church of Christ chaplains, campus
18 ministers and students and with little regard for the connections between students, campuses, local churches and our
19 ecumenical partners, or cooperation with them in anticipating this radical step,

20
21 WE HEREBY RESOLVE to urge our conferences, associations, and local churches to become knowledgeable about
22 local campus ministries in their region and resolve that at every level of church life we offer our resources and
23 hospitality to ministries of higher education and listen to the wisdom of those involved in campus ministry as they
24 offer insights into the ways that such ministry might renew the church.

25
26 We also urge churches to share names of students and educational workers involved in higher education (with their
27 permission) with campus ministries in order to develop a network of support.

28
29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage our conferences, associations, and congregations to support
30 Local Church Ministries in its efforts to provide resources to our ministries in higher education through increased
31 Our Church's Wider Mission giving.

32
33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ in Atlanta,
34 Georgia urges the national settings of the church to explore opportunities for expanded ministries, including
35 evangelism, to students and campuses of higher education.

36
37 Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the
38 affected agencies and the funds available.

39
40 **10. ELECTIONS**

41 Assistant Moderator Eric Smith reviewed the stages in which the elections would be completed. The first of which
42 will be the election of the Executive Minister for Wider Church Ministries, then the Executive Minister for Justice
43 Witness Ministries, the Executive Minister for Local Church Ministries and finally the General Minister and
44 President.

45
46 Mr. Smith stated that General Synod would move forward with the elections not affected by the proposed bylaw
47 changes. He then called on Mr. Curtis Reuter (RM), Chair of the Board of Directors of Wider Church Ministries.
48 Mr. Reuter moved that Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte be called by election to complete the two years of an unexpired
49 term as Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries and Officer of the United Church of Christ.

50
51 05-GS-20 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls by election the Rev. Cally
52 Rogers-Witte to complete the two years of an unexpired term as Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries and
53 Officer of the United Church of Christ.

1 Rev. Davida Foy Crabtree, President of the Council of Conference Ministers, affirmed the election of Rev. Rogers-
2 Witte. She presented a plaque thanking Rev. Rogers-Witte for service as Conference Minister in the Southwest
3 Conference and pledged the support of the conference ministers as she moves into a new place of ministry.
4

5 Mr. Smith called upon Ms. Rose Lee (CA NV, N), President of the Board of Justice and Witness Ministries. Ms.
6 Lee moved that Ms. Linda Jaramillo be called by election by the General Synod of the United Church of Christ to a
7 four-year term as the Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries and an Officer of the United Church of
8 Christ.
9

10 05-GS-21 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls by election Ms. Linda
11 Jaramillo to a four-year term as Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries and Officer of the United
12 Church of Christ.
13

14 The Assistant Moderator then called on Mr. Angel Toro (FLA), Chair of the Board of Director of Local Church
15 Ministries. Mr. Toro moved that Rev. Jose A. Malayang be called by election by the General Synod of the United
16 Church of Christ to a four-year term as the Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries and Officer of the United
17 Church of Christ.
18

19 05-GS-22 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls by election Rev. Jose A.
20 Malayang to a four-year term as Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries and Officer of the United Church of
21 Christ.
22

23 Assistant Moderator Smith recognized Mr. Winston Baldwin, Chair of the Executive Council. Rev. Baldwin moved
24 that Rev. John H. Thomas be called by election by the General Synod of the United Church of Christ to a four-year
25 term as General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ.
26

27 05-GS-23 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod elects the Rev. John H. Thomas to a four-year term as the
28 General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ.
29

30 Mr. Smith invited Ms. Jaramillo, Rev. Rogers-Witte, Rev. Malayang and Rev. Thomas to join him on stage,
31 accompanied by Ms. Edith Guffey, Rev. Bernice Powell-Jackson and Rev. Bennie Whiten. Rev. Powell-Jackson
32 and Rev. Whiten led the Collegium, delegates and visitors in prayer.
33

34 **11. PRESENTATION OF NEW CONGREGATIONS**

35 Assistant Moderator Smith noted that the last two Synods have included a time of wonderful celebration as an
36 opportunity to recognize United Church of Christ congregations that have come into existence in the past two years.
37

38 Mr. Smith invited Ms. Nancy Nelson Elsenheimer and Mr. Edward Santiago Rivera to lead the celebration. Ms.
39 Elsenheimer and Mr. Rivera spoke to the living witness the United Church of Christ continues to extend and
40 welcome to all people. One hundred churches from thirty conferences that have joined the United Church of Christ
41 since the 2003 General Synod responded with greetings in various languages.
42

43 **12. COLLEGIUM REPORT**

44 Assistant Moderator Smith invited Ms. Edith Guffey and Rev. Jose Malayang to give the second of three reports
45 from the Collegium. Mr. Hans Holznagel facilitated the conversation. They discussed the financial situation and
46 the difficult decisions that have been made over the past two years, as well as moving toward a balanced budget and
47 seeking to eliminate duplication of services between ministries. They also discussed the need to reduce the
48 dependency on diminishing reserves. Ms. Guffey noted the Collegium had frank conversations, some of the
49 recommendations being taken to their Boards. The Collegium developed common agreements to guide
50 recommendations, and a common process to inform staff after the Board decisions. How they conducted the
51 conversations reflects how seriously each of them took the covenant. Rev. Malayang shared how staff reductions
52 were a painful moment in his life. He prays that tough but right decisions are made for the Church. As resolutions
53 are passed that call for new dollars, we need to recognize that if we do something new we have to move money from
54 other programs. The Board of Directors takes seriously its fiduciary responsibility in regards to all funds, including
55 investment funds.
56

1 In conclusion, Ms. Guffey also shared that the reality is that mission takes money. Money is needed to support
2 missionaries, to start new churches, to host a large youth event, to pay for commercials. She shared hope that the
3 delegates and visitors make a personal commitment to increase Our Church's Wider Mission, and that this
4 commitment lingers long after the excitement of General Synod.
5

6 **13. MARRIGE EQUALITY**

7 Assistant Moderator Eric Smith called on Ms. Elizabeth Nordbeck, Chair of Committee Three, to present the
8 recommended actions from that committee. The Committee was assigned the resolutions concerning equal marriage
9 rights to all and marriage between one man and one woman.
10

11 Ms. Nordbeck briefly described the work of the committee, and its actions. She noted these resolutions were widely
12 publicized and that the committee had been joined by four hundred observers and many press representatives. She
13 expressed pride that the entire group's conversation was so quiet and respectful that the members of the media had
14 disappeared by afternoon, looking for more action and controversy. She stated the entire day's work was punctuated
15 by prayer, biblical reflection and song. She explained the combination of two resolutions had been done in
16 consultation with the sponsors of the initial two resolutions.
17

18 Ms. Nordbeck moved, on behalf of Committee Three, that the Twenty-fifth General Synod adopt the substitute
19 resolution entitled "Resolution in Support of Equal Marriage Rights for All for General Synod 25 of the United
20 Church of Christ."
21

22 Ms. Nordbeck described the deliberations. She stated the committee is persuaded that now is the moment for the
23 United Church of Christ to make a statement of prophetic witness on equal marriage rights for all. She said the
24 committee recognized that many people in our congregations will find this resolution difficult. She said the
25 committee reorganized the 'be it resolved' paragraphs into those that provide prophetic witness, and those that are
26 meant to support our members and congregation's deliberations and considerations of this action of General Synod.
27

28 Ms. Lisa Stedman (JWM) and Ms. Johanna Hattendorf (MASS) spoke first, recalling their service of covenant
29 eighteen years ago in a Unitarian Universalist church because there was no United Church of Christ church in which
30 this service of covenant could take place; one year ago, gathered before two hundred fifty friends and family, and
31 members of four congregations, they had served to witness their legal marriage. They stated the difference between
32 civil union and marriage is huge. They stressed that marriage expresses the commitment and love more fully in the
33 powerful language and idiom of our day. Equal marriage conveys equal understanding and equal respect. Mr. Bill
34 Boyland (MASS) of the Human Sexuality Task Force cited that this resolution was put forth with no Biblical
35 warrant. Quoting Martin Luther, he said we should recognize that our conscience should be held captive to the word
36 of God. He affirmed that we have a Still Speaking God, but he stated the word of God is still the same. Mr. John
37 Deckenback (CAC) spoke of his pride in the Conference for submitting one of the two resolutions combined into
38 this resolution. Two weeks ago, delegates at Central Atlantic Conference voted to affirm the Southern California
39 Nevada resolution. He said passage of this resolution is simply the right thing to do. This is the right place for the
40 United Church of Christ to be. It is time to affirm equal rights. Rev. Steve Gray (IK) asked that the General Synod
41 provide a differentiation of ethical implications for equal rights and concerns for our beloved denomination. He
42 stated there is a cost as well as joy attached to this resolution. Among the costs he cited were the cost of churches,
43 income, members, and morale. He expressed hope that the General Synod would provide for two additional years
44 for members to catch up, think, study and pray. He said there would be long-term implications for our church with
45 action taken now.
46

47 Ms. Barbara Van Eck (MI) proposed the following amendment to line number 163: bodies, "and acknowledging the
48 pain and struggle their passage will engender" within.... The amendment was seconded.
49

50 Assistant Moderator Smith asked if anyone would like to speak to the amendment. Seeing no one, Mr. Smith called
51 for a vote on the proposed amendment.
52

53 05-GS-24 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod amends the resolution "Equal Marriage Rights," to add the
54 words, "and acknowledging the pain and struggle their passage will engender."
55

56 Assistant Moderator Smith returned to the amended resolution and main motion.

1 Mr. Mark Fernald (NH) proposed an amendment to the title, making it “Resolution in Support of Equal Rights for
2 all in Covenanted Relationships.” Additionally, he suggested an amendment to line 116 by replacing “same-gender
3 marriages” with “same-gender covenanted relationships.” Amendment to lines 123, 144,168-169, and 180-181 by
4 replacing “equal marriage rights for couples regardless of gender” with “equal rights for couples in covenanted
5 relationships regardless of gender.” Amendment to line 146 by deleting the words “marry and.” The amendment
6 was seconded.
7

8 Speaking to the amendment, Mr. Fernald stated he was in agreement with the theology behind the proposed
9 resolution. He stated he saw the resolution as a political statement with two objectives: equal rights, and change to
10 the definition about covenantal relationships. He cited the power of words, and stated that opponents to this
11 resolution in this body and throughout the country would like to fight this issue on marriage rather than equal rights.
12 He also mentioned the difficulties in recognition of civil unions from Vermont and marriages from Massachusetts.
13 He stated his proposed amendment retains the resolution as a bold statement.
14

15 Mr. John Hudson (MASS) raised a point of order about substantial change of an amendment. The Moderator ruled
16 the General Synod will decide whether or not the amendment substantially changes the understanding of the
17 resolution. Mr. Jay Sprout (VT) spoke in support of the amendment. He felt this amendment opens the door to a
18 new way of thinking about this issue. It will strengthen the wall of separation between church and state, leaving the
19 word marriage to evolve over time. It will put all relationships on an equal footing. Trying to legislate the meaning
20 of a word is foolish. Mr. Thom Parrott-Sheffer (IL) urged the defeat of the amendment on the grounds of Robert’s
21 Rules. He stated the time is now. He has celebrated many covenants and it is time for his gay son to have access to
22 marriage
23

24 Mr. Kyle Tate (IL) raised a question of clarification by asking the proposer of the amendment for the definition of
25 covenanted relationships. Mr. Fernald defined covenanted relationships as a term for a relationship between two
26 people where they make a covenant with each other.
27

28 Mr. David Schnaars (PNE) moved that the vote on this resolution be postponed until the next General Synod. The
29 motion was seconded.
30

31 Mr. Bob Anderson (PC) stated the motion was out of order since it deals with the resolution and not the amendment.
32 Moderator Smith declared the motion supercedes the amendment. This isn’t an amendment. It’s a motion to
33 postpone, which takes precedent. It is debatable and amendable to a definite time. After further discussion on the
34 postponement of the motion, Mr. J. J. Johnson (PC) moved to postpone discussion to the beginning of the first
35 business session tomorrow morning.
36

37 The proposed amendment to postpone the vote on the amendment to the beginning of the first business session
38 tomorrow was defeated.
39

40 The motion to postpone vote on the resolution until General Synod Twenty-six was defeated.
41

42 Mr. Smith directed the delegates to the original amendment proposed by Mr. Fernald to change the title to
43 “Resolution in Support of Equal Rights for all in Covenanted Relationships.” Additionally, the amendment of line
44 116 by replacing “same-gender marriages” with “same-gender covenanted relationships.” Amendment to lines 123,
45 144,168-169, and 180-181 by replacing “equal marriage rights for couples regardless of gender” with “equal rights
46 for couples in covenanted relationships regardless of gender.” Amendment to line 146 by deleting the words “marry
47 and.”
48

49 After further discussion, the amendment to change the title and indicated lines was defeated.
50

51 After much discussion that spoke to the original resolution, Assistant Moderator Smith appealed to the order of the
52 day. He agreed to let discussion continue, but urged speakers to make their points briefly and not to repeat what has
53 already been said.
54

55 Following further discussion, a motion was made and seconded to end debate. Mr. Smith ended debate and restated
56 the motion.

1
2 05-GS-25 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod votes to end debate on the “Resolution in Support of Equal
3 Marriage Rights for All for General Synod 25 of the United Church of Christ.”
4

5 Assistant Moderator Smith returned the delegates to the vote on the main motion, the resolution as amended,
6 “Resolution in Support of Equal Marriage Rights for All for General Synod 25 of the United Church of Christ.” He
7 answered a request for secret ballots, by stating the bylaws of General Synod only allowed secret ballots in the case
8 of contested elections. While he said the call for secret ballot had been ruled out of order, he asked the General
9 Synod by voice if they wished to amend the General Synod Bylaws. The vocal response was “no.”
10

11 Rev. Bernice Powell Jackson requested a moment of silent prayer. In response to her request, Mr. Smith asked for
12 a moment of silent prayer and discernment from visitors and delegates.
13

14 Moderator Smith called for a vote on the main motion on the substitute resolution.
15

16 05-GS-26 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the resolution “Resolution in Support of Equal
17 Marriage Rights for All for General Synod 25 of the United Church of Christ.”
18

19 **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EQUAL MARRIAGE RIGHTS FOR ALL FOR GENERAL SYNOD 25**
20 **OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
21

22 WHEREAS the Bible affirms and celebrates human expressions of love and partnership, calling us to live out fully
23 that gift of God in responsible, faithful, committed relationships that recognize and respect the image of God in all
24 people; and
25

26 WHEREAS the life and example of Jesus of Nazareth provides a model of radically inclusive love and abundant
27 welcome for all; and
28

29 WHEREAS we proclaim ourselves to be listening to the voice of a Still Speaking God at that at all times in human
30 history there is always yet more light and truth to break forth from God’s holy word; and
31

32 WHEREAS many UCC pastors and congregations have held commitment services for gay and lesbian couples for
33 some time, consistent with the call to loving, long-term committed relationships and to nurture family life; and
34

35 WHEREAS recognition of marriage carries with it significant access to institutional support, rights and benefits; and
36

37 WHEREAS children of families headed by same-gender couples should receive all legal rights and protections; and
38

39 WHEREAS legislation to ban recognition of same-gender marriages further undermine the civil liberties of gay and
40 lesbian couples and contributes to a climate of misunderstanding and polarization, increasing hostility against gays
41 and lesbians; and
42

43 WHEREAS a Constitutional Amendment has been introduced to this Congress to limit marriage to “only the union
44 of a man and a woman”; and
45

46 WHEREAS equal marriage rights for couples regardless of gender is an issue deserving of serious, faithful
47 discussion by people of faith, taking into consideration the long, complex history of marriage and family life,
48 layered as it is with cultural practices, economic realities, political dynamics, religious history and biblical
49 interpretation; and
50

51 WHEREAS the Tenth General Synod pronounced that all person are entitled to full civil liberties and equal
52 protection under the law without discrimination related to sexual preference; and
53

1 WHEREAS the Eleventh General Synod urged that States should legislatively recognize that traditional marriage is
2 not the only stable living unit entitled to legal protection; and
3

4 WHEREAS the Nineteenth General Synod called on the church for greater leadership to end discrimination against
5 gays and lesbians; and
6

7 WHEREAS the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ in April, 2004 called the church to action and
8 dialogue on marriage;
9

10 THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirms
11 equal marriage rights for couples regardless of gender and declares that the government should not interfere with
12 couples regardless of gender who choose to marry and share fully and equally in the rights, responsibilities and
13 commitment of legally recognized marriage; and
14

15 LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirms
16 equal access to the basic rights, institutional protections and quality of life conferred by the recognition of marriage;
17 and
18

19 LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fifth General Synod calls for an end to rhetoric that fuels
20 hostility, misunderstanding, fear and hatred expressed toward gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons; and
21

22 LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Officers of the United Church of Christ are called upon to
23 communicate this resolution to local, state and national legislators, urging them to support equal marriage rights for
24 couples regardless of gender.
25

26 In recognition that these resolutions may not reflect the views or current understanding of all bodies, and
27 acknowledging the pain and struggle their passage will engender within the gathered church, the General Synod
28 encourages the following:
29

30 LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty -fifth General Synod calls upon all settings of the United
31 Church of Christ to engage in serious, respectful, and prayerful discussion of the covenantal relationship of marriage
32 and equal marriage rights for couples regardless of gender, using the “God is still speaking, about Marriage” study
33 and discussion guide produced by Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ (available online at
34 UCC.org); and
35

36 LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fifth General Synod calls upon congregations, after prayerful
37 biblical, theological, and historical study, to consider adopting Wedding Policies that do not discriminate against
38 couples based on gender; and
39

40 LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fifth General Synod urges the congregations and individuals
41 of the United Church of Christ to prayerfully consider and support local, state and national legislation to grant equal
42 marriage rights to couples regardless of gender, and to work against legislation, including constitutional
43 amendments, which denies civil marriage rights to couples based on gender.
44

45 Funding for the implementation of this Resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the
46 affected agencies and the funds available.
47

48 Assistant Moderator Smith recognized Rev. John Thomas and asked him to lead delegates and visitors in prayer.
49 Before doing so, Rev. Thomas asked the General Synod to express gratitude for Assistant Moderator Smith, his
50 grace and compassion, and for being a wise elder at a very young age. Rev. Thomas then offered a prayer of
51 thanksgiving for God’s presence, and that all know God’s comfort and presence in days ahead.
52

53 Mr. Smith announced that the work of Committee Three would continue in the next plenary session.
54

1 **14. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

2 Mr. Smith called on Edith Guffey for announcements.

3
4 Ms. Guffey reminded the delegates and visitors to sign up for this afternoon’s Speak Out! with Mr. Dick Sparrow at
5 the conclusion of this plenary at the back of the hall. She also noted the press briefing at 12:30 in room A303. She
6 invited everyone to wear their “Still Speaking,” attire on Tuesday.

7
8 **15. ADJOURNMENT**

9 Assistant Moderator Smith declared the Sixth Plenary of the Twenty-fifth General Synod ended at 12:00 noon and
10 declared General Synod would be in recess until our worship service at 7:30 p.m.

11
12 **The theme for the Sunday evening worship service was “Come Listen, Go Serve! (God is Still Speaking)” and**
13 **the sermon was delivered by the Rev. Kenneth L. Samuel, pastor of Victory for the World Church, Stone**
14 **Mountain, GA**

15
16 **MONDAY EVENING, JULY 4, 2005**

17 **Seventh Plenary Session**

18
19 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

20 Assistant Moderator Eric Smith called the Seventh Plenary of the Twenty-fifth General Synod to order at 7:30 p.m.
21 He called on Mr. Dick Sparrow to begin with Speak Outs!

22
23 **2. SPEAK OUT!**

- 24 1. Mr. Tim Downs (SE) spoke to promote the items commemorating General Synod 25 and the book *On The*
25 *Heels of Freedom* which is the story of the American Missionary Association. The purchase of these items
26 will help support the Southeast Conference cost of Synod.
- 27
28 2. Ms. Deborah Streeter (CA NV, N) uplifted the ministry of Ms. Olivia Masih White as Executive Minister
29 of Wider Church Ministries. Ms. White is currently a trustee at Eden Seminary and is part of the newly
30 formed Committee on Religion and Science.
- 31
32 3. Ms. Marja CoonsTorn (PC) challenged local congregations to increase giving to OCWM by using the
33 words, “Our Church’s Wider Mission” just as we now do with United Church of Christ.
- 34
35 4. Mr. David Ray (ME) commemorated Martin Luther King Jr.’s 1965 speech by reading the part of the
36 speech which affirmed all persons.
- 37
38 5. Mr. Earl Major (IL) recognized his father for having perfect attendance at all of the last eighteen General
39 Synods.
- 40
41 6. Ms. Patsy Finster (CA NV, N) reminded General Synod of the Viet Nam Veterans who have held
42 conferences for the past ten years. They have now changed their name to the International Conference of
43 War Ministers in order to be more inclusive of all veterans.
- 44
45 7. Ms. Priscilla Sell (IS) is office manager in the Conference and also works at the DuBois Center. She
46 affirmed the value of outdoor ministry settings in providing space for all, especially young persons, to live
47 out and share their experience.
- 48
49 8. Mr. Justin Lyman (ME) part of the Student Ecumenical Partnership (STEP) called for all students to fill out
50 forms to win a free T-shirt. He announced three winners.
- 51
52 9. Ms. Barbara Satin (LGBT) thanked everyone for the morning’s vote. She asked for prayers for Spirit of the
53 Lakes Church in Minnesota. They are selling their property in support of a senior housing project for
54 lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons which will be built on the property.
- 55

1 10. The Hawaii Conference expressed appreciation to the technical crew for the good work they have done.
2 The conference then led the General Synod in singing “Happy Birthday” to Ms. Dorothy Lester (HI).

3
4 11. Mr. Shane Hire (NY) referred to the policy of the last General Synod regarding the Boy Scouts of America.
5 He supports further dialogue and urges repeal of that policy.

6
7 Assistant Moderator Smith announced the next Speak Out! would be Tuesday morning.

8
9 Mr. Smith asked for Moderator’s privilege to thank everyone for their patience and confidence in him. He
10 acknowledged his team of moderators as well as the parliamentarians.

11
12 **3. MARRIAGE IS BETWEEN ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN**

13 Ms. Elizabeth Nordbeck, Chair of Committee Three, introduced the resolution and provided background
14 information. Committee Three recommended defeat of the resolution. Discussion followed which addressed both
15 sides of the question.

16
17 Concern was expressed for those in local congregations who will have difficulty if the resolution is defeated. An
18 amendment was offered and was defeated. A call for the question was offered and accepted. The resolution was
19 defeated.

20
21 Moderator Jack Jackson took the podium. He welcomed viewers watching the General Synod proceeding on
22 UCC.org.

23
24 **4. ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE; A PEACE WITH JUSTICE MOVEMENT IN THE UNITED**
25 **CHURCH OF CHRIST**

26 Ms. Diana Burdett, Chair of Committee Six, moved adoption of the resolution as amended by the committee. No
27 discussion was offered.

28
29 05-GS-27 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the resolution “Another World Is Possible: A Peace with
30 Justice Movement in the United Church of Christ”

31
32 **ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE: A PEACE WITH JUSTICE MOVEMENT IN THE UNITED**
33 **CHURCH OF CHRIST**

34
35 WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has a long history of advocacy in social and environmental justice
36 movements; and

37
38 WHEREAS, the General Synod has adopted numerous social justice oriented identity Resolutions and
39 Pronouncements such as Calling Upon the United Church of Christ to Become Open and Affirming, Calling Upon
40 the United Church of Christ to Become a Multiracial and Multicultural Church, Pronouncement on Being a Just
41 Peace Church, Calling Upon the United Church of Christ to Be Accessible to All, Calling Upon the United Church
42 of Christ to Become an Anti-Racist Church; and

43
44 WHEREAS, General Synod 24 affirmed the World Council of Churches’ Decade to Overcome Violence and
45 encouraged our churches to become involved in the Decade; and

46
47 WHEREAS, we affirm the reality that peace cannot be possible if injustice of any kind exists; and

48
49 WHEREAS, faithful efforts to transform unjust conditions and social inequities, such as: work to end racism; to
50 address the destruction of the environment; to end violence against women; to seek women’s full equality in society;
51 to make all places accessible to all people; to address the devastating effects of globalization; to end human rights
52 violations, violence, and discrimination; to end poverty; and to provide equal opportunities for meaningful work,
53 safe communities, full access to medical care, and quality public education for all children, contribute to the creation
54 of a culture of non-violence and peace; and

1 WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ is a recognized Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) of the United
2 Nations and participates as such to address global issues and advocates for initiatives to bring peace and justice in
3 the world;

4
5 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ supports a
6 denomination-wide peace with justice movement among our Local Churches, Associations, Conferences and the
7 national setting which promotes a multi-issue, multi-racial, and multicultural approach to justice and peacemaking in
8 the belief that another world is possible; and

9
10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Local Churches and Conferences who are or seek to be identified as Just Peace,
11 Open and Affirming, Accessible to All, Whole Earth, and/or Multiracial and Multicultural are affirmed in these
12 identifications; moreover, we recognize Local Churches and Conferences who have not adopted such identities as
13 full and active partners in a peace with justice movement in the UCC; and

14
15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that while Justice and Witness Ministries will facilitate and celebrate the connection
16 and current work of the Local Churches participating in justice issues, it is every Local Church's opportunity and
17 responsibility to add its distinctive contributions to the peace with justice movement within its local, regional, and
18 global contexts; and

19
20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Justice and Witness Ministries will provide primary coordination at the national
21 setting in collaboration with the other Covenanted, Associated and Affiliated Ministries, to be a resource for the
22 development and expansion of a peace with justice movement among all settings of the UCC; and

23
24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a peace with justice movement also embraces the leadership of UCC member
25 initiated networks and organizations (such as the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries and Mental Illness
26 Network, the United Church of Christ Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns, the Council
27 for Youth and Young Adult Ministries, the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries and its member bodies,
28 Christians for Justice Action, the Network for Environmental and Economic Responsibility, and others) as partners
29 in creating a culture of non-violence and peace; and

30
31 FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that this peace with justice movement will be intentionally intergenerational, seeking
32 to call upon the leadership of children, youth and adults of all ages.

33
34 Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the
35 affected agencies and the funds available.

36
37 **5. IN SUPPORT OF MAKING FAST FOOD FAIR FOOD: THE NEXT STEP**

38 Mr. Karl Hayes, Chair of Committee Eight, moved the adoption of the resolution, "In Support of Making Fast Food
39 Fair Food: The Next Step." No changes were made.

40
41 05-GS-28 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the resolution "In Support of Making Fast Food Fair
42 Food: The Next Step"

43
44 **IN SUPPORT OF MAKING FAST FOOD FAIR FOOD: THE NEXT STEP**

45
46 WHEREAS on March 8, 2005, an historic agreement was reached between Taco Bell and the Coalition of
47 Immokalee Workers (CIW) which includes a 75% wage increase for Florida farm workers who pick fresh tomatoes
48 for Taco Bell – workers who have been earning the same piece-wage as in 1978; and

49
50 WHEREAS in this groundbreaking agreement, Taco Bell agrees to work in partnership with the CIW to investigate
51 cases of farm worker abuse and indentured servitude, and to broaden its supplier code of conduct, encouraging
52 Florida tomato growers to provide working terms and conditions similar to those provided by suppliers outside of
53 the agricultural industry; and

54
55 WHEREAS although Taco Bell is a significant purchaser of fresh Florida tomatoes, other fast food corporations,
56 including McDonald's, Burger King and Subway also purchase vast quantities of Florida tomatoes; and

1
2 WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has a long history of support for farm workers in their quest for justice and
3 dignity, including past boycotts of lettuce, grapes, Campbell’s products, Mt. Olive Pickles and Taco Bell;
4

5 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we celebrate this precedent-setting agreement which acknowledges the need
6 for reform in an industry where workers do not enjoy the same rights and conditions as employees in other
7 industries; and
8

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon the churches of the United Church of Christ to support the CIW
10 by contacting the CEO’s of McDonald’s, Burger King and Subway through calls, letters and e-mails asking them to
11 join with Taco Bell in working with the CIW and use their power to improve the wages and conditions of the
12 workers in their supply chain; and
13

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ support the CIW in its efforts to extend this new
15 model of corporate social responsibility throughout the fast food industry, and consider joining with CIW as a
16 member of the Fair Food Alliance.
17

18 Funding for this action will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds
19 available.
20

21 The Twenty-fifth General Synod calls upon Justice and Witness Ministries to develop the strategy and program to
22 implement this resolution.
23

24 **6. CALLING THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO DECLARE ITSELF TO BE A “FAIR TRADE”**
25 **DENOMINATION**

26 Mr. Hayes continued with the report from Committee Eight regarding the resolution “Calling the United Church of
27 Christ to declare itself to be a “Fair Trade” Denomination”.
28

29 Discussion followed regarding the meaning of “certification” and “fair trade.” An amendment was offered replacing
30 the words “fair trade” with “fairly traded” in the Therefore Be It Resolved sections. The amendment was seconded.
31

32 05-GS-29 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the amendment to replace the words “fair trade” with
33 “fairly traded”.
34

35 A friendly amendment was offered to reverse the order of “education” and “mission project” in Line 100. The
36 friendly amendment was accepted.
37

38 An amendment was offered to eliminate the phrase “We joyfully commend Equal Exchange, a United Church of
39 Christ partner, as one avenue for bringing the coffee into our communities of faith.” The amendment was seconded.
40

41 05-GS-30 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the amendment to eliminate the phrase “We joyfully
42 commend Equal Exchange, a United Church of Christ partner as one avenue for bringing the coffee into our
43 communities of faith”
44

45 05-GS-31 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the resolution “Calling the United Church of Christ to
46 Declare Itself to be a “Fair Trade” Denomination” as amended.
47

48 **CALLING THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO DECLARE ITSELF TO BE A “FAIR TRADE”**
49 **DENOMINATION**
50

51 WHEREAS for the past fifteen to twenty years there has been a growing human and environmental disaster in
52 coffee growers that has devastated farms and families and towns and threatened the stability of nations in the global
53 south and our city streets in the global north; and
54

1 WHEREAS parallel with that has been an emerging “fair trade” movement that seeks to help farmers by
2 highlighting their plight and by purchasing products directly from local coops adhering to the following
3 internationally recognized principles:

- 4 • Pay prices which establish a living wage for producers;
- 5 • Work with democratically run cooperatives, governed by the farmers themselves, and dedicated to
6 equitable distribution of income and services;
- 7 • Develop producer capacity, which means working with farmers to enhance their management skills and
8 marketing independence.
- 9 • Buy direct, meaning that benefits and profits go to the farmers and their communities;
- 10 • Promote gender equality, meaning valuing and rewarding the work of women;
- 11 • Encourage ecologically sustainable farming practices; and
- 12 • Promote decent working conditions, meaning (among other things) that if children are involved, their
13 working conditions conform to UN Conventions on the rights of the Child; and

14 WHEREAS today several colleges (including Brown, Yale, Georgetown and Dartmouth) have voted to become fair
15 trade institutions, several faith groups (including Catholics, Lutherans and Presbyterians) have established
16 partnerships with the fair trade organization, Equal Exchange, and several major grocery chains and coffee
17 companies now offer a line of fair trade coffee.
18

19 WHEREAS nation-wide, hundreds of UCC congregations have already joined with over 9,000 places of worship
20 and faith-based organizations who support small coffee farmers in developing nations by using fair trade coffee and
21 other products and have developed programs to foster purchase of fair trade coffee by their members to help
22 impoverished family farmers in the developing world provide for their families; and
23

24 WHEREAS the United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries partnered in March 2004 with Equal
25 Exchange to launch a denomination-wide coffee program (the “UCC Coffee Project”) through which Equal
26 Exchange, in addition to the benefits of paying fair trade prices to farmers, will also make a donation to the “UCC
27 Small Farmer Fund” each time a UCC church or member buys a product through the project; and
28

29 WHEREAS the Jubilee Justice Taskforce of the Commission on Mission and Justice of the Massachusetts
30 Conference of the United Church of Christ is sponsoring a nation-wide delegation to Chiapas, Mexico, in January of
31 2006, for members and friends of the United Church of Christ to witness first hand the causes and effects of the
32 devastation of the coffee industry and the hopes for a new future based on fair trade coops;
33

34 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ covenants
35 together to become a “Fair Trade denomination,” meaning that it will strive to offer fairly traded certified coffee and
36 other fairly traded products at official meetings and functions, including those of affiliated seminaries, colleges,
37 camp and conference grounds, etc., and will thereby become a moral example for other denominations and faith
38 groups, and
39

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages
41 churches in the denomination to offer certified coffee, purchased through companies that follow the widely
42 established and commonly agreed upon principles of justice and fairness for coffee farmers and their communities.
43 We encourage churches in the denomination to offer fairly traded certified coffee as the standard coffee at their
44 “Fellowship Hour,” and offer it for sale in their churches; and
45

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod supports the January, 2006 delegation, and all
47 groups who have and will participate in mission and outreach trips with our prayers, our endorsement, our
48 encouragement, and our offerings, and that we call upon members of those groups to help educate us about, and
49 connect us with, our global family members in the coffee crisis upon their return; and
50

51 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that churches also be called upon to take this approach of purchasing fairly traded
52 certified products, first as an education project and second as a mission project to help their members learn the
53 potential negative impacts of some global economic practices, and how our small economic choices can adversely
54 affect peoples’ lives in other countries.

1 The implementing bodies include all settings of the United Church of Christ (local churches, agencies, and
2 ministries; Associations and Conferences; seminaries and national offices), however primary responsibility will be
3 placed with the Economic Justice Team of the Justice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ.
4 Implementation will involve developing programs and ministries to make known the vision and goals of this
5 resolution.

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

9 10 **7. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

11 Moderator, Jack Jackson, introduced Ms. Edith Guffey who announced the following:

12
13 Rev. Yvette Flunder will sign copies of her book tomorrow, July 5, 2005

14
15 Ms. Guffey thanked everyone for their generosity of \$12,493 at Sunday evening's worship service. The funds
16 will go to the Still Speaking Initiative.

17 18 **8. ADJOURNMENT**

19 At 9:30 p.m. Assistant Moderator, Eric Smith declared the Seventh Plenary of the Twenty-fifth General Synod to be
20 complete at the close of worship.

21
22 The theme for worship was "Go." The service shared stories of faith in song and honored The Living Theological
23 Heritage of the United Church of Christ.

24 25 **TUESDAY MORNING, JULY 5, 2005**

26 **Eighth Plenary Session**

27 28 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

29 Assistant Moderator Annie Wynn Neal called the Eighth Plenary session of the Twenty-fifth General Synod to order
30 at 8:30 a.m. and announced the meeting would begin with Speak Out!

31 32 **2. SPEAK OUT!**

- 33 1. Ms. Andrea Camo (CPC) saluted Rev. Eugene Ross and Rev. Hector Lopez and the Racial Justice
34 Consultation to be held November 10-13.
 - 35
36 2. Mr. Art Cribbs (CA NV, S) asked that lay employees consider setting aside 3% of their salary so an
37 additional \$300 per month could be provided for them at retirement.
 - 38
39 3. Ms. Bridget Hughes (CONN) raised the issue of the torture of military prisoners and asked delegates to
40 take home a petition to send to U. S. Congressmen requesting an investigation of these tortures.
 - 41
42 4. Ms. Ruth Garwood (NY) celebrated yesterday's decision regarding marriage and urges that we continue to
43 work for justice for all.
 - 44
45 5. Ms. Ann Ito (HI) called awareness to disabilities ministry.
 - 46
47 6. Ms. Virginia Ford (MASS) called attention to "God's October Surprise" website www.shalomctr.org
 - 48
49 7. Ms. Dorothy Gager (SE) announced a luncheon today highlighting Addiction Awareness.
 - 50
51 8. Ms. Sherman Oland (MONT-NO.WYO) gave thanks for support of the Conference Minister's Fund which
52 supports large geographic conferences with small membership.
 - 53
54 9. Ms. Rebecca Johnson (WI) announced that comma cow t-shirts are available at the Wisconsin Conference
55 table.
- 56

1 10. Mr. John Gill (SE) called attention to the 60th anniversary of Hiroshima events.
2

3 11. Ms. Kyle Tade (IL) recognizes and celebrates the service of Ms. June Boutwell.
4

5 12. Mr. John Gill (SE) called attention to the fact that the U. S. continued to build nuclear weapons in Oak
6 Ridge,
7 Tennessee.
8

9 The Moderator thanked all who participated in the Speak Out!

10
11 **3. CALLED TO WHOLENESS IN CHRIST: BECOMING A CHURCH ACCESSIBLE TO ALL**
12

13 As a resolution sent directly to the floor of the General Synod, Ms. Kathy Plumb (MINN) moved the Twenty-fifth
14 General Synod adopt the resolution “Called to Wholeness in Christ: Becoming a Church Accessible to All”
15

16 05-GS-32 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the resolution “Called to Wholeness in Christ:
17 Becoming a Church Accessible to All”
18

19 **CALLED TO WHOLENESS IN CHRIST: BECOMING A CHURCH ACCESSIBLE TO ALL**
20

21 WHEREAS the Biblical vision of the Great Messianic Banquet is of all gathered at the table with bounty for all; and
22

23 WHEREAS any barrier that limits the wholeness of all, diminishes all; and
24

25 WHEREAS medical and scientific advances continue to reduce the death rate from infections, injuries, and other
26 conditions, and more people survive to continue life with some disability and close to twenty percent of the US
27 population identify themselves as having some level of disability, and over the age of eighty the percentage is much
28 higher, so that all members of United Church of Christ congregations will be touched by a disability in some way at
29 some time in their lives, and
30

31 WHEREAS the overwhelming majority of people with disabilities want to exercise choice in where and how they
32 live, work, play, worship and serve; and
33

34 WHEREAS implementing the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 calls upon the church to take
35 specific measures within each ministry of the church.
36

37 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on
38 Conferences, Associations, Congregations, seminaries and colleges, campus ministries, camps, covenanted
39 ministries and all other UCC organizations to embody the philosophy of inclusion and interdependence, embark on
40 study and reflection activities about disabilities, disabilities rights, and ways congregations are able to become
41 accessible to all (A2A), remove or overcome barriers to welcoming and including all people in the work and witness
42 of the United Church of Christ, and to support and implement provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of
43 1990.
44

45 The Twenty-fifth General Synod acknowledges the uniqueness of every congregation and organization, and urges
46 that these communities consider a progression of ministry and concern not only “to” or “for” people with disabilities
47 but also ministry “with” and “by” people with disabilities.
48

49 The Twenty-fifth General Synod is aware that individuals who have lived with disability for some time say the real
50 limitations to living, moving about, working and relating to others are not their particular impairments but the
51 barriers they encounter in the social and physical environment.
52

53 Recognizing that discrimination against people with disabilities is complex, pervasive, and sometimes well-
54 intentioned, and remembering that the United Church of Christ seeks to be multicultural, multiracial, open and
55 affirming and accessible to all, this Twenty-Fifth Synod urges Conferences, Associations, congregations, seminaries
56 and colleges, campus ministries, camps, covenanted ministries and all other organizations of the UCC to develop

1 both short-range and long-term accessibility and inclusion plans, which may include some or all of the following
2 activities:

- 3 a) Establish Conference level Inclusion Task Forces charged with needs assessment, planning, and
4 education;
- 5 b) Join the National Organization on Disability's Accessible Congregations Campaign;
- 6 c) Continue to make improvements in United Church of Christ buildings and facilities to achieve full
7 physical accessibility;
- 8 d) Encourage local churches to establish Inclusion Committees and/or Inclusion Coaches to help conduct
9 any accessibility or inclusion evaluation and modify existing curriculum and practices when needed.
10
- 11 e) Seek out and befriend mentors in the disabilities community, keeping in mind the slogan, "Nothing about
12 us without us".
- 13 f) Consider ways to invite/include people with disabilities to participate in and lead worship services and
14 other programming. This may involve hiring professional support or acquiring specialized technology
15 (i.e. sign language interpreters, TTY phone devices, etc.)
- 16 g) Call clergy with disabilities and employ staff with disabilities.
- 17 h) Become advocates for people with disabilities by becoming familiar with the Americans for Disabilities
18 Act and other legislation that affects children and adults with disabilities, contact local advocacy groups
19 for information and expertise.
- 20 i) Utilize study/action process designed by the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries called "Any
21 Body, Everybody, Christ's Body" to become a congregation that is accessible to all (A2A).
- 22 j) Support and utilize United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries resources.
23

24 Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the
25 affected agencies and the funds available.
26

27 **4. SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY FROM PRIVATIZATION**

28 Mr. Lynn Slagle (SC), Chairperson of Committee Fifteen, directed the delegates to the resolution "Saving Social
29 Security from Privatization" and moved it's adoption.
30

31 05-GS-33 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the resolution "Saving Social Security from
32 Privatization."
33

34 **SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY FROM PRIVATIZATION**

35
36 WHEREAS the best step toward a strong and enduring U.S. democracy is to preserve Social Security, a social
37 insurance system that covers nearly all citizens and provides guaranteed benefits that disproportionately help those
38 with the greatest need; and
39

40 WHEREAS just 47% of the workforce has private pension coverage for retirement but 96% of workers are covered
41 by Social Security; and
42

43 WHEREAS Social Security is our largest anti-poverty program providing the only income received by over one-
44 fifth (22%) of the elderly and over half the income received by fully two-thirds of the elderly; and
45

46 WHEREAS in addition to serving retirees, Social Security provides income to disabled workers and the families of
47 deceased workers who comprise one-third of all beneficiaries; and
48

49 WHEREAS three in ten of today's twenty-year-olds will be disabled before they reach age sixty-seven (their legal
50 retirement age), but 72% of the private sector workforce has no long-term disability insurance except for Social
51 Security; and
52

53 WHEREAS one in seven workers will die before reaching age sixty-seven and an estimated 97% of the children and
54 spouses of these workers are insured for survivor benefits through Social Security; and
55

1 WHEREAS the “crisis” in Social Security is largely a fiction designed to alarm young workers who increasingly,
2 and wrongly, believe that there will be no Social Security funds left when they retire; and
3

4 WHEREAS Social Security can pay full benefits until 2042 and over two-thirds of benefits after that *with absolutely*
5 *no changes* in the program; and
6

7 WHEREAS diverting tax money currently used to pay Social Security benefits into private accounts would severely
8 *worsen* Social Security’s financial health; and
9

10 WHEREAS privatization replaces Social Security’s current guarantee of retirement income with a risky system
11 dependant on luck, investment wisdom, and the timing of the stock market; and

12 WHEREAS Social Security’s administrative expenses, currently less than 1% of benefit payments, would be greatly
13 increased in a privatized system; and
14

15 WHEREAS many people – especially women and people of color – with relatively low earnings, more
16 unemployment and disability, and more years out of the labor force are especially well served by Social Security’s
17 progressive benefit structure, but would be hurt by a switch to private accounts.
18

19 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ rejects any
20 attempts to privatize Social Security or to add private accounts to the current Social Security program, and supports
21 efforts to strengthen Social Security in ways consistent with its mission as a social insurance program; and
22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General synod encourages local churches, conferences and
24 associations of the United Church of Christ to engage in educational forums and circulate materials so that members
25 (especially youth and young adults) and pastors can become informed about Social Security privatization; and
26

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests that
28 Justice and Witness Ministries study the proposals to change Social Security and conduct legislative advocacy to
29 educate members of Congress about the position of the Twenty-fifth General Synod on Social Security privatization,
30 and prepare and provide resources to be used by the wider church and community.
31

32 Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the
33 affected agencies and the funds available.
34

35 **5. SUPREME COURT JUSTICE NOMINATION**

36 Mr. Slagle then referred delegates to the second resolution from Committee Fifteen entitled “Supreme Court Justice
37 Nomination” and moved its adoption.
38

39 05-GS-34 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the resolution “Supreme Court Justice Nomination”
40

41 **SUPREME COURT JUSTICE NOMINATION**

42
43 WHEREAS, we are a country divided against itself through its politics; and
44

45 WHEREAS, this nation faces profound issues to secure its future without need for further divisions and
46 contentiousness; and
47

48 WHEREAS, Justice O’Connor has been a moderating influence on the court, who was described by the President as
49 “a discerning and conscientious judge;” and
50

51 WHEREAS, the rule of God hinges on reconciliation and as Christians we are called to a ministry of reconciliation;
52

53 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ meeting in
54 Atlanta, Georgia, in accordance with its understanding of the reconciling mission of Jesus Christ, encourages
55 President George W. Bush to use a process of openness and bi-partisan consultation in nominating Supreme Court
56 justices; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage the United States Senate to engage in an open, non-partisan and
2 thorough debate on the merits of any Supreme Court nominees and support a consultation and confirmation process
3 that evaluates nominees based upon their public records and actions, and
4

5 FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that to maintain the integrity of the court, uphold the rule of law, ensure equal justice
6 for all, and offer hope and reconciliation to our divided nation, we encourage the President and the Senate to engage
7 in a nomination, consultation, and confirmation process that is fair, truthful and beyond reproach.
8

9 **6. FOR THE COMMON GOOD**

10 Assistant Moderator Neal called Ms. Janel Kolar (NOPL) for the report of Committee Fourteen. Ms. Kolar moved
11 the adoption of the resolution “For the Common Good” as amended.
12

13 05-GS-35 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the resolution “For the Common Good” as amended.
14

15 **FOR THE COMMON GOOD**

16 WHEREAS the United States has an abundance of God’s resources, more than enough for all; and
17

18 WHEREAS God’s resources are not being equitably shared; and
19

20 WHEREAS in 2005, the income disparity between the rich and the poor in the United States has widened to the
21 greatest degree since the 1920s; and
22

23 WHEREAS millions are unemployed and millions more jobs pay too little to lift people out of poverty; and
24

25 WHEREAS three of every four poor children across the United States now live in working families; and
26

27 WHEREAS approximately 80 million people have lacked health insurance at some time during the past two years;
28 and
29

30 WHEREAS economic and racial residential segregation has significantly increased during the past quarter century
31 in America’s major metropolitan areas; and
32

33 WHEREAS public schools have become as segregated in many places as before the Civil Rights Movement, and our
34 society leaves behind the children of the poor while providing a generous education for children of privilege; and
35

36 WHEREAS despite that nearly three quarters of mothers now work outside the home, and at the same time welfare
37 reform forces poor women to be in the workforce, our nation has not considered guaranteeing universally available,
38 affordable, quality child care; and
39

40 WHEREAS environmental contamination is frequently allowed to compromise the health of poor people and people
41 of color, to contaminate the lands of indigenous peoples, and to destroy the integrity of God’s creation; and
42

43 WHEREAS there are significant on-going efforts to privatize education, health care, and natural resources, and to
44 reduce revenues collected through taxes as a strategy for reducing dependency on government services; and
45

46 WHEREAS Congress has continued to reduce taxes on the wealthiest Americans who are most able to pay, and the
47 ensuing revenue cuts are reducing the capacity of government to provide services on behalf of the common good;
48 and
49

50 WHEREAS federal tax cuts since 2001 will contribute to our generation’s passing an enormous burden of debt to
51 our children.
52

53 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon
54 the United Church of Christ in all its settings:
55
56

- to uphold the common good as a foundational ideal in the United States;
- to reclaim the imperative to share God’s resources equitably and sustainably with all God’s children; and
- to affirm the role of public institutions paid for by taxes for ensuring essential services and protecting the good of the wider community;
- to honor and uplift the integrity of God’s creation

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ in all its settings will work to make our culture reflect the following values:

- that societies and nations are judged by the way they care for their most vulnerable citizens;
- that government policy and services are central to serving the common good;
- that the sum total of individual choices in any private marketplace does not necessarily constitute the public good;
- that paying taxes for government services is a civic responsibility of individuals and businesses;
- that the tax code should be progressive, with the heaviest burden on those with the greatest financial means;
- that the integrity of creation and the health and sustainability of ecological systems is the necessary foundation for the well-being of all people and all living things for all time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ in all its settings will engage in study, reflection, and prayer to learn about these issues and the consequences of current trends to future generations to discern God’s call.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ in all its settings will do justice and promote the common good by working actively to:

- ensure full employment, dignity on the job, living wages, and sufficient income for everyone;
- provide adequate health care including reproductive rights as an entitlement for all.
- guarantee affordable housing for all;
- guarantee accessible, affordable public transportation for all;
- eliminate residential and institutional segregation by income, race, and ethnicity in our neighborhoods, among our suburbs, and in our public schools;
- provide opportunity for every child in well-funded, high quality public schools;
- provide a system of affordable, high quality child care for all of our children;
- regulate the release of toxic waste, clean up contaminated sites, and engage communities in planning, implementing and evaluating projects that affect the quality of their environment.
- support policies and practices that promote environmental protection, environmental justice and sustainable, renewable development.

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

The Twenty-fifth General Synod calls upon Justice and Witness Ministries to develop the strategy and program to implement this resolution.

7. TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF THE MOST DISADVANTAGED IN THE BUDGETARY AND APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS.

Ms. Janel Kolar, Chair of Committee Fourteen, then moved the adoption of the resolution “To Advance the Cause of the Most Disadvantaged in the Budgetary and Appropriations Process.”

05-GS-36 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the resolution “To Advance the Cause of the Most Disadvantaged in the Budgetary and Appropriations Process.”

TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF THE MOST DISADVANTAGED IN THE BUDGETARY AND APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

1 WHEREAS, “Poverty is a religious issue that rings from cover to cover in the Bible” (Jim Wallis, “*God’s*
2 *Politics*”); and

3 WHEREAS, the FY 2006 proposed Federal budget aimed to cut the deficit by half, proposing to achieve its budget
4 cutting goals by making deep cuts in programs that critically impact the health, education, and welfare of our most
5 vulnerable populations; and

6 WHEREAS, the FY 2006 Federal budget seeks to make permanent past tax cuts and to enact further tax cuts that are
7 rapidly increasing the gap between the rich and the poor; and

8 WHEREAS, when the Federal budget is cut in areas of health, education, and welfare, greater burdens to preserve
9 programs fall to the states, counties, cities, and towns, government entities whose taxes are regressive, falling most
10 heavily on those at the lower end of the income scale, unlike the more progressive federal income tax; and

11 WHEREAS, funding for health care, adequate food, housing, educational opportunity, child care, and all the other
12 programs that support life and the rise out of poverty are already inadequate to meet the need; and

13 WHEREAS, these deficiencies jeopardize our future as a nation and contradict our self-image as a wise, socially
14 compassionate, and fiscally responsible society.

15 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges its
16 General Minister and President and its Justice and Witness Ministries to:

- 17 • exert their full influence in the public forum to support the restoration of more progressive taxes and to
18 oppose cuts in programs that hurt the disadvantaged
- 19 • educate people within and without the United Church of Christ to understand that great social problems are
20 systemic problems that must be addressed by political decision makers, and solutions can best be
21 implemented through the agency of government
- 22 • lead, aid, coordinate, and be a voice for the work of our individual churches as they educate themselves,
23 and encourage, and work with their elected representatives to solve national, state, and local social
24 concerns.

25 The implementation of the Resolution will be made in accordance with the budgetary constraints and overall
26 mandates of the office of the Minister and President and of the Justice and Witness Ministries.

27
28 **8. CONCERNING USE OF ECONOMIC LEVERAGE IN PROMOTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

29 Ms. Lillian Daniel (ILL), chairperson of Committee Two moved the adoption of the resolution entitled “Concerning
30 Use of Economic Leverage in Promoting Peace in the Middle East.”

31
32 Following discussion, Mr. Curtis Rueter, Chairperson of the Wider Church Ministries Board, moved the adoption of
33 a substitute resolution entitled “Proposed Substitute Resolution Concerning Use of Economic Leverage in
34 Promoting Peace In The Middle East.” The motion was seconded.

35
36 After additional discussion, a motion to stop debate was made and defeated.

37
38 Ms. Jeanette Seaman (PNE) moved to amend the motion, by adding lines 86-94 from the original resolution to the
39 end of the substitute resolution. Those are as follows:

40
41 BE IT RESOLVED the Twenty-fifty General Synod directs these aforementioned settings of the church to provide
42 materials that may be used by all settings of the church to discern how economic leverage can be used to support the
43 development of Palestine and Israel as two independent, secure, economically viable states; and

44
45 FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED the Twenty-fifth General Synod calls upon these settings to create for and
46 disseminate to the local churches study materials on the range of issues contributing to violence and oppression in
47 the Middle East and ways to be involved in promoting peace.

48
49 This was accepted as a friendly amendment.

50

1 Mr. Don Partlow (IK) questioned a missing word. The word “church” after the phrase “settings of the” in the first
2 added paragraph was accepted as friendly amendment.

3
4 There was additional discussion.

5
6 Ms. Megan Hoelle (CPC) moved to close debate.

7
8 05-GS-37 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod votes to close debate on the discussion of the substitute
9 resolution “Proposed Substitute Resolution Concerning Use of Economic Leverage in Promoting Peace in the
10 Middle East.”

11
12 05-GS-38 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod accepts the substitute resolution “Proposed Substitute
13 Resolution Concerning Use of Economic Leverage in Promoting Peace in the Middle East.”

14
15 Division of the House was called for. The vote was 529 yes votes, 168 no votes and 12 abstentions to accept the
16 substitute resolution.

17
18 Moderator Jackson reminded the delegates that this vote requires a majority vote.

19
20 A motion was made and seconded to close debate on the resolution “Proposed Substitute Resolution Concerning
21 Use of Economic Leverage in Promoting Peace in the Middle East.”

22
23 05-GS-39 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod votes to close debate on the discussion of the resolution
24 “Proposed Substitute Resolution Concerning Use of Economic leverage in Promoting Peace in the Middle East.”

25
26 05-GS-40 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts resolution “Proposed Substitute Resolution Concerning
27 Use of Economic Leverage in Promoting Peace in the Middle East.”

28
29 **PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION CONCERNING USE OF ECONOMIC LEVERAGE IN**
30 **PROMOTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

31
32 WHEREAS the General Synod of the United Church of Christ has affirmed its commitment to Israel’s safe and
33 secure existence within internationally-recognized borders, neighboring an independent Palestinian state; and

34
35 WHEREAS the Twenty-Third General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirmed its participation in and
36 commitment to the World Council of Churches’ Decade to Overcome Violence (2001), condemning all forms of
37 violence including but not limited to the violence perpetuated in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict including acts of
38 suicide bombings by Palestinians; and the use of force by Israelis in perpetuating occupation of Palestinian lands;
39 and

40
41 WHEREAS General Synods of the United Church of Christ has been particularly mindful of its relationship in
42 Christ with Palestinian Christians, and notably the mission relationships mutually developed over decades of
43 engagement and presence; and

44
45 WHEREAS the General Synod of the United Church of Christ has affirmed its relationship to the Jewish
46 community, condemning anti-Semitism in all its forms, and affirming that God’s covenant with the Jewish
47 community remains inviolate (1987); and

48
49 WHEREAS the General Synod of the United Church of Christ has called for the use of economic leverage on behalf
50 of oppressed people in a variety of circumstances;

51
52 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod calls upon the Covenanted Ministries,
53 Pension Boards, United Church Foundation, Conferences, local churches and members to use economic leverage,
54 including, but not limited to: advocating the reallocation of US foreign aid so that the militarization of the Middle
55 East is constrained; making positive contributions to groups and partners committed to the non-violent resolution of
56 the conflict; challenging the practices of corporations that gain from the continuation of the conflict; and divesting

1 from those companies that refuse to change their practices of gain from the perpetuation of violence, including the
2 Occupation; and

3
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all settings of the United Church of Christ are urged to remain committed to
5 inter-religious dialogue and to participation with Jewish, Christian and Muslim partners to work for peace in Israel-
6 Palestine.

7
8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Twenty-fifth General Synod directs these aforementioned settings of the church
9 to provide materials that may be used by all settings of the church to discern how economic leverage can be used to
10 support the development of Palestine and Israel as two independent, secure, economically viable states; and

11
12 FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED the Twenty-fifth General Synod calls upon these settings to create for and
13 disseminate to the local churches study materials on the range of issues contributing to violence and oppression in
14 the Middle East and ways to be involved in promoting peace.

15
16 **9. RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL STAFF**

17 Moderator Jackson acknowledged national staff as they filed on stage to the obvious appreciation of delegates and
18 visitors who offered an extended standing ovation.

19
20 **10. COLLEGIUM REPORT**

21 Moderator Jackson invited Mr. Hans Holznagel, the Rev. Bennie Whiten and the Rev. Bernice Powell Jackson for
22 the third and final Collegium report. Mr. Holznagel interviewed Rev. Bernice Powell Jackson and Rev. Bennie
23 Whiten regarding “The Church and the World.”

24
25 Rev. Whiten talked about the Global Ministries Board using a concept called “critical presence” in making decisions
26 about missionaries and funding. The Board seeks to be timely and appropriately meeting God’s people and creation
27 at the point of deepest need – spiritually, physically, emotionally and/or economically.

28
29 Rev. Jackson discussed the mission statement the Justice and Witness Ministries Board uses to determine its work.
30 Members want to help every local church in the United Church of Christ, all 5750 of them, to see themselves as
31 peace with justice churches. Justice and Witness Ministries wants every local church to be actively involved in
32 God’s mission of peace-making and justice-seeking in a broken, war-torn, violence-filled, ecologically devastated
33 and hurting world.

34
35 **11. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BY-LAWS**

36
37 Assistant Moderator Eric Smith called on Mr. Roy Mosely (CA NV, N), chairperson of Committee 13, who moved
38 the adoption of the resolution “Proposed Changes to the By Laws from Committee 13.”

39
40 Mr. Bob Sandman (OHIO) moved to amend the resolution (p. 16, lines 860-864); Line 860 after “will have,” insert
41 “fifty-seven”, line 861 delete entire line, line 863 change “twenty-nine” to “thirty-nine” and delete words “a
42 majority of.” The amendment was seconded. The amendment failed.

43
44 The Mr. David Gaewski (ME) moved to amend the voting process to separate Article 3 By-law changes into a
45 motion separate from the main motion. The amendment was seconded.

46
47 05-GS-41 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the amendment to separate Article 3 By-law changes
48 into a motion separate from the main motion.

49
50 Discussion was held on the remaining sections.

51
52 Ms. Kathy Plumb (MINN), a member of the Executive Council, moved to amend the voting process to separate
53 Article 4 By-law changes into a motion separate from the main motion. The amendment was seconded.

54
55 05-GS-42 VOTED: Twenty-fifth General Synod, by consensus, adopts the amendment to separate Article 4 By-law
56 changes into a motion separate from the main motion.

1
2 05-GS-43 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts Article 6 By-law changes as presented.
3

4 **ARTICLE VI. OTHER BODIES**

5
6 **297 Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries**

7 The Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries (CYYAM) shall serve to advocate and network for youth and
8 young adult ministries throughout the United Church of Christ and shall report to the Executive Council and to the
9 General Synod on issues, developments, and concerns in youth and young adult ministries in church and society. It
10 shall monitor to ensure that the unique gifts and talents of youth and young adults are present in all aspects of the
11 life of the Church. The Council shall organize itself as needed in order to carry out its work and shall have direct
12 access to the Executive Council and the General Synod in areas of program and budget. The Council shall be
13 composed of at least twenty-four but no more than twenty-eight voting members, elected at General Synod or
14 appointed to a two-year term of office, such membership consisting of persons, who for the majority of their term
15 are youth (persons of high school age or younger) or young adults (persons graduated from high school, or 19 years
16 of age, through age thirty). Members may serve one additional term, subject to age criteria. Membership shall
17 include a) Six persons, (three youth and three young adults), one person to be appointed respectively by the Council
18 for American Indian Ministry, the Council for Hispanic Ministries, Pacific Islander and Asian and American
19 Ministries, United Black Christians, UCC Disabilities Ministries, and the United Church of Christ Coalition for
20 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns. Each of these bodies shall appoint alternately a youth or young
21 adult to be a member of the Council. b) Up to twelve persons (one youth and one young adult from each of the six
22 regions), with each Conference nominating one youth and one adult, and said election conducted by the outgoing
23 members of the Council; c) Up to four persons (two youth and two young adults) may be appointed by the outgoing
24 members of the Council from among those persons nominated by the Conferences, but not elected, and d) Up to six
25 persons, three youth and three young adults, may be appointed by the outgoing members of the Council as they in
26 their judgment deem appropriate in order that the Council's membership reflect the United Church of Christ's
27 commitment to affirmative action. The persons so appointed shall have been nominated by the Council for
28 American Indian Ministry, the Council for Hispanic Ministries, Pacific and Asian American Ministries, the United
29 Black Christians, UCC Disabilities Ministries, and the United Church of Christ Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual
30 and Transgender Concerns, each of whom may nominate one youth and one young adult. e) One youth or one
31 young adult appointed by the Board of Directors of Local Church Ministries from its Board of Directors, who will
32 serve as a member, voice without vote, to provide liaison between the Council and Local Church Ministries; f) Up
33 to three co-opted members, voice without vote, may be selected as resource to the Council. Vacancies shall be filled
34 by the Council from among those persons previously nominated by the appropriate body corresponding to that
35 vacancy.
36

37 **303 UCC Disabilities Ministries**

38 The UCC Disabilities Ministries (UCCDM) strives for the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the life and
39 mission of the Church. The UCCDM encourages Local Churches to be open, inclusive, affirming, and accessible in
40 their buildings, worship, education, fellowship, and service so that they may proclaim God's word to and with all
41 persons, including those with disabilities. It seeks to enable all members of the United Church of Christ to affirm
42 the theological/biblical affirmations of the wholeness of all people, and to recognize the ministry to and with persons
43 with disabilities as a part of the ministry of all the baptized. The UCCDM is composed of between twenty-five and
44 fifty active and associate members. These representatives include persons with disabilities, members of families of
45 persons with disabilities, experts on disabilities, and other persons from the United Church of Christ who support the
46 purposes of the UCCDM.
47

48 **305 United Black Christians**

49 The United Black Christians (UBC) is a special interest group which represents over 50,000 African American
50 members of the United Church of Christ. It stands in the affirmation that each person has gifts to offer to the
51 Church, and that each is entitled to full rights and privileges as children of God. UBC dedicates itself to providing
52 voice for all African American members of the United Church of Christ, seeking to witness to, and preserve the
53 history and legacy of the African-American people and churches. UBC is an active advocate for liberation and
54 social justice at home and abroad.
55

56 05-GS-44 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts Article 3 By-law changes as presented.

1
2 **ARTICLE III. GENERAL SYNOD**
3

4 **188 Covenanted Ministry Delegates**

5 Thirty (30) voting members of each of the Boards of Directors of Justice and Witness Ministries, Local Church
6 Ministries, Office of General Ministries, and Wider Church Ministries elected by the General Synod, and not
7 currently serving as members of the Executive Council, shall be voting delegates at the General Synod.
8

9 **191 Ecumenical Delegates**

10 In each biennium the Executive Council may invite a representative from each of its U.S. full communion partners
11 as an associate delegate to the General Synod of the United Church of Christ. In addition, the Executive Council
12 may invite a representative from up to three (3) other partner churches in the United States. These representatives
13 shall be accorded the same privileges as Associate Delegates. Boarding and lodging for the Ecumenical Delegates
14 shall be borne by the General Synod or through other appropriate financial means.
15

16 207 Every Officer of the United Church of Christ serves at the will of the General Synod, and may be terminated as
17 an Officer of the United Church of Christ by the Executive Council acting as the General Synod ad interim in
18 accordance with the Executive Council's procedures. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if an Officer of the United
19 Church of Christ is also the Executive Minister of a Covenanted Ministry (other than the Office of General
20 Ministries), the Executive Council acting as the General Synod ad interim may terminate such Executive Minister as
21 an Officer of the Church, only after consultation with the Board of Directors of such Covenanted Ministry.
22 Responsibility for the termination of an Executive Minister as executive officer of a Covenanted Ministry rests with
23 the Board of Directors of that Covenanted Ministry.
24

25 208 The term of each Officer of the United Church of Christ shall be four years, not to exceed three terms, and shall
26 commence ninety days following call by election by the General Synod. Officers shall hold office until their
27 successors have been elected and qualified and have assumed the duties of their office. Officers may be reelected,
28 but not more than twice, in accordance with the rules and procedures of their respective Covenanted Ministries,
29 subject to the call by election of the General Synod. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the initial election by the
30 Twenty-second General Synod, in order to achieve staggered terms among the Officers, the terms of the three
31 individuals who are elected at the Twenty-second General Synod to serve as the General Minister and President,
32 Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries, and Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries shall be,
33 and shall be limited, as follows: an initial term of two years, and two additional terms of four years each (if elected)
34 for the General Minister and President; an initial term of two years, and two additional terms of four years each (if
35 elected) for the Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries; and an initial term of six years and one additional
36 term of four years (if elected) for the Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries. All successors to such
37 individuals in these Offices shall serve four-year terms, not to exceed three terms each.
38

39 210 As principal executive of the Office of General Ministries, the General Minister and President works closely
40 with the Associate General Minister in exercising responsibility for the broad life and work of the Office of General
41 Ministries, but is not responsible for the day-to-day operation. The General Minister and President is accountable to
42 the General Synod and its Executive Council, acting as General Synod ad interim, and to the Board of Directors of
43 the Office of General Ministries, voting membership of the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of
44 Christ.
45

46 211 The candidate for the position of General Minister and President is nominated for an initial term by a search
47 committee of the United Church of Christ, broadly representative of the Church, and appointed by the Executive
48 Council. The search committee includes one Executive Minister of a Covenanted Ministry selected by the
49 Collegium of Officers; at least one Conference Minister named by the Council of Conference Ministers; one
50 representative of the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries to be selected from the COREM members on the
51 Executive Council each with voice and vote. At least one member shall be a youth or young adult. The affirmative
52 action commitment of the Church is to be fully respected in the search process and diversity maintained in the
53 membership of the Collegium of Officers. The candidate chosen by the search committee is confirmed by a two-
54 thirds vote of the Executive Council before his or her name is placed before the General Synod. Only one nominee
55 may be presented for election, and nominations may not be made from the floor. An affirmative vote of at least
56 sixty percent of the General Synod is necessary for election and call. The General Minister and President does not

1 participate in the work of the search committee choosing a successor. She or he is evaluated regularly through a
2 process approved by the Executive Council. The evaluation process includes an Executive Minister of a Covenanted
3 Ministry on a rotating basis. In the event that the General Minister and President is unable to discharge the
4 responsibilities of that Office, or if there is a vacancy in that Office, the Executive Council shall name the Associate
5 General Minister or one of the Executive Ministers to serve as Acting General Minister and President until the
6 General Minister and President returns to service or is replaced by a successor elected by the General Synod after a
7 search process.

8 9 **Associate General Minister**

10 212 The Associate General Minister, who may be a lay person, an Ordained Minister, or a person with ordained
11 ministerial partner standing, is called to ministry in and on behalf of the Church upon election by the General Synod.
12 The Associate General Minister serves as the operational executive of the Office of General Ministries. In that role
13 she or he will have day-to-day responsibility for the overall work of the Office of General Ministries. He or she will
14 work with the Board of Directors of the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ and the
15 Executive Council to implement policies and operational procedures. Through the General Minister and President,
16 the Associate General Minister will be accountable to the General Synod and its Executive Council.

17
18 214 The Associate General Minister is nominated for an initial term by a search committee of the United Church of
19 Christ broadly representative of the Church and appointed by the Executive Council. The search committee shall
20 include the General Minister and President, an Executive Minister of a Covenanted Ministry selected by the
21 Collegium, one Conference Minister named by the Council of Conference Ministers, and one representative of the
22 Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries to be selected from the COREM members on the Executive Council, at
23 least one member of the Board of Directors of the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ,
24 and at least one additional member of the Executive Council, each with voice and vote. At least one member shall
25 be a youth or young adult. The affirmative action commitment of the Church is to be fully respected in the search
26 process and diversity maintained in the membership of the Collegium of Officers. The candidate chosen by the
27 search committee is to be confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Council before his or her name is placed
28 in nomination before the General Synod. Only one nominee may be presented for election, and nominations may not
29 be made from the floor. An affirmative vote of at least sixty percent of the General Synod is necessary for call by
30 election. The Associate General Minister does not participate in the work of the search committee choosing a
31 successor. The Associate General Minister is evaluated regularly by a process approved by the Executive Council.
32 The evaluation process includes the General Minister and President. In the event that the Associate General
33 Minister is unable to discharge the responsibilities of that position, or if there is a vacancy in the position, the
34 Executive Council, in consultation with the General Minister and President, names a person as Acting Associate
35 General Minister and as an Acting Officer of the Church until the Associate General Minister returns to service or is
36 replaced by a successor elected by the General Synod after a search process.

37
38 218 Each Executive Minister is to be nominated for an initial term by a search committee of the United Church of
39 Christ broadly representative of the Church, appointed by and from the Board of Directors of the Covenanted
40 Ministry to which she or he is accountable. The search committee shall include the General Minister and President;
41 one Conference Minister, named by the Council of Conference Ministers; and one representative of the Council for
42 Racial and Ethnic Ministries to be selected from the COREM members on the Board of Directors, each with voice
43 and vote. At least one member shall be a youth or young adult. The affirmative action commitment of the Church is
44 to be fully respected in the search process and diversity maintained in the membership of the Collegium of Officers.
45 The candidate chosen by the search committee is to be confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the appropriate Board of
46 Directors before his or her name is placed in nomination before the General Synod. Only one nominee may be
47 presented for election, and nominations may not be made from the floor. An affirmative vote of at least sixty
48 percent of the General Synod is necessary for the call by election. An Executive Minister does not participate in the
49 work of the search committee choosing a successor. The Executive Minister is evaluated regularly by a process
50 approved by the appropriate Board of Directors. The evaluation process shall include the General Minister and
51 President, with voice and vote. Terms of office shall begin ninety days following their election. An Executive
52 Minister shall hold office until her or his successor has been elected and qualified and has assumed the duties of the
53 Office.

54 55 **The Executive Council of the General Synod**

1 220 The Executive Council shall consist of no fewer than eighty-nine and no more than ninety-one members,
2 consisting of members nominated by the General Synod Nominating Committee and elected by General Synod, and
3 of ex-officio members affirmed by General Synod. The composition of the Executive Council shall embody the
4 commitment of the United Church of Christ to be a multicultural and multiracial Church, reflecting the racial and
5 ethnic diversity of society with a balance of leadership between women and men, open and accessible to all. All
6 members of the Executive Council shall be voting members.
7

8 221 Members, nominated by the General Synod Nominating Committee, and elected by the General Synod as
9 members of the Executive Council, shall include:

10 a) Thirty-nine members, one from each Conference, elected by the General Synod for a term of six years, terms
11 beginning at the end of the General Synod. Each Conference provides a name according to criteria determined by
12 the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee confirms each name before nominating that person to the
13 General Synod. The expectation is that those elected have or are to have a relationship with the governing board of
14 their respective Conferences. A person elected to the Executive Council from a Conference shall resign when
15 moving to another Conference.

16 b) One member from the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries elected by the General Synod for one term of six
17 years, beginning at the next meeting of the Executive Council after election. The General Synod Nominating
18 Committee nominates this person after submission of the name by the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries
19 according to the criteria determined by the Nominating Committee.

20 c) Eight members, one from each of the historically under-represented groups:

- 21 • Council for American Indian Ministry
- 22 • Council for Hispanic Ministries
- 23 • Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice
- 24 • Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries
- 25 • United Black Christians
- 26 • United Church of Christ Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns
- 27 • UCC Disabilities Ministries
- 28 • Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries;

29 d) One high school age youth, elected at large to serve a two-year term, eligible for re-election to a two-year term.

30 e) Sixteen members, four from the Board of Directors of each Covenanted Ministry, nominated by the respective
31 Board of Directors, for a term of two years and not to exceed three terms.

32 f) One representative of the Council of Theological Education, nominated by the Presidents of the Seminaries of the
33 United Church of Christ for a term of two years and not to exceed two consecutive terms.

34 g) One representative of the Council for Higher Education, nominated by that Council for a term of two years and
35 not to exceed two consecutive terms.

36 h) One representative from the Historical Council, nominated by that Council for a term of two years and not to
37 exceed two consecutive terms.

38 i) One representative from the Council for Ecumenism, nominated by that Council for a term of two years and not
39 to exceed two consecutive terms.

40 j) One member of the Board of Directors of the United Church Foundation, Inc., nominated by the Board of
41 Directors, for a term of two years and not to exceed three terms.

42 k) One member of the Board of Trustees of The Pension Boards–United Church of Christ, nominated by the Board
43 of Trustees, for a term of two years and not to exceed three terms.

44 l) Of the members elected to the Executive Council, one-third shall be ordained ministers, who may include persons
45 with ordained ministerial partner standing, one-third laymen, and one-third laywomen. Not fewer than twenty
46 percent of the members are to be youth or young adults; where possible representation shall be equally divided
47 between (a) youth, persons of high school age, and (b) young adults, persons graduated from high school, or over 19
48 years of age, but under the age of 30.

49 m) The General Synod Nominating Committee nominates these persons after submission of names by the respective
50 group, according to the procedures established in ¶198–203 of these By-laws, and criteria determined by the
51 Nominating Committee. In order to fulfill its responsibilities to ensure that the membership of the Executive
52 Council reflects the diversity to which the United Church is committed, the Nominating Committee may ask for
53 another name to be submitted by any group.

54 n) Terms of office, unless otherwise designated in these By-laws, shall be for six years and shall commence at the
55 close of the General Synod at which the person is elected and qualified and shall terminate at the close of the
56 General Synod in which a successor is elected and qualified. Members shall be divided into three classes of

1 approximately equal numbers to be elected at each General Synod. No elected member who has served a full term
2 shall be elected again until at least two years have elapsed. Terms for Council for Youth and Young Adult
3 Ministries members, and high school youth, shall be two years, with eligibility for re-election.

4
5 222 Ex-Officio members of the Executive Council with vote, affirmed by vote of the General Synod, include:

- 6 a) The Officers of the United Church of Christ.
- 7 b) The Moderator and the two Assistant Moderators of the General Synod.
- 8 c) One member designated by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to serve a term of two years. Any such
9 member shall be eligible to serve up to two additional terms and not to exceed three terms.
- 10 d) Six principal ministers of Conferences, one to be elected from each Region by the Council of Conference
11 Ministers for a term of two years, not to exceed two consecutive terms. If any such member ceases during his or her
12 term of office on the Executive Council to be the principal minister of a Conference within the Region from which
13 said member was elected, a vacancy shall be thereby created to be filled by election by the Council of Conference
14 Ministers.
- 15 e) The Executive of the United Church Foundation, Inc.
- 16 f) The Executive of The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ
- 17 g) The Executive of the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

18
19 05-GS-45 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts Article 4 By-law changes as presented.

20
21 242 The composition of the Board of Directors of the Office of General Ministries will have not fewer than forty-six
22 nor more than forty-seven members elected by the General Synod, consisting of:

- 23 1. Twenty-nine local church members representing a majority of the Conferences during any one biennium;
- 24 2. One member from the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries.
- 25 3. Eight members, one from each of the historically under-represented groups:
 - 26 • Council for American Indian Ministry
 - 27 • Council for Hispanic Ministries
 - 28 • Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice
 - 29 • Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries
 - 30 • United Black Christians
 - 31 • the United Church of Christ Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns
 - 32 • UCC Disabilities Ministries
 - 33 • the Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries
- 34 4. One high school age youth to serve a term of two years not to exceed two terms.
- 35 5. One member of the Board of Directors of the United Church Foundation, Inc., nominated by the respective Board
36 of Directors for a term of two years and not to exceed two terms.
- 37 6. One member of the Board of Trustees of The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ, nominated by the
38 respective Board of Trustees for a term of two years and not to exceed two terms.
- 39 7. One member designated by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to serve a term of two years not to exceed
40 two terms.
- 41 8. Two members from the Council of Conference Ministers, selected by that Council, to serve a term of two years
42 and not to exceed two terms.
- 43 9. General Minister and President.
- 44 10. Associate General Minister.

45
46 247 A nonprofit corporation shall be formed for the purpose of providing the above-described common services.
47 The corporation, to be named the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ, shall be governed
48 by its articles of incorporation, rules, and bylaws, and the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.
49 The General Minister and President shall be the principal executive and the Associate General Minister shall be the
50 operational executive of the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ. The number of directors
51 of the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ shall be eleven, consisting of:

- 52 (i) Two representatives of, and selected by, the Office of General Ministries;
- 53 (ii) Two representatives of, and selected by, Local Church Ministries;
- 54 (iii) Two representatives of, and selected by, Justice and Witness Ministries;
- 55 (iv) Two representatives of, and selected by, Wider Church Ministries;
- 56 (v) One representative of, and selected by, the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries;

- 1 (vi) One representative of, and selected by, The Pension Boards - United Church of Christ; and
2 (vii) One representative of, and selected by, United Church Foundation, Inc. The directors of the Common Services
3 Corporation of the United Church of Christ shall be the members of the corporation.
4 c) The Board of Directors shall appoint such committees, with such responsibilities, as it deems necessary to carry
5 out its work.
6 d) The membership of the Board of Directors shall reflect the commitment of the United Church of Christ to be a
7 multiracial and multicultural church, reflecting the racial and ethnic diversity of society with a balance of leadership
8 between women and men, open and accessible to all.
9 e) The corporate officers of the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ shall be the
10 following:
11 (i) General Minister and President, who as President shall be accountable to the Board of Directors;
12 (ii) Associate General Minister, who as Vice-President shall report to the General Minister and President;
13 (iii) Treasurer, who shall be elected by, and accountable to, the Board of Directors;
14 (iv) Secretary, who shall be elected by, and accountable to, the Board of Directors.

15
16 247 Policy decisions related to the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ shall be the
17 responsibility of the Board of Directors.

18 19 **12. CONTINUATION OF ELECTIONS**

20 Assistant Moderator Smith called on Ms. Reba Walker, Vice Chair of the Executive Council who moved that the
21 Twenty-fifth General Synod elect nominees for the Moderators, the nominees for the Executive Council and the
22 nominees for the Boards of Directors for Justice and Witness Ministries, Local Church Ministries and Wider Church
23 Ministries.

24
25 05-GS-46 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod elect nominees for the Moderators, the nominees for the
26 Executive Council and the nominees for the Boards of Directors for Justice and Witness Ministries, Local Church
27 Ministries and Wider Church Ministries.

28
29 Ms. Walker noted that the third set of elections is for contested positions, and delegates will vote by ballot. Ms.
30 Walker also noted there are two sets of names: those from conferences and those from groups.

31
32 The Assistant Moderator announced that election results will be announced at the Ninth Plenary.

33 34 **13. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

35 Ms. Edith Guffey made the following announcements:

36
37 Worship Rehearsals for Conference Ministers and Anointers will be held at 1:00 pm.

38
39 It was reported that General Synod Musicians are all United Church of Christ musicians, both lay and ordained, and
40 from the Musician Networks who have volunteered their gifts to be with us.

41
42 For those interested in more information on the Resolution on Higher Education please inquire at the Student
43 Ecumenical Partnership booth at 12:15.

44
45 The last Speak Out! will be held this afternoon. Ms. Guffey thanked Mr. Dick Sparrow for coordinating the Speak
46 Outs.

47
48 Copies of sermons and speeches from the Plenary Sessions may be ordered on line.

49
50 Please find and use the evaluations forms on your table.

51
52 The Exhibit Hall will close today at 2:30

53
54 Rev. John Thomas' prayer for the Marriage Equality Vote will be available on delegates' tables this afternoon.

55 56 **14. RECESS**

1 Assistant Moderator Smith declared the Eighth Plenary in recess at 12:07. The next plenary will begin at 2:30.

2
3 **TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 5, 2005**

4 **Ninth Plenary Session**

5
6 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

7 Assistant Moderator Annie Neal called the Final Plenary of the Twenty-fifth General Synod to order at 2:30 p.m.

8
9 **2. FINAL SPEAK OUT!**

- 10 1. Mr. Tony Lewis (CA NV, N) gave a testimony of fundraising efforts involving one hundred fifty
11 church members who pledged in excess of \$70,000 to the “God Is Still Speaking” initiative.
- 12
13 2. Ms. Karna Burkeen (PC) requesting prayers for Ms. Dorothy Kearny, who is in the last stages of
14 cancer.
- 15
16 3. Mr. Joe Clare Hartsey (MINN) appealed to visitors and delegates to work in cooperation with the
17 Disabilities Board that has the expertise and resource information that can be helpful in assisting
18 churches working toward becoming more accessible to all.
- 19
20 4. Rev. Tim Downs (SE) reminded Synod attendees of registration for the UCC golf
21 scramble that will be held at Bradshaw Farms golf course.
- 22
23 5. Mr. Peter Wells (MA) gave a word of thanks to the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, who help
24 make victory possible in the struggle to support and change conditions for farm workers. He then
25 extended an invitation to farm workers to boycott Gallo grapes and wine. “The struggle
26 continues.”
- 27
28 6. Mr. Justin Lyman (ME) representing the Student Ecumenical Partnership (STEP) announced the
29 T-shirt give away and gave thanks to those youth and young adults who participated in filling out
30 surveys.
- 31
32 7. Ms. Miryam Hammond (NH) asked that we not forget to lift up and honor the ministry of lay men,
33 which is an under-recognized group.
- 34
35 8. Mr. Ethan Stevenson (PNE) along with other youth has formed a fan club in support of Ms. Edith
36 Guffey. The fan club extended an invitation to Ms. Guffey to join them for dinner, and gave
37 recognition to the Pennsylvania Northeast Conference Minister, Rev. Alan Miller.
- 38
39 9. Rev. Lori Keller-Schroeder (ILL) expressed honor and praise of the national staff and Collegium
40 members. She asked that delegates and visitors join in silent prayer for those staff members and
41 their families who were part of staff layoffs.
- 42
43 10. Ms. Sue Hamly (MINN) noted a new ministry to the United Church of Christ churches and
44 beyond “Tributaries of Faith.” Tributaries of Faith offers new ways to worship through music and
45 the arts. Watch for ads in UCNEWS, or visit their website at Tributariesoffaith.org .
- 46
47 11. Ms. Petra Sternberg (CA NV, S) invited visitors and delegates to be mindful of how youth and
48 young adults are referenced, and that terms are used that do not diminish their gifts. She also took
49 the privilege to thank those persons who provided childcare for Synod attendees, or those spouses
50 who filled that role.
- 51
52 12. Ms. Sara Halverson (CA NV, S) asked for affirmation of support for students at Chapman
53 University, which has a partnership with the United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ.
54 Chapman University grants scholarships to United Church of Christ students and looks forward to
55 strengthening the relationship.
- 56

1 13. Ms. Caroline Pullman (MOMS) lifted up the ministry of Rev. Gayle Engle who is a retiring
2 Conference Minister.

3
4 14. Rev. Dick Sparrow (OH) read the Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries
5 (CYYAM) 2005 & 2007 member's slate.

6
7 Assistant Moderator Neal thanked all Speak Out! Participants and Rev. Dick Sparrow for his work as the Speak Out!
8 Coordinator.

9
10 **3. ELECTION RESULTS**

11 Assistant Moderator Neal announced the results of elections for the General Synod Nominating Committee Class of
12 2011.

13
14 Class of 2011--- Laypersons

15 Jane Barthell (MINN)

16 Jeff Dirrim (SW)

17 Tina Phillips (ME)

18
19 Class of 2011 --- Clergy

20 M. Jane Hess (PNE)

21 Lindy Holt (NOPL)

22 John Tamlilio (KO)

23
24 Class of 2011 --- Historically Under-represented Groups

25 Eppie Encabo (PAAM)

26 Nancy Erikson (UCC Disabilities Ministries)

27 Leroy Sanders (COREM)

28 Esther Rendon Thomas (CHM)

29
30 Assistant Moderator Annie Neal reviewed the remaining business for the day and asked cooperation of delegates.

31
32 **4. FINAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL: ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET**
33 **ALLOCATIONS FOR 2006-2007**

34 Ms. Neal called on Mr. Ray Young, Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, who was joined by Mr. Bill
35 Morgan, Chief Financial Officer of the United Church of Christ, to present the report.

36
37 Mr. Young moved the Twenty-fifth General Synod adopt a National Basic Support Allocation base of \$10.7 million
38 and \$11 million for the budget years 2006 and 2007 respectively.

39
40 05-GS-47 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the National Basic Support Allocation base of \$10.7
41 million and \$11 million for the budget years 2006 and 2007.

42
43 Mr. Young then moved on behalf of the Executive Council, that the General Synod adopt the following Our
44 Church's Wider Mission National Basic Support Allocation percentages for the 2006-2007 biennium: Executive
45 Council (0%); Office of General Ministries (22.5%); Justice and Witness Ministries (17.35%); Local Church
46 Ministries (29.40%); Wider Church Ministries (23.65%); Pension Boards (7.05%); United Church Foundation (0%).
47 Mr. Young added that the General Synod also authorizes the Executive Council, at its October 2005 meeting, to
48 make necessary changes to the allocation based on additional information that is not available at this time.

49
50 Mr. Paul Lance (CA NV, S) expressed opposition to the motion. He expressed concern with how General Synod is
51 funded. This seems to be in contradiction to the agreement reached during restructure. He wondered if the
52 allocations should be left as is, and keep the Office of General Ministries out of the formula.

53
54 Mr. James Henry (OH) submitted the following amendment in reference to the budget: "That in the determination of
55 OCWM allocation, the mission funding consultation to be held in September, take into account (1) the effects of
56 historic negotiated participation agreements surrounding the purchase of 700 Prospect Avenue, and the costs of

1 restructure born by the former instrumentalities and (2) the effects of any reduction in the mandates of any
2 covenanted ministry, due to “off the top funding.” Ms. Rose Lee (JWM) seconded the motion.

3
4 Mr. Bill Morgan proceeded by providing background information on the amendment. Mr. David Greenhaw
5 (MOMS) spoke against the amendment and questioned whether this served as an attempt to renegotiate allocations.
6 He then stated that these are some of the consequences of General Synod as well as the decision not to approve less
7 frequent Synods. Ms. Marilyn Pagan (ILL) spoke in favor of the amendment. She felt the Covenanted Ministries
8 should not bear the brunt of the decisions about General Synod. Mr. Aaron Gould (ME) reminded delegates that
9 General Synod belongs to, and is the responsibility of, everyone. Therefore, the funding should come off the top, as
10 General Synod serves as a common mission. Ms. Phyllis Gant (MOMS) asked the question, “How do we do the
11 work of the church without the funds? She then requested a call for the vote on the amendment. Mr. Luther
12 Holland (ILL) called for clarity of the motion on the floor. After Rev. John Thomas attempted to provide clarity on
13 the motion, a motion was made to stop debate.

14
15 05-GS-48 VOTED: The Twenty-fifty General Synod votes to stop debate on the amendment to the National Basic
16 Support Allocation base of \$10.7 million and \$11 million for the budget years 2006 and 2007.

17
18 The amendment was defeated.

19
20 Assistant Moderator Neal returned to main budget motion

21
22 05-GS-49 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the following Our Church’s Wider Mission National
23 Basic Support Allocation percentages for the 2006 and 2007 biennium: Executive Council (0%); Office of General
24 Ministries (22.5%); Justice and Witness Ministries (17.35%); Local Church Ministries (29.40%); Wider Church
25 Ministries (23.65%); Pension Boards (7.05%); United Church Foundation (0%). The General Synod also authorizes
26 the Executive Council, at its October 2005 meeting, to make necessary changes to the allocation based on additional
27 information that is not available at this time.

28
29 **5. PRONOUNCEMENT: “MINISTRY ISSUES: FORMING AND PREPARING PASTORAL LEADERS**
30 **FOR GOD’S CHURCH”**

31 Assistant Moderator Eric Smith called on Mr. Jonathan Dean-Lee, Chair of Committee One who moved the
32 approval of the pronouncement “Ministry Issues: Forming and Preparing Pastoral Leaders for God’s Church” along
33 with the pronouncement’s accompanying Statement of Christian Conviction and Proposals for Action.

34
35 Mr. Lee gave a brief summary and plan of action for the pronouncement, “Forming and Preparing Pastoral Leaders
36 for God’s Church.” He then stated an open forum was held on Friday and written responses were shared. He then
37 referenced the recommended changes.

38
39 Ms. Leslie Taylor (OH) questioned whether the noted changes on page eleven were part of the action.

40
41 Mr. Quinton Chin (MASS) referenced sections “1D subsection (c)” as it relates to the racial and ethnic groups, and
42 noted they are often under-represented on Church and Ministry, so this is intended as a vision and goal. He then
43 asked whether the Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual and Transgendered persons were considered. The response was no,
44 because it wasn’t there, but that each conference can adapt the proposal for their own purposes.

45
46 Mr. Dave Mears (IOWA) spoke in favor of the pronouncement. Mr. Duane Romberger and Ms. Loring McGreal,
47 spoke as seminarians of the United Church of Christ, and expressed concern on how this would affect the health of
48 seminaries and staff. Also, whether it would replace the class system. Mr. Romberger stated that Seminary
49 campuses should be seen as the meeting place, and was in opposition to the resolution. He further suggested that a
50 larger study should be done. Mr. Gene Miller (SD) sees the pronouncement as a benefit. Although it is not perfect,
51 it can benefit the United Church of Christ as a starting place. Seminaries will need to develop new resources, and
52 the mentoring process can be strengthened. Ms. Ann Emery (CAC) was concerned that seminary leadership was not
53 involved in the recommendations. Their input serves as the theological foundation of these recommendations for
54 alternative paths. She also went on to say that she hopes it is not implied that people of color cannot meet the
55 standard.

1 Ms. Kay Loudon (VT) offered a motion to refer “Ministry Issues: Forming and Preparing Pastoral Leaders for God’s
2 Church,” to the Executive Council with the charge to form a committee consisting of, but not limited to,
3 representatives from: 1) Council for Theological Education 2) Parish Life and Leadership (3) Seminarians of the
4 United Church of Christ related seminaries, chosen by their peers, and 4) The Council of Conference Ministers to
5 further examine and clarify all aspects of the current Ministry Issues Proclamation, and to report back to General
6 Synod. The motion to refer was seconded.

7
8 Mr. Gene Kraus (IS) reminded delegates that this motion was proposed at the 1999 General Synod in Providence.

9
10 The motion to refer this pronouncement to Executive Council was defeated.

11
12 Assistant Moderator Smith returned to the main motion. After further discussion, Mr. Robert von Trebrot (ILL)
13 proposed the following amendment under Section I.c: delete “the Statement of Faith and.” The amendment was
14 seconded.

15
16 05-GS-50 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the proposed amendment under section I.c, to the
17 pronouncement: “Forming and Preparing Pastoral Leaders for God’s Church” and deletes “the Statement of Faith
18 and.”

19
20 Mr. Brian Gaudet (CT) moved to end debate. The motion was seconded.

21
22 05-GS-51 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod votes to end the debate on the pronouncement: “Ministry
23 Issues: Forming and Preparing Pastoral Leaders for God’s Church.”

24
25 Assistant Moderator Smith returned to the main motion to adopt the pronouncement on “ Ministry Issues: Forming
26 and Preparing Pastoral Leaders for God’s Church,” as amended.

27
28 05-GS-52 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the pronouncement “Ministry Issues: Forming and
29 Preparing Pastoral Leaders for God’s Church,” as amended.

30
31 **MINISTRY ISSUES: FORMING AND PREPARING PASTORAL LEADERS FOR GOD’S CHURCH**

32
33 **STATEMENT OF CHRISTIAN CONVICTION**

34
35 The Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirms that our baptism calls us all to minister in
36 Christ’s name. Within the church, some are called to particular leadership roles in order to “equip the saints for the
37 work of ministry” (Ephesians 4:12, NRSV).

38
39 The Twenty-fifth General Synod affirms the current forms of authorized ministry: ordained, licensed, and
40 commissioned. We believe that Christ’s Church needs well-prepared and faithful servants to engage in God’s
41 mission.

42
43 The Twenty-fifth General Synod believes that the United Church of Christ, along with the whole Christian church
44 and every individual Christian, is called into God’s mission in the world. We believe that in this mission, uniquely
45 ours in Jesus Christ, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit. We believe that God’s mission requires all the gifts and
46 graces given by God to its members and to the church itself. We believe that the church requires faithful and
47 effective leadership in order to respond to Jesus’ call. We believe that each generation must be ready to change its
48 practices of church life in response to the Spirit’s call for each generation.

49
50 The Twenty-fifth General Synod celebrates and gives thanks for the gifts of God and the call of Christ to the United
51 Church of Christ and its members. Those gifts include a diversity of faith communities, a resolution to welcome
52 fully all of God’s children, a rich and diverse heritage, countless faithful leaders, and openness to Christ’s call to
53 faithfully witness to God’s love in ways appropriate for new times and situations.

54
55 The Twenty-fifth General Synod invites all in the United Church of Christ to join in repentance of those actions and
56 practices which have prevented the leadership of some of its members from being effectively recognized,

1 encouraged and authorized. As repentance requires change, we pledge ourselves and invite others to join in
2 developing new patterns of calling forth leaders, of equipping them for service, and of authorizing and supporting
3 their ministries on behalf of the United Church of Christ.
4

5 The Twenty-fifth General Synod recognizes that in a church with many diversities, there must also be many patterns
6 of leadership and, therefore, of discernment of call, preparation, authorization, and continuing covenantal
7 relationships. At the same time, we affirm that we are called to be one church and, therefore, we will continue to
8 develop common understandings of ministry and leadership and live together into faithfulness by the power of
9 God's Spirit.

10
11 THEREFORE, the Twenty-fifth General Synod commits itself and calls upon all members and settings of the United
12 Church of Christ to:

- 13 • Listen for God's call to mission and respond in faith;
- 14 • Participate actively in the discernment of call of particular persons to become authorized ministers of the
15 church;
- 16 • Participate actively with called persons in discerning the appropriate ministerial vocation;
- 17 • Develop, support and engage in multiple patterns of preparation for authorized ministers, recognizing that
18 preparation must be appropriate for the individual, the particular faith community, the United Church of
19 Christ, and the ministry for which authorization is requested;
- 20 • Enter and live in continuing covenantal relationship with those authorized for ministry on behalf of the
21 United Church of Christ, honoring and supporting all - commissioned, ordained, and licensed;
- 22 • Expect and encourage all authorized ministers to be lifelong learners, accountable to one another and the
23 church for their learning and their ministry;
- 24 • Repent of all that has prevented us from faithfulness in the past, while continuing to give thanks for those
25 whose leadership has brought us to this time and those who beckon us forward.

26 27 **MINISTRY ISSUES: FORMING AND PREPARING PASTORAL LEADERS FOR GOD'S CHURCH**

28 29 **PROPOSALS FOR ACTION**

30 31 **I. Associations and Conferences to:**

- 32 A. Make available paths of preparation for ordained ministry which are appropriate to the needs and
33 possibilities of the church and community, including:
 - 34 a. Seminary education ("four/three")
 - 35 b. Regional theological formation programs
 - 36 c. Mentoring;

37 **NOTE: Each path of preparation requires a minimum of seven years of preparation. Life experience will
38 be a consideration.**

- 39 B. Engage with currently licensed ministers and their local churches in a process of discernment to
40 determine:
 - 41 a. If the minister is called and prepared currently for ordination
42 (if so, proceed to ordain those persons)
43 or
 - 44 b. If the minister is ready to enter a period of preparation toward ordination
45 or
 - 46 c. If the minister is called and gifted to remain and faithfully serve as a licensed minister.
- 47 C. Require that all seeking standing in the UCC, whether through ordination, Privilege of Call, or Partner
48 Standing, are knowledgeable about UCC history polity and practice and are committed to upholding
49 its beliefs (as articulated in the Statement of Faith and the Constitution and Bylaws), common
50 practices, and covenantal relationships;
- 51 D. Discern with individuals, their Local Churches and their particular communities:
 - 52 a. Whether or not the person is called to authorized ministry and
 - 53 b. The appropriate path of preparation for that individual and that ministry;

1 **In addition, Conferences and Associations are called upon to:**

- 2 c. Adapt their procedures of discernment and decision-making when a candidate is a member of
3 a racial/ethnic community which is not represented in significant numbers (50% or more)
4 among the members of the Committee on the Ministry including members of the candidate's
5 own community in the decision-making processes, taking the time and effort to educate
6 themselves concerning the community's traditions and needs, and acknowledging the validity
7 of the community's discernment;
- 8 d. Adapt their procedures of discernment and decision-making when a candidate is disabled so
9 as to honor that person's gifts and needs, taking the time and effort to educate themselves
10 appropriately and including other individuals with disabilities in the processes;
- 11 E. Consider licensing individuals for periods of more than one year after they have served an initial seven
12 years in one setting;
- 13 F. Provide and engage in active, accountable covenant relationships with all authorized ministers:
- 14 a. By encouraging an attitude and posture of lifelong learning;
- 15 b. By encouraging and requiring continuing education for all authorized ministers of the United
16 Church of Christ;
- 17 c. By maintaining accountability for retired clergy.

18
19 **II. The Parish Life and Leadership Ministry Team of Local Church Ministries to:**

- 20 A. Base the next revision of the Manual on Ministry on the theological understandings and procedural
21 recommendations affirmed in this Pronouncement;
- 22 B. Development of a program to train mentors in partnership with seminaries, conferences, councils...
- 23 C. Develop guidelines for Committees on Ministry to use in discerning:
- 24 a. The candidate's knowledge of and commitment to the United Church of Christ;
- 25 b. An individual's call to authorized ministry
- 26 c. An appropriate path of preparation,
- 27 d. When the candidate is ready to be commissioned, ordained, or licensed;
- 28 D. Provide consultation and training to Committees on the Ministry as they seek to determine the
29 appropriate path of preparation for each candidate seeking authorization for ministry;
- 30 E. Maintain and enhance the network for education and training for those who teach UCC history and
31 polity in order to strengthen UCC identity in candidates for authorized ministry;
- 32 F. Develop guidelines for and descriptions of theological training programs for licensed and ordained
33 ministry.

34
35 **III. The Worship and Education Ministry Team of Local Church Ministries to:**

- 36 A. Revise and develop liturgies of authorization, including recognition of licensed ministry, in keeping
37 with the theological understandings and affirmations of this Pronouncement.

38
39 **IV. The Council for Racial/Ethnic Ministries, the Council for American Indian Ministry, the Council for**
40 **Hispanic Ministries, the Ministers for Racial, Social, and Economic Justice, the Pacific Islander and**
41 **Asian American Ministries, the UCC Coalition for Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Concerns, the**
42 **UCC Disabilities Ministries, and United Black Christians to:**

- 43 A. Become resources and participants with Conferences and Associations in the discernment of call and
44 appropriate paths of preparation.
- 45 B. Become consultants and participants with Parish Life and Leadership in the development of resources
46 for Committees on the Ministry.
- 47 C. Where appropriate, participate in the development of regional programs of ministerial formation.
- 48 D. Serve as a resource to seminaries.

49
50 **V. The Seminaries of the United Church of Christ to:**

- 51 A. Continue to engage with the Council for Theological Education and other settings of the church to
52 articulate theological understandings of ministry;
- 53 B. Join in partnership with other settings of the church in developing and providing programs of
54 preparation and continuing education for all authorized ministries,
- 55 C. Work in partnership with one another to develop expanded distance learning opportunities;
- 56 D. Provide resources where appropriate to non-seminary paths of preparation.

1 E. In partnership with Parish Life and Leadership, develop a training program for mentors.
2

3 VI. **Local Churches of the United Church of Christ to:**

- 4 A. Strengthen their primary responsibility for nurturing and calling forth persons to the authorized
5 ministries of the church;
6 B. Encourage and provide time and financial support for all authorized ministers to engage in continuing
7 education;
8 C. Include in the preparation of all persons for membership, significant attention to the history, theology,
9 polity, and covenantal relationships of the United Church of Christ;
10 D. Encourage and participate with the Committees on the Ministry in the process of discernment and
11 preparation of candidates for authorized ministry.
12

13 VII. **All settings of the church to:**

- 14 A. Recognize and articulate that in baptism all are called to ministry in God's mission;
15 B. Join in inviting candidates with perceived gifts to consider authorized ministry in the UCC;
16 C. Require those persons preparing for authorized ministry to participate in UCC gatherings in
17 associations, conferences, and, where possible, national gatherings and meetings;
18

19 VIII **General Synod to:**

- 20 A. Recommend the creation of line items in the appropriate budgets of the Covenanted Ministries for a
21 period of six years to enable implementation and evaluation of these Proposals for Action. Funding
22 subject to availability.
23
24

25 **6. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD FORM AND FUNCTION**
26 **COMMITTEE**

27 Assistant Moderator Annie Neal called on Ms. Ginger Brasher-Cunningham, Chair of Committee Four, to present
28 the recommended actions of the committee. Ms. Brasher-Cunningham referenced the amended changes that were
29 made for clarity. She then moved the adoption of the report and recommendation of the General synod Form and
30 Function Committee, as amended.
31

32 Ms. Jenna Ford (MA) supported the report as amended.
33

34 Ms. Rochelle Stackhouse (PNE) proposed the following amendment: to delete lines 241-245 proclaiming the
35 Twenty-sixth General Synod as a Jubilee Synod in which the Standing Rules are suspended and referring critical
36 business to the Executive Council for appropriate disposition.
37

38 After the motion was seconded, Ms. Amelia Sell (CJA), spoke in favor of the amendment. Mr. David Keller (NH)
39 spoke as a member who formed this resolution, and therefore, stood in opposition to the amendment. He stated the
40 idea is to put members and delegates together, voting turns out to make the majority of attendees as spectators. Mr.
41 John Davis (NH) spoke in favor of amendment.
42

43 Ms. Jennifer Fay (MA) moved to end debate. The Motion was seconded.
44

45 05-GS-53 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ votes to end the debate to
46 delete lines 241-245 of the "Report and Recommendation of the General Synod Form and Function Committee."
47

48 05-GS-54 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ votes in favor of the
49 amendment to delete lines 241-245 of the "Report and Recommendation of the General Synod Form and Function
50 Committee."
51

52 Assistant Moderator Neal referred delegates back to the original motion. After further discussion, Ms. Rebecca
53 Brenner (PSE) proposed the following amendment to line 239: "proclaiming a Jubilee Synod in which the
54 celebration of our common life would be prominent." (Unidentified Delegate) seconded the amendment, stating that
55 it would bring the possibility of a new kind of Synod.
56

1 Assistant Moderator Neal called for the vote on the amendment.

2
3 05-GS-55 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ votes in favor of the
4 amendment to add the following to line 239: “proclaiming a Jubilee Synod in which the celebration of our common
5 live would be prominent,” to the “Report and Recommendation of the General Synod Form and Function
6 Committee.”

7
8 Ms. Neal referred backed to the original motion as amended.

9
10 05-GS-56 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ votes in favor of the “Report
11 and Recommendation of the General Synod Form and Function Committee, as amended.

12
13 Ms. Neal then yielded to Ms. Ginger Brasher-Cunningham to present the next action of Committee Four. Ms.
14 Brasher-Cunningham moved the adoption of the committee recommendation to refer the resolution “Establishing
15 Representative and Senatorial Synods” to the Executive Council.

16
17 Assistant Moderator Neal called for the vote:

18
19 05-GS-57 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ votes to refer the resolution,
20 “Establishing Representative and Senatorial Synods” back to the Executive Council for consideration.

21
22 **7. RESOLUTION: “INVESTIGATIONS INTO HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES.”**

23 Moderator Norm Jackson called on Mr. David Bahr, chair of Committee Five to present the actions of that
24 committee.

25
26 Chairperson Bahr presented the resolution “Investigations into Human Rights Violations in the Philippines,” and
27 noted the changes to the original resolution in lines 21,22, 37, 38, and addition to line 83. He then moved to adopt
28 the resolution.

29
30 Moderator Jackson called for the vote.

31
32 05-GS-58 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ votes to adopt the resolution,
33 “Investigations into Human Rights Violations in the Philippines,” as amended by the committee.

34
35 **INVESTIGATIONS INTO HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES**

36
37 WHEREAS the United Church of Christ (in North America) and the United Church of Christ in the Philippines,
38 through our predecessor denominations, have been in partnership for over 100 years, a partnership that was
39 celebrated at General Synod 23 with the presence of Bishop Elmer Bolocon, General Secretary of the United Church
40 of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP), and which has been realized in global church partnerships between the
41 Michigan Conference and the Visayas District Conference, California-Nevada South Conference and the Negro
42 District Conference and Central Mindanao Conference, the Minnesota Conference and the South East Mindanao
43 Jurisdiction (SEMJur), and the Southwest Conference and the Mindanao District Conference, all with the guidance
44 of Wider Church Ministries and the East Asia and Pacific Office of Common Global Ministries; and

45
46 WHEREAS our partnership calls us to prayer and advocacy for peace based on justice (religious, racial, economic,
47 social and political) in our own contexts and on behalf of all persons and the whole of creation; and

48
49 WHEREAS we seek to keep the faith of the prophet Isaiah, who calls on God’s people to share our bread with the
50 hungry, our houses with the homeless, and clothe the naked because those in need are our own (Isaiah 58:7), and to
51 keep the faith of Jesus, who not only echoes Isaiah when he announces his ministry as one in which oppression and
52 captivity are undone (Luke 4:18), but who also speaks of blessings for those who mourn, are meek, and hunger and
53 thirst for righteousness, assuring that peacemakers will be called children of God (Matthew 5:4-9); and

54
55 WHEREAS in faithfulness to that tradition, we are called to give voice to the voiceless, to listen to the voices of all
56 God’s people, especially those who have historically been ignored, dismissed or silenced, and to not only listen but

1 to speak with and for them in the pursuit of justice and peace, speaking truth to power where that power has been
2 used to oppress rather than liberate; and
3

4 WHEREAS we recognize that our brothers and sisters in The United Church of Christ in the Philippines are called
5 to “participate in the establishment of a just and compassionate social order” (from the UCCP *Statement of Faith*),
6 and we respect their vision of ministry as one “where the church becomes a genuine partner of the people in the
7 mission of transforming society toward a truly democratic, truly national and free and sustainable society whose
8 governance is truly pro-people, free from all forms of corruption and any form of foreign domination, where the
9 nation will be able to emerge and stand as an equal among nations” (from the *UCCP Vision, Goals and Mission in*
10 *the Next Jubilee*): and
11

12 WHEREAS an alarming increase in human rights violations in the Philippines has been documented by Amnesty
13 International, Human Rights Watch, the United Nations, the Philippine Commission on Human Rights and many
14 non-governmental Philippine human rights organizations; and
15

16 WHEREAS between April 1986, when Ferdinand Marcos was ousted and the 20 year reign of martial law was
17 suspended and democracy and free press were restored, and December 2004, over 60 Filipino journalists were killed
18 because of their investigative journalism work on human rights violations, and 25 of these killings have taken place
19 under the presidency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who came to office in January 2001, and none of these cases
20 have resulted in a conviction (according to the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines), and 16 such
21 murders took place in March 2005 alone, with 6 UCCP members in Leyte and Samar ambushed and/or assassinated
22 in March and April; and
23

24 WHEREAS in response to the murder on May 12, 2005, of Rev. Edison Lapuz, Conference Minister of the North
25 Eastern Leyte Conference and local coordinator for Bayan Muna, a progressive and grassroots political party,
26 Bishop Elmer Bolocon has called on the UCCP’s global and ecumenical partners to join them in prayer and
27 resistance by calling for investigations into this and the other violations that continue unchecked, a systematic
28 campaign against progressive church and community leaders whose prophetic voices are being silenced by
29 harassment, intimidation and death;
30

31 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that General Synod 25 of the United Church of Christ joins the United Church of
32 Christ in the Philippines in calling on the President of the Republic of the Philippines to

- 33 a) aggressively conduct timely, full, and impartial investigations into the human rights violations that
34 have occurred during her presidency, and those of which may yet occur, in particular, the extra-judicial
35 executions and disappearances of human rights workers, including journalists, church leaders and
36 political activists, so that the perpetrators may be promptly brought to justice;
- 37 b) ensure that any member of the security forces suspected of committing human rights violations (in
38 particular extra-judicial executions, disappearances and death threats) are suspended from duty
39 pending a full investigation into their conduct;
- 40 c) and establish effective programs for the protection of peaceful human rights workers, victims and
41 witnesses called to give testimony or evidence during the judicial process from violence, threats or
42 other forms of intimidation.
43

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that General Synod 25 call upon United Church of Christ members and churches to
45 unite in prayer to support the ecumenical-pastoral teams visiting the Philippines beginning in July, 2005.
46

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as a sign of our solidarity and in witness to our commitment to pray for our
48 partners in the Philippines, the General Minister and President of the UCC forward this resolution to the President of
49 the Republic of the Philippines and the Chairperson of the Philippine Commission on Human Rights. The resolution
50 shall also be forwarded to our global and ecumenical partners through the offices of the Chairperson of the National
51 Council of the UCCP, the General Secretary of the UCCP, and our own Wider Church Ministries.
52

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this General Synod requests the East Asia and Pacific Office of Common
54 Global Ministries to regularly update the local churches and conferences of the United Church of Christ on the
55 human rights situation in the Philippines, especially as it impacts the life and work of the UCCP.
56

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

3
4 **8. RESOLUTION: “RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN PRISONERS.”**

5 Moderator Jackson yielded to Chairperson Bahr to present the next proposed action of Committee Five. Mr. Bahr
6 presented the resolution “Religious Freedom for Native Hawaiian Prisoners.” He then moved to adopt the resolution.
7

8 Moderator Jackson called for the vote. Chairperson Bahr yielded time to Hawaiian representatives who offered
9 chanting, asking spiritual beings to grant knowledge and blessings of one mind and one spirit. Mr. Neb Whitehead
10 (PNE) reminded delegates that monies are going to privately owned prisons where Hawaiian prisoners are denied
11 their rights.
12

13 Moderator Jackson called for the vote.

14
15 05-GS-59 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ votes in favor of the resolution,
16 “Religious Freedom for Native Hawaiian Prisoners.”
17

18 **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN PRISONERS**

19
20 WHEREAS, In response to Jesus’ teaching and the aloha of all people, the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the
21 United Church of Christ recognizes the inherent right of Native Hawaiians to practice their ancient and traditional
22 religion as guaranteed by law and pledges its support to those Native Hawaiians;
23

24 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian religious rites are protected under the Constitutions of the United States of America,
25 the State of Hawai`i, the State of Oklahoma, the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000 (42
26 USCS § 2000cc), and the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (42 U.S.C. § 1996);
27

28 WHEREAS, the free exercise of religion for Hawai`i prisoners at the Diamondback Correctional Facility in
29 Watonga, OK, is making strides to provide minimal religious opportunities as required by law;
30

31 WHEREAS, inter-religious and interfaith spiritual accompaniment requires specific training, theological hospitality
32 to different religious expressions, and a commitment to mutual respect of diverse belief systems;
33

34 WHEREAS, our local United Church of Christ churches and the Oklahoma United Church of Christ `ohana
35 (family)— qualified, trained and ordained advocates now have access;
36

37 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian prisoners are 6,000 miles from their homeland, `ohana and religious leaders; and that
38 up to 2,500 Hawai`i pa`ahao are located in correctional facilities in Oklahoma, Arizona, Mississippi, and Colorado;
39

40 WHEREAS, spirituality, and its diversity of practice, is an essential part of rehabilitation;
41

42 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian prisoners through the Native Hawaiian Religion and Culture Group have requested
43 advocacy, support, and pastoral presence at weekly spiritual gatherings and specific holy day observances;
44

45 WHEREAS, the Native Hawaiian prisoners’ United Church of Christ kupauna (elders) and kahu (pastors) have
46 commended their `ohana to the care of Oklahoma area United Church of Christ clergy; and that some of the pa`ahao
47 (prisoners) are sons and yohana of our own churches in the Hawai`i Conference United Church of Christ;
48

49 WHEREAS, the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches United Church of Christ of the Hawai`i Conference
50 United Church of Christ is in covenantal relationship with all the settings of the United Church of Christ;
51

52 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ recognizes
53 the inherent right of Native Hawaiians to practice their ancient and traditional religion as guaranteed by law, and
54 pledges its support to those native Hawaiians;
55

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages the
2 Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches' Justice and Witness Team to work in partnership with the Hawai'i
3 Conference 's Witness Missional Team, and the Oklahoma Association through the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference
4 to coordinate efforts and ministry with the Native Hawaiian Religion and Culture Group of the Diamondback
5 Correctional Facility in Watonga, Oklahoma to minister to the Native Hawaiian and other Hawai'i prisoners;

6
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on the five
8 associations of the Hawai'i Conference United Church of Christ as well as the Hawai'i Conference Board of
9 Directors to join in this ministry to native Hawaiian prisoners, especially those who are in continental facilities far
10 from Hawai'i;

11
12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges the
13 leaders in the Hawai'i State Legislature and the United States Congress to call upon the Department of Public Safety
14 in Hawai'i and the Department of Corrections in Oklahoma to recognize the need to uphold the laws of the
15 Constitution of the United States of America to allow Native Hawaiian prisoners in all the continental United States
16 facilities and the State of Hawai'i the freedom to exercise fully their religion in a non-hostile and non-retributive
17 environment.

18
19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on the
20 Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches United Church of Christ through its Pāpā Makua and Luna
21 Hojomalua and the Conference Minister and Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Conference
22 United Church of Christ to urge the Department of Public Safety of the State of Hawai'i to provide for routine visits
23 from practitioners of Native Hawaiian spirituality;

24
25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages
26 through its Justice and Witness Ministries and the Hawai'i Conference United Church of Christ through its Witness
27 Missional Team to call upon the Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) to insure religious freedom for those
28 who practice non-Christian religion with adequately trained professionals and open the faith pods to include
29 interfaith groups.

30
31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages and
32 supports the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches United Church of Christ to work in concert with the
33 Oklahoma Association United Church of Christ and the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference UCC, the Native Hawaiian
34 Religion and Culture Group, the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM), the Justice and Witness Ministries
35 of the UCC, and other peace and justice networks of the United Church of Christ to provide advocacy and financial
36 support to expand the witness for religious freedom for all Native Hawaiian prisoners throughout the United States
37 of America.

38
39 The implementation of this resolution will be by the Justice and Witness Ministries' Human Rights, Justice for
40 Women, and Transgendered Ministry—especially Criminal Justice and Human Rights, the Association of Hawaiian
41 Evangelical Churches of the Hawai'i Conference United Church of Christ and all its settings, the Oklahoma
42 Association of the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference United Church of Christ as all its settings, and all other interested
43 settings of the United Church of Christ.

44
45 Funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the
46 affected agencies and funds available.

47
48 **9. THANKS TO THE GEORGIA HOST COMMITTEE**

49 Moderator Jackson called on Ms. Edith Guffey, who gave thanks to the Georgia Host Committee and Local
50 Arrangements Committee. The Local Arrangements Committee presented Ms. Guffey with the gift of a cross.

51
52 **10. RESOLUTION: "A CALL FOR TRUTH-TELLING AND STANDARDS OF ETHICS IN PUBLIC
53 LIFE,"**

54 Moderator Jackson then called on Ms. Heather Iriye, Chairperson of Committee Seven, to present the first action of
55 that committee on the resolution, "A Call for Truth Telling and Standards of Ethics in Public Life," noting the
56 amendment on line 125. She moved to adopt the resolution as amended.

1
2 Moderator Jackson called for the vote.

3
4 05-GS-60 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ votes to adopt the resolution,
5 “A Call for Truth Telling and Standards of Ethics in Public Life,” as amended.

6
7 **A CALL FOR TRUTH-TELLING AND STANDARDS OF ETHICS IN PUBLIC LIFE**

8
9 WHEREAS the Holy Scriptures of the Judaeo-Christian tradition proclaim that God is a God of truth, who abhors
10 falsehood and deceit (Psalms 5:51-52; Isaiah 45:18-19; Jeremiah 9:2-6; Zechariah 8:16-19; Romans 1:18) and the
11 Holy Spirit is characterized as “the spirit of truth” (1John 4:6); and

12
13 WHEREAS the Scriptures counsel that truth is a foundational ingredient of public life, that without truth there is no
14 justice and without justice there is no peace (Isaiah 59:12-15; Jeremiah 5:1-3; Micah 7:1-6); that the credibility and
15 trustworthiness of leaders is directly related to their honesty and believability; and that it is the trust which sets folk
16 free (John 8:32); and

17
18 WHEREAS the Gospel calls Christian people and churches to seek truth together; it envisions the healthy
19 community of humanity as one in which what is spoken to one another – in love – is the truth (Ephesians 4:15, 25;
20 Zechariah 8:16), and in which love is not an empty word, but demonstrated to be true by action (! John 3:18); and

21
22 WHEREAS the ninth of the Ten Commandments, “You shall not bear false witness,” is directed to courts of justice
23 and the realm of public life as well as interpersonal relationships; and

24
25 WHEREAS the Hebrew prophets specifically call religious, civic, and business leaders to account for withholding
26 and distorting truth and intentionally deceiving their people (as in Ezekiel 13 and 35; Amos 5; Micah 7); “for truth
27 stumbles in the public square” (Isaiah 59:14); and

28
29 WHEREAS the speech and conduct of civic as well as religious leaders model the behavioral expectations of a
30 society to the young who grow up in their midst to be their successors; and

31
32 WHEREAS the houses of Congress of these United States of America have, in their wisdom, enacted legislation
33 which upholds truth in advertising and trust in lending and have established standards of ethics for the conduct of
34 their own members and their own affairs; and ON THE OTHER HAND,

35
36 WHEREAS in February 2005, the House of Representatives retreated from the enforcement of its own standards of
37 ethics, replacing the leadership of its Ethics Committee in an apparent act of punishment for upholding those
38 standards; and

39
40 WHEREAS many persons believe that the President and Vice-President of the USA and other government leaders
41 have repeatedly twisted and covered up truth and fabricated falsehood in such matters as Iraq’s possession of
42 weapons of mass destruction, the cost of the war in Iraq, the magnitude of the public debt, the impact of cuts and
43 increases in federal taxes and budgets, and the financial state and future of the Social Security system; and

44
45 WHEREAS the news media aid and abet the distortion of truth by their manipulative practices of selective reporting
46 and sensationalizing in broadcasting and print; and

47
48 WHEREAS the Church itself has not been exempt from the sins of deception, cover-up and falsification, even of the
49 truth of the Gospel;

50
51 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ declares its
52 abhorrence of government by deceit and falsehood and the violation and relaxation of standards of ethics for
53 Congressional and other public leaders, and confesses its too often complicity in such deception and unethical
54 behavior through its own indifference and silence; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon its
2 leaders and its local churches to

- 3 • devote time to study and discuss and pray over the issues of truth-telling and ethical behavior in public life
4 as well as the life of the church itself, recognizing that many matters are very complex and that truth is
5 often not easy to discern;
- 6 • uphold truth-telling and stated standards of ethics in the conduct of their own affairs and to acknowledge
7 their own sins of commission and omission in the telling of the truth and upholding of ministerial and
8 congregational ethics;
- 9 • examine routinely the statements and publications of elected and appointed officials and offices in all areas
10 of government, and the ethics of their behavior, and communicate to said officials and offices questions of
11 apparent deception, challenges of outright distortion and falsification, and perceptions of the violation of
12 stated standards of ethics in the conduct of their affairs (“Let no one deceive you with empty words, for
13 because of these things the wrath of God comes on those who are disobedient.” (Ephesians 5:6); and
- 14 • hold the media accountable for manipulations, distortions and omissions of the truth by sending letters to
15 editors and station managers.
- 16 • Communicate to the FCC and appointed and elected officials the importance of diverse sources of news
17 rather than increased concentration of the media because truth is best protected when multiple avenues of
18 investigation and expression are available.

19
20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests that its
21 officers communicate this Call to Truth-Telling and standards of Ethics in Public Life to:

- 22 • the local churches, Associations, Conferences and clergy of the United Church of Christ
- 23 • the President of these United States of America
- 24 • the Senators and Representatives who make up the Congress of the United States
- 25 • the editors of the major newspapers and managers of the major television and radio stations in our nation.

26
27 Funding for this action will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds
28 available.

29
30 **11. RESOLUTION: “UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL**
31 **CRIMINAL COURT.”**

32 Moderator Norm Jackson yielded to Ms. Heather Iriye to present the next action of Committee Seven, “United
33 Church of Christ Support for the International Criminal Court.” She then moved to adopt the resolution.

34 Mr. Kwame Osei Reed (CAC) spoke in support of this resolution that he sees as an issue of justice and human
35 rights.

36
37 Moderator Jackson called for the vote.

38
39 05-GS-61 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted in favor of the
40 resolution, “United Church of Christ Support for the International Criminal Court.”

41
42 **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

43
44 WHEREAS the United Church of Christ is committed to educating and advocating on behalf of human rights, global justice
45 and peace.

46
47 WHEREAS the International Criminal Court sustains the advancement of human rights and, within the norms of international
48 law, supplants impunity with accountability concerning crimes of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity,

49
50 WHEREAS for reasons of moral leadership and national interest, the United States should once again fully participate in the
51 shaping of the policies of the International Criminal Court,

52
53 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages members
54 of the United Church of Christ, to become informed advocates for the International Criminal Court,
55

1 WE FURTHER RESOLVE that the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges the President of the
2 United States to restore the signature of the United States to the Treaty establishing the International Criminal Court and to
3 cease efforts to undermine the Court’s effectiveness and international support, and to prepare for eventual ratification by the
4 Senate of the United States,
5

6 AND, TO THAT END, the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges the Covenanted Ministries of the
7 United Church of Christ, in particular the Public Life and Social Policy Ministry in Washington, DC, to educate and advocate
8 for responsible United States participation in the International Criminal Court.
9

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

13 **12. RESOLUTION: “TEAR DOWN THE WALL.”**

14 Moderator Jackson called on Mr. Bill Eilers, Chair of Committee Sixteen to present the actions of that committee.
15 Mr. Eilers noted the amendments to the original resolution ”Tear Down the Wall,” and moved to adopt the
16 resolution.
17

18 Mr. Eilers chose to speak to the resolution by saying that the wall currently violates human rights. Such walls are
19 often said to be temporary, but last for centuries sometimes.
20

21 Mr. Edgar Roosa (PNE) had a problem with calling on one side to respond. This creates an imbalance, and should
22 be urged through negotiations and not statements like this. Ms. Julia Goodall (IK) had the opportunity to meet with
23 a group of Palestinian Christians, who took her on a tour of a school. Children of Bethlehem are suffering, due to
24 the wall. Ms. Kate Walsh (OH) affirmed compassion with the Palestinian people. She would support this resolution
25 if there was a suggestion to move to Israel borders, so they could still protect themselves.
26

27 Mr. Mark Fernald (NH) proposed an amendment to line 124: After the word “constructed” add “or move it to
28 internationally recognized borders.” The motion was seconded Mr. Gregory Morecy (MA) expressed that this
29 body should not say how Israel should secure its borders.
30

31 Moderator Jackson called for the vote.
32

33 The proposed amendment was defeated.
34

35 Mr. Mark Fernald (NH) proposed the following amendment to lines 130-131: replace “abide by international law
36 and agreements and withdraw from” with “cease the expansion of Israeli settlements within.”
37

38 Moderator Jackson called for the vote.
39

40 The proposed amendment was defeated.
41

42 Moderator Jackson referred back to the original resolution, and called for the vote.
43

44 05-GS-62 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ votes in favor of the resolution
45 “Tear Down the Wall,” as amended.
46

47 Ms. Juanita Helphrey (CAIM) asked delegates and visitors to recognize Mr. Norm Jackson as the first Native
48 American to lead as moderator.
49

50 **13. INVITATION TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH GENERAL SYNOD**

51 Moderator Norm Jackson called upon Rev. Davida Foy Crabtree to extend an invitation to the Twenty-Sixth General
52 Synod in two years. A short film clip was shown of the location, as staff of the Connecticut Conference came on
53 stage.
54

55 Rev. Crabtree spoke about how the Connecticut Conference looks forward to welcoming delegates, visitors and their
56 families and others all across the United Church of Christ in June of 2007. She assured everyone that Mr. David

1 Taylor and Ms. Sue Butler-Woodward, co-chairs of the Local Arrangements Committee, already have the cookie-
2 bakers lined up, and are nearing the one hundred mark in volunteers so they can extend a true extravagant welcome
3 to everyone.
4

5 She went on to give a brief history of Connecticut, which is home to two hundred fifty United Church of Christ
6 churches. Their heritage runs long and deep – from the founding of churches and towns in the colonial era through
7 the development of an early -- but not early enough -- opposition to slavery, from the freedom quest of the Amistad
8 prisoners and their allies to the instigating writings of Mark Twain and Harriet Beecher Stowe, from the
9 establishment of major seminaries, universities, hospitals and schools to the ongoing work of affordable housing and
10 the press for justice for all citizens. They look forward to welcoming everyone to the new Convention Center, and
11 hope that everyone will come early and stay late to experience the amazing cultural and religious heritage and
12 beauty of their state.
13

14 She described Hartford as a city with great unrealized potential. It bills itself as “New England’s Rising Star”. They
15 believe it can only be that if all of us pay attention to the poverty, inequality in education, high infant mortality and
16 unemployment that are part of its truth. Alongside these major social challenges are some of the oldest and best art
17 and historical museums, sports teams and their legislature’s commitment to equal civil rights for all people. They
18 believe the presence of the General Synod in 2007 will offer a sign of hope and a witness for justice. So, General
19 Synod, LET IT SHINE!
20

21 Let It Shine with love for Jesus! Let It Shine with love for each other! Let It Shine with love for the city! Let It
22 Shine with hope for the world! Let It Shine, General Synod, Let It Shine, in Hartford in 2007!
23

24 Moderator Norm Jackson thanked Ms. Crabtree.
25

26 **14. ANNOUNCEMENTS INCLUDING THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT**

27 Moderator Jackson announced that the report of the Credentials Committee for the Twenty-fifth General Synod will
28 be included in the minutes of the Twenty-fifth General Synod.
29

30 **15. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

31 Ms. Edith Guffey gave thanks to the American Red Cross, and those who contributed to the school kits. She also
32 announced the rap-up video will be mailed in the form of a cassette disk, and sermons and speeches will be
33 available, along with worship services, online. She then announced the dates for the 2007 General Synod as, June
34 22-26.
35

36 **16. INSTALLATION OF MODERATORS**

37 Moderator Norm Jackson called for installation of the new moderators.
38

39 Moderator Merlyn Lawrence, Assistant Moderators Elizabeth King and Kevin Manz were installed at moderators of
40 the Twenty-sixth General Synod.
41

42 Assistant Moderator Smith led everyone in prayer.
43

44 **17. GENERAL SYNOD WRAP-UP VIDEO**

45 Moderator Jackson announced the Proclamation, Identity, and Communication Ministry Team is going to help take
46 a look back at events of this General Synod.
47

48 Moderator Jackson thanked all technical crew members and Ms. Jean Robinson.
49

50 Moderator Jackson, on behalf of all moderators, thanked the delegates, then recognized Mr. Winston Baldwin, who
51 gave thanks to God and moved the adjournment of the Twenty-fifth General Synod at the conclusion of this
52 evening’s worship service.
53

54 Mr. Jackson called for approval with applause at 5:40 p.m.
55

56 Moderator Jackson declared recess and adjournment at the conclusion of final worship, which began that evening at
7:30 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted;
Lee Foley
Minister for Governing Body Relations

Nancy Cope
Lead Recorder

Edith A. Guffey, Administrator General Synod Twenty-five