

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54

**MINUTES with APPENDICES  
TWENTY-SIXTH GENERAL SYNOD**

Let It Shine

**HARTFORD CIVIC CENTER**

**HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**

**JUNE 22 – JUNE 26, 2007**

**Friday Afternoon – June 22, 2007**

**First Plenary Session**

**1. GENERAL SYNOD CALL TO ORDER**

Moderator Merlyn Lawrence (ILL) called the first business session of the Twenty-sixth General Synod to order at 2:30 p.m. Ms. Lawrence invited the visitors and delegates to “Let our Light Shine” as we celebrate our Fiftieth Anniversary Year. Ms. Lawrence led the delegates and visitors in prayer.

Ms. Lawrence introduced the Assistant Moderators, Rev. Elizabeth King (MASS) and Mr. Kevin Manz (CA NV, N) who joined Ms. Lawrence on stage and would be sharing the moderating responsibilities.

**2. INTRODUCTION OF GOVERNOR OF STATE OF CONNECTICUT**

Ms. Lawrence introduced the Governor of the State of Connecticut, the Honorable M. Jodi Rell. Ms. Rell welcomed the members of the Twenty-sixth General Synod to the State of Connecticut. The General Synod gathering was the biggest convention ever held in Hartford and may well have been the biggest in the state. Ms. Rell also reminded the delegates that the Amistad had departed from New Haven to England the day before in honor of the celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the abolition of slavery. She then read a Proclamation entitled “Synod in the City Day” for Saturday June 23, 2007.

**3. OPENING CELEBRATION**

Moderator Lawrence introduced Co-hosts Ms. Valerie Tutson (CONN) and Mr. Phil Porter (CA, NV, N) who directed delegates to a dramatic presentation of the Annual Report of 2005, one Sylvester “Scoop,” a disgruntled investigative journalist, who was assigned to uncover the story about the “UCC.”

“Scoop” encountered “Sponge Bob – Square Pants,” the “UCC Answer Guy” and the fact that the United Church of Christ is celebrating its Fiftieth Anniversary, in his quest to uncover the content and depth of the United Church of Christ. In the process “Scoop” finds that the “UCC” is truly a “beautiful, heady, exasperating and hopeful mix.”

**4. INTRODUCTION OF GENERAL SYNOD LEADERSHIP**

Ms. Lawrence introduced the delegates to the Honorable Denise Page Hood (MICH) as the Moderator’s Parliamentarian and the Rev. Mal Bertram (MASS) as Delegate’s Parliamentarian. Each alerted the delegates to appropriate procedural rules, including the role of Youth Stewards.

Ms. Hood informed the delegates on additional rules, particularly related to the use of *unanimous consent* or *general consent* in non-contested motions.

Ms. Lawrence also introduced the Agenda Committee, naming the Moderators, Chairperson Rev. Sharon MacArthur (CA NV, N) and Vice Chairperson Mr. Aaron Gould (MAINE) of the Executive Council. Ms. Lawrence also introduced Mr. Lee Foley (OHIO) who supports the work of the business committee.

**5. REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

Moderator Lawrence called on Ms. Dale Bonds (SOC) for the report of the Credentials Committee.

Ms. Bonds reported the registrar certified the following:

1 There are 657 conference delegates, 193 Covenanted Ministry and Executive Council delegates, 39 conference  
2 ministers, 110 conference staff members, 88 General Synod staff members, 81 exhibitors, 165 national staff  
3 members, 6 ecumenical delegates, 6 former moderators, 9 former officers of the church, 165 seminaries, 6 seminary  
4 representatives, 19 ecumenical guests, 13 honored guests and 83 others registered, totaling 1640. They are joined by  
5 6765 registered guests for a record total registration, as of 1:30 p.m., of 8405.

6  
7 The Credentials Committee finds the composition of the voting delegates to be in compliance with the mandates  
8 established in the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

9  
10 The Committee encourages all conferences to strive toward racial and ethnic diversity in the makeup of its  
11 delegations.

12  
13 07-GS- 1VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts by consensus the report of the Credentials Committee.

#### 14 15 **6. QUORUM DECLARED**

16 Moderator Lawrence declared a quorum was present and the Twenty-sixth General Synod was in session.

#### 17 18 **7. ANNOUNCEMENT OF TELLERS**

19 Ms. Lawrence directed the visitors and delegates to the Executive Council report that contains the list of delegates  
20 who agreed to be tellers and appointed those listed. They are as follows:

21		
22	William Adams, PSE	Tad Allman-Morton, MASS
23	Robert Anderson, PC	David Balmer, PSE
24	Elaine Bast, OHIO	Al Bastin, OHIO
25	Emily Bastin, OHIO	Donna Brooks, OHIO
26	Quentin Chin, MASS	Charlene Corbett, CONN
27	Laurelyn Craig, NY	Carol Currier-Frighetto, ILL
28	Karen Curtis-Weakley, FLA	Michael Dack, IOWA
29	Suzy Daly, ILL	Sandra Hudson, FLA
30	Nelson Jenkins, FLA	Anastasia Kidd, MASS
31	Nancy Lawrence, MASS	Cheryl McNair, SOC
32	Cristo Owens, MASS	Bruce Poinsette, CPC
33	Daniel Spacek, MASS	Heather Wicks, OHIO
34	Bertrice Wood, OHIO	Dan Young, OHIO
35		

#### 36 37 **8. ADOPTION OF GENERAL SYNOD AGENDA**

38 Moderator Lawrence introduced the Executive Council Chairperson, Ms. Sharon MacArthur, who moved the  
39 adoption of the General Synod agenda.

40 07-GS-2 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the agenda as printed, and authorizes the Business  
41 Committee to make any necessary adjustments.

#### 42 43 **9. ADOPTION OF THE STANDING RULES**

44 Ms. MacArthur moved the adoption of the Standing Rules.

45  
46 07-GS-3 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the Standing Rules by consensus.

#### 47 48 **10. DESIGNATION OF RESOURCE PERSONS GRANTED VOICE WITHOUT VOTE**

49 Ms. MacArthur moved the Twenty-sixth General Synod grant voice without vote to those persons who have been  
50 approved by the Business Committee as designated resource persons.

51  
52 07-GS-4 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod grants voice without vote to those persons who have been  
53 approved by the Business Committee as designated resource persons for the presentation of reports, resolutions, or  
54 other concerns that are on the agenda of the General Synod. The privilege is extended only for the time that the  
55 particular item of business is under consideration and may be extended at the request of the Moderator or  
56 appropriate Committee Chair.

1		
2	Mal Bertram	Parliamentarian
3	Mary Shaller Blaufuss	Hope Shall Bloom Presentation
4	Alan Coe	Hope Shall Bloom Presentation
5	Florence Coppola	Hope Shall Bloom Presentation
6	Marilyn Dubasak	The StillSpeaking Initiative Presentation
7	Carlos Correa	Environmental Racism Report
8	Mark Gansen	Youth Presentation
9	Denise Page Hood	Parliamentarian
10	Kathy Houston	Budget Report
11	Joelle “Kipa” Kaupu	Youth Presentation
12	DaVita McCallister	Youth Presentation
13	Amber Mitchell	Youth Presentation
14	Don Paterson	Budget Report
15	Phil Porter	Synod in the City
16	Shari Prestamon	Hope Shall Bloom Presentation
17	Edward Rivera-Santiago	Puerto Rico Presentation
18	Karen Thompson	Hope Shall Bloom Presentation
19	Valerie Tutson	Synod in the City
20	Dave Schoen	New Church Recognition Presentation
21	Dick Sparrow	Speak Out! Coordinator
22	Lydia Veliko	Ecumenical Guest Presentation
23		

24 **11. DESIGNATION OF GROUPS GRANTED VOICE WITHOUT VOTE**

25 Ms. MacArthur indicated that Standing Rule Ten authorizes the Executive Council to recommend to the General  
 26 Synod, groups whose representatives shall be granted voice without vote while the General Synod is in session.

27  
 28 Ms. MacArthur moved the Twenty-sixth General Synod grant voice without vote to the designated groups and their  
 29 stated representatives.

30  
 31 07-GS-5 VOTED: By consensus, the Twenty-sixth General Synod grants voice without vote to the following  
 32 designated groups and their stated representative

- 33  
 34 1. **Focus Renewal Ministries**  
 35 Ms. Janet Smithson, Pennsylvania Southeast Conference  
 36 Mr. John Werley, New York Conference  
 37  
 38 2. **The Ministry for God's Animals**  
 39 Mr. Stephen Kaufman, Ohio Conference  
 40 Ms. Lisa Hadler, Illinois Conference  
 41  
 42 3. **The UCC Professional Chaplains and Counselors**  
 43 Ms. Martha Jacobs, New York Conference  
 44 Ms. Loren McGrail, Massachusetts Conference  
 45  
 46 4. **Christians for Justice Action**  
 47 Ms. Amelie Sell, Pennsylvania Southeast Conference  
 48 Mr. Kwami Osei Reed, Central Atlantic Conference  
 49  
 50 5. **United Church of Christ Musicians Association**  
 51 Mr. Harold Smith, Connecticut Conference  
 52 Mr. John Stansell, Connecticut Conference  
 53  
 54 6. **The Association of Intentional Interim Ministers**

1 Mr. David Kniker, Illinois Conference  
2 Ms. Patricia Barth, Central Atlantic Conference

3  
4 **7. UCC Military Chaplains**

5 Mr. Luis A. Perez, Florida Conference  
6 Ms. Janis B. Dashner, Illinois South Conference

7  
8 **8. Faithful and Welcoming Churches of the United Church of Christ**

9 Mr. Bob Thompson, Southern Conference  
10 Mr. David Roberts, Ohio Conference

11  
12 **9. The Association of United Church Educators**

13 Ms. Nancy Murdock, New Hampshire Conference  
14 Ms. Juanita Phippen, Ohio Conference

15  
16 **10. Biblical Witness Fellowship**

17 Mr. David Runnion-Bareford, New Hampshire Conference  
18 Mr. William Boylan, Massachusetts Conference

19  
20 **12. FIRST REPORT OF THE COLLEGIUM**

21 Moderator Lawrence introduced Mr. Hans Holznagel (OHIO) who introduced Rev. John Thomas, General Minister  
22 and President; Ms. Edith Guffey, Associate General Minister; Rev. Linda Jaramillo, Executive Minister for Justice  
23 and Witness Ministers; Rev. Jose Malayang, Executive Minister for Local Church Ministers; and Rev. Cally  
24 Rogers-Witte, Executive Minister for Wider Church ministries.

25  
26 The Collegium jointly read a “Pastoral Letter” as a part of their presentation. (The text of the letter is attached to  
27 the minutes – Page 41.)

28  
29 **13. INITIAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

30 Assistant Moderator Manz introduced Ms. MacArthur and Mr. Aaron Gould, Chairperson and Vice Chairperson  
31 respectively, for the Initial Report of the Executive Council. Ms. MacArthur and Mr. Gould reported to the  
32 delegates that much of the work of the Executive Council had been focused on the future and discerning how best to  
33 proceed on a number of important issues.

34  
35 The Executive Council has been the body responsible for the oversight of the StillSpeaking Initiative. A report will  
36 be presented on Tuesday.

37  
38 The Executive Council received a report of the Collegium in April 2006 in response to a number of ongoing  
39 concerns and prompted by the continuing decline in national basic support. The report of the Collegium launched a  
40 conversation about governance and structure.

41  
42 The focus on the financial life of the national setting has continued and the Development Committee of the  
43 Executive Council has been very active in expanding work and capacities in the area of financial development. The  
44 growing partnership with the Council of Conference Ministers has sought to address the ongoing decline in  
45 conference as well as national Basic Support and has sought to increase the training of conference leadership in the  
46 principles of fundraising.

47  
48 The Council heard reports from our Ecumenical Officer and wrestled with the relocation of General Synod from the  
49 Convention Center to the Civic Center because of unresolved labor issues.

50  
51 The Evaluation and Planning Committee heard updates and had conversations with several of our historically  
52 underrepresented groups.

53  
54 The Budget Committee continues its oversight work, and will bring reports from the Chief Financial Officer,  
55 treasurers, and the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee on Tuesday.

1  
2 Two pieces of business are being placed before the body for action.  
3

4 Ms. MacArthur directed the delegates to the report listing the names of nominees for the General Synod Nominating  
5 Committee, Class of 2015.  
6

7  
8 **LAYPERSONS**

9 Jean Daley; Vermont Conference  
10 Shirley Ericson; Penn central Conference  
11 Gail Holmes; Wisconsin Conference  
12 Judy Jones; New York Conference  
13 Lorah House Jankrod; South Dakota Conference  
14 Lori Yamashiro; Hawaii Conference  
15

16 **CLERGY**

17 Sheldon Culver; Missouri Mid-south Conference  
18 J. Matthew Deal, Penn West Conference  
19 Beverly Lewis; Indiana-Kentucky Conference  
20 Tim Marquez; South Central Conference  
21 Michael Southcombe; Illinois South Conference  
22 Bernard R. Wilson; Connecticut Conference  
23

24 Ms. MacArthur indicated that three clergy and three laypersons will be elected.  
25

26 The persons nominated to represent historically under-represented groups for the Class of 2013 are as follows:  
27

28 Raymond Reid, Southern Conference for Ministers for Racial, Social, and Economic Justice  
29 Nelson Spencer, Southeast Conference for Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries  
30 Norma S. Mengel, Minnesota Conference for United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries  
31

32 Recommended to Fill Vacancies:

33 Toni Buffalo, South Dakota for Council on American Indian Ministries  
34 Norma Lopez, Illinois Conference for Council for Hispanic Ministries  
35

36 Assistant Moderator Manz indicated the report had been received, that ballots would be prepared and elections  
37 would be held Monday evening.  
38

39 **14. ADOPTION OF THE HISPANIC MINISTRIES IMPLEMENTATION TEAM REPORT**

40 Mr. Gould moved the General Synod adopt the recommendation of the Executive Council to continue the Hispanic  
41 Ministries Implementation Team for the 2007-2009 biennium.  
42

43 07-GS-6 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the Executive Council's recommendation to continue  
44 the Hispanic Ministries Implementation Team for the 2007-2009 biennium.  
45

46 **15. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

47 Mr. Manz introduced Mr. Joe Thomas (CA NV, N), Chair of the General Synod Nominating Committee, who  
48 directed the delegates to the printed report.  
49

50 07-GS-7 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod voted by consensus to receive the General Synod Nominating  
51 Committee report.  
52

53 Mr. Norm (Jack) Jackson (JWM) moved that General Synod refer the Justice and Witness Ministries slate to the  
54 General Synod Nominating Committee and instruct that committee to return with a slate that complies with the  
55 General Synod Bylaws. (Name of person to second motion was missed. - Recorders notation.)  
56

1 07-GS-8 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the motion that “The General Synod refer the Justice  
2 and Witness Ministries slate to the General Synod Nominating Committee and instructs that committee to return  
3 with a slate that complies with the General Synod Bylaws.  
4

5 Mr. Manz declared that, with the exception of the previously adopted motion, the report of the Nominating  
6 Committee has been received.  
7

#### 8 **16. NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR FOR BOARDS**

9 Mr. Manz acknowledged there were no nominations from the floor and accepted a motion to close nominations.  
10

#### 11 **17. ORDER OF THE DAY**

12 Assistant Moderator King declared the Order of the Day.  
13

#### 14 **18. GREETINGS FROM THE MAYOR OF HARTFORD**

15 Mr. Eddie Perez, Mayor of the City of Hartford, extended a warm welcome to the Twenty-sixth General Synod  
16 delegates and visitors.  
17

#### 18 **19. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT CONTINUED**

19 Following the presentation by Mr. Perez, Ms. King called for the question on the motion to close nominations.  
20

21 07-GS-9 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod votes to close nominations.  
22

#### 23 **20. COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT / EMPOWERING BUSINESS COMMITTEE TO MAKE** 24 **REFERRALS OF NEW BUSINESS FOR ACTION**

25 Ms. King introduced Ms. Krista Betz (MOMS) and Rev. Bob Sandman (OHIO), co-chairs of the Committee of  
26 Reference who introduced delegates to the reference process.  
27

28 07-GS-10 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the Committee of Reference report and refers new  
29 business submitted in the first plenary of the Twenty-sixth General Synod to the Business Committee.  
30

#### 31 **21. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BUSINESS (BY TITLE ONLY)**

32 Ms. King outlined the procedures for the introduction of New Business. There was no new business introduced.  
33

#### 34 **22. REQUEST FOR GENERAL SYNOD RESPONSE TO PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE** 35 **COLLEGIUM**

36 Rev. Jim Antal (MASS) (Mr. Antal’s motion was ruled out of order, due to his status as an Associate Delegate. A  
37 Delegate from the Massachusetts Conference then restated Mr. Antal’s motion. In the confusion over Mr. Antal’s  
38 standing, the name of the Delegate properly making the motion was lost. - Records notation.) moved that the  
39 General Synod attach its name to the pastoral letter written by the Collegium.  
40

41 07-GS-11 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General adopts the motion that General Synod attach its name to the pastoral  
42 letter written by the Collegium.  
43

#### 44 **23. ORDER OF THE DAY**

45 Assistant Moderator King called the order of the day.  
46

#### 47 **24. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

48 Ms. King introduced Ms. Edith Guffey who offered the following announcements.  
49

50 Speak Outs! provide opportunity for delegates and visitors to speak for up to one minute on subjects not on the  
51 agenda. Sign up takes place at the end of the previous session.  
52

53 The Wider Church Ministries dinner will be held on Sunday, not on Friday as the tickets indicate.  
54

55 Our Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration Saturday evening will recognize those who were present at the 1957 creation  
56 of the United Church of Christ.



1 Ms. Joan Brannick

2  
3 Former Executive of the Stewardship Council  
4 Mr. Earl Miller and his wife, Pat Miller

5  
6 Former Executive of The United Church Board for Homeland Ministries  
7 Mr. Thomas Dipko and his wife, Sandra Dipko

8  
9 Former Executive of The United Church Board for World Ministries  
10 Mr. David Hirano and his wife, Sandra Hirano

11 Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte welcomed Ms. Jean Libbey, the widow of Scott Libby who served as the Executive Vice  
12 President of The Board for World Ministries

13  
14 Rev. Jose Malayang welcomed Ms. Ora Shears, the widow of Reuben Shears who was the Executive of the Office  
15 for Church Life and Leadership

16  
17 Former officers of the United Church of Christ and their spouses were welcomed:

18  
19 Former Secretary of the Church Ms. Carol Joyce and her husband, Neal Luebke

20  
21 Former Treasurers of the Church Mr. Charles Lockyear and his wife, Catherine Lockyear,  
22 and Ms. Doris Powell

23  
24 Former Presidents of the United Church of Christ Mr. Joseph Evans and his wife, Harriett Evans;  
25 Mr. Avery Post and his wife, Margaret Post; and Mr. Paul Sherry and his wife, Mary Sherry

26  
27 Former Officers and Executive Ministers of Wider Church Ministries Mr. Dale Bishop; Ms. Olivia White  
28 and her husband, Terry White; Mr. Bennie Whiten and his wife, Susan Spote

29  
30 Former Officer and Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries Ms. Bernice Powell Jackson and  
31 her husband, Franklyn Jackson

32  
33 Assistant Moderator Manz gave thanks for these saints and their ministry.

34  
35 07-GS-12 VOTE: The Twenty-sixth General Synod, by consensus, granted voice to these honored guests.

36  
37 Assistant Moderator King then led the General Synod in prayer.

38  
39 **5. CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF REVEREND SCOTT LIBBY**

40 Assistant Moderator Manz called upon Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte to lead the delegates in a time of remembrance and  
41 celebration for Rev. Scott Libby. Mr. Libbey died on March 13, 2006. He was the former Executive Vice President  
42 of the United Church Board for World Ministries for ten years, from 1984 to 1994. Before that he was the highly  
43 respected Conference Minister of the Iowa Conference. He also served on the staff of the Division of Christian  
44 Education of The United Church Board for Homeland Ministries in Philadelphia and as Conference Minister of the  
45 Nebraska Conference. A short video was shown and Rev. Rogers-Witte expressed gratefulness to God for the life of  
46 Rev. Scott Libby.

47  
48 **6. INTRODUCTION OF OVERSEAS GUESTS AND MISSIONARIES**

49 Assistant Moderator King called upon Ms. Rogers-Witte to introduce and welcome our overseas guests and  
50 missionaries. These colleagues in ministry are from some of the global partner churches and organizations.

51  
52 **From Africa:**

53 Rev. Samuel Muriguh, Secretary General of The Presbyterian Evangelical Church of East Africa  
54 based in Nairobi, Kenya

55 Rev. Dr. Prince and Rev. Cheryl Dibeela, General Secretary of The United Congregational Church of  
56 Southern Africa



1 Rev. Dr. Musonda Bwalya, Principal of The United Church of Zambia Theological College  
2 Rev. Edward Matuvhunya, President of The United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe  
3 Rev. A. G. Mhururu, Chairperson of the UCCZ Ukama/Partnership  
4 Rev. Cyril Fayose, Trinity College, Accra, Ghana  
5

6 **From East Asia and the Pacific:**

7 Dr. Prawate Khid-arn, General Secretary of the Christian Conference of Asia  
8  
9

10  
11 **From Europe:**

12 Rev. Dr. Zsolt Kadar, Superintendent and General Secretary, Collegium Doktorom, Reformed Church of  
13 Hungary  
14 Bishop Martin Schindehutte, International Relations, Union of Evangelical Churches (Germany)  
15 Rev. Paul Oppenheim, Regional Secretary for Ecumenical Affairs and Ministries Abroad, Union of  
16 Evangelical Churches (Germany)  
17

18 **From Latin America and the Caribbean:**

19 Mr. Ricardo Esquivia, National Coordinator of the Restoration, Life and Peace Commission,  
20 The Evangelical Council of Churches of Colombia (CEDECOL)  
21 Bishop Luis Ulises Munoz, President, Pentecostal Church of Chile  
22 Rev. Feliciano Rivera, President, The Evangelical and Reformed Church in Honduras  
23 Mr. Miguel Angel Urrea, Vice President, the Evangelical and Reformed Church on Honduras  
24 Mr. Miguel Villa, Superintendent, Congregational Churches of Mexico  
25

26 **From the Middle East, arriving tomorrow:**

27 Dr. Mary Mikhael, President, Near East School of Theology, Beirut, Lebanon  
28

29 **From Southern Asia:**

30 Dr. K. B. Rokaya, General Secretary, National Council of Churches in Nepal  
31

32 **Personnel serving the United Church of Christ in Southern Africa:** William and. Veronica Kyle;

33 Kim Harris, a Global Mission Intern; Adora Iris Lee  
34

35 **Swaziland:**

36 Wayne and Ingrid Wilson who have just completed their term with the Kukhany' Okusha Zion Church  
37

38 **Haiti:**

39 Daniel Gourdet  
40

41 **Chile:**

42 Elena Huegel, assigned to the Pentecostal Church of Chile  
43

44 **Colombia:**

45 Michael Joseph who serves with the Restoration, Life and Peace Commission of the Council of  
46 Evangelical Churches  
47

48 **India:**

49 Anil Henry who works with the Synodical Board of Health Services of the Church of North india  
50

51 **Turkey:**

52 Alison Stendahl who teaches with the Health and Education Foundation  
53

54 **Hungry:**

55 Zoltan Szucs and wife, Barbara  
56

1 Ms. Rogers-Witte gave thanks and prayer wishes to these partners on behalf of the United Church of Christ.

2  
3 Ms. Rogers-Witte moved that voice-without-vote status be granted to these overseas guests.

4  
5 07-GS-13 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod grants voice without vote to these overseas guests.

## 6 7 **7. INTRODUCTION OF ECUMENICAL DELEGATES AND PARTNERS**

8 Moderator Merlyn Lawrence called upon Rev. Lydia Veliko, Minister for Ecumenical Relations, to introduce our  
9 ecumenical delegates and partners.

10 Rev. Veliko welcomed and gave a brief history of the ecumenical partnerships. She then received these colleagues  
11 from full communion and other partner churches on stage:

### 12 13 **From the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:**

14 Mark Hanson, Presiding Bishop

15 Rev. Randall Lee, Denominational Ecumenical Officer

### 16 17 **From the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ):**

18 Rev. Serene Jones, Professor at Yale University

19 Rev. Sharon Watkins, General Minister and President (joining us Sunday and for the rest of the  
20 General Synod)

### 21 22 **From the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa:**

23 Rev. Samuel Tialavea, General Secretary

### 24 25 **From the Alliance of Baptists:**

26 Rev. Stan Hastey, Minister for Ecumenical and Mission Relationships

### 27 28 **From the Reformed Church in America:**

29 Rev. Suzanne Hodges, Pastor and her church's representative to the United Church of Christ's  
30 Executive Council

### 31 32 **From the Presbyterian Church (USA):**

33 Rev. Dana Lindsley, Executive Presbyter for the Southern New England Presbytery

### 34 35 **From the World Alliance of Reformed Churches:**

36 Rev. Dr. Setri Nyomi, General Secretary

37  
38 Ms. Veliko introduced Rev. Patrice Rosner of Churches Uniting in Christ and Rev. Setri Nyomi, General Secretary  
39 of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches.

40  
41 Mr. Nyomi addressed the General Synod on behalf of our ecumenical colleagues. He brought greetings and special  
42 congratulations on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Church of Christ.

## 43 44 **8. PRESENTATION OF NEW CONGREGATIONS**

45 Moderator Merlyn Lawrence invited Rev. Joe Malayang, Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries and Rev.  
46 David Schoen, Team Leader for Evangelism Ministry, to recognize new church starts since the last General Synod.

47  
48 Mr. Malayang and Mr. Schoen indicated that the United Church of Christ, through its "Now Is The Time" program,  
49 is committed to developing two hundred fifty new churches by the year 2011 and more than one thousand six  
50 hundred new churches by 2021.

51  
52 "Now Is The Time" celebration recognized the twenty-one churches started fifty years ago and eighty new churches  
53 started since the last General Synod.

## 54 55 **9. COUNCIL ON HIGHER EDUCATION VIDEO PRESENTATION**

1 Moderator Lawrence called upon Rev. David Greenhaw, Chair of the Council on Higher Education, to introduce the  
2 video presentation *A Place of Our Own*.

3  
4 Mr. Greenhaw reviewed the historic ties the United Church of Christ has to many schools that have, for generations,  
5 sustained a vision and a movement to serve the common good through education. *A Place of Our Own* was a  
6 moving snapshot of faith and learning, giving a dynamic glimpse into higher and theological education in the life of  
7 the schools related to the United Church of Christ.

#### 11 **10. RECOGNITION OF YOUTH VISITORS**

12 Assistant Moderator Kevin Manz introduced a presentation by our Youth Visitors.  
13 Mr. Mark Ganson and Ms. Kepa Kaupu introduced the 50-for-50 Campaign, a grassroots effort to have over one  
14 thousand youth and young adults participate in the Twenty-sixth General Synod. Thanks to the support of many  
15 local congregations, parents, chaperones and over twenty conferences that provided financial support, their goal was  
16 reached. The youth received a standing ovation.

#### 18 **11. EXPLANATION OF COMMUNITY GROUPS AND SYNOD IN THE CITY**

19 Assistant Moderator King called upon Mr. Phil Porter and Ms. Valerie Tutson for a brief introduction of how  
20 upcoming Community Groups and Synod in the City will function.

#### 22 **12. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

23 Ms. King called upon Ms. Edith Guffey, Administrator of the General Synod, for announcements.

24  
25 Ms. Guffey noted corrections to block times for Synod in the City.

26  
27 Ms. King led the delegates and guests in a moment of silence and an evening prayer. She then declared the second  
28 plenary of the Twenty-sixth General Synod to be complete.

#### 30 **SATURDAY -- JUNE 23, 2007**

31 **The Homily at Saturday morning prayers was led by The Most Reverend Peter Rosazza, Auxiliary Bishop**  
32 **and Vicar General for the Hispanic Apostolate, Archdiocese of Hartford, CT.**

33  
34 Synod in the City was a joyous celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the formation of the United Church of  
35 Christ. Events, performances and speakers were in various locations around the City of Hartford.

36  
37 Saturday evening's birthday celebration featured a video of people who helped shape the United Church of Christ  
38 over the last fifty years. Mr. Robert Witham, chair of the Synod in the City planning committee, and committee  
39 members were thanked for the outstanding work they did in organizing the entire event. The Pacific Samoan Choir  
40 performed a sacred ceremony and Ms. Rachel Pine, concert violinist, also performed. Dr. Charles Towns of First  
41 Congregational United Church of Christ in Berkeley, CA, inventor of the laser light, Nobel Prize winner, recipient of  
42 the Templeton Prize in Religion, and member of the United Church Science and Technology Network was present  
43 to introduce the laser light birthday celebration.

#### 45 **SUNDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 24, 2007**

46 **Sunday afternoon worship included a Service of Word and Holy Communion. Rev. John Thomas, General**  
47 **Minister and President, delivered the sermon. Participants included our ecumenical guests and the**  
48 **Collegium of the United Church of Christ, along with a processional celebrating our fifty years.**

#### 50 **MONDAY MORNING -- JUNE 25, 2007**

51 **Third Plenary Session**

#### 53 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

54 Moderator Merlyn Lawrence called the third plenary of the Twenty-sixth General Synod to order at 2:30 p.m.  
55 Ms. Lawrence led the assembly in prayer.

1 **2. SPEAK OUT!**

2 Ms. Lawrence welcomed Speak Out! participants.

- 3
- 4 1. Mr. R. Michael Lake (KO) of the Military Chaplain’s Association spoke of Holy Joe’s Coffee House  
5 Ministry, a safe, informal setting where customers receive spiritual care and conversation.  
6
- 7 2. Mr. Bob Styles (CA NV, S) spoke of justice and peace issues.  
8  
9
- 10 3. Mr. Doug Anders (SOC) thanked everyone involved in the Gulf Coast Recovery effort. Contributions  
11 to Hope Shall Bloom made a difference in the lives of people and churches in New Orleans, Back Bay  
12 Mission, and for eighty-seven churches in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi.  
13  
14
- 15 4. Mr. Anthony and Ms. Shannon Sickelma (IS) supported the Church going “green.”  
16
- 17 5. Mr. Tom Olcott (HI) welcomed all to General Synod in 2011 and thanked everyone for their response  
18 following the earthquake.  
19
- 20 6. Ms. Emily Goldthwaite Fries (IA) and Ryan Lambert (CP) announced the United Church of Christ  
21 insurance program now covers oral contraception. They urged clergy under thirty to become part of the  
22 “20-30 Clergy Network” and encouraged everyone to visit the Parish Life and Leadership booth.  
23
- 24 7. Ms. Judy Hjorth (PNW) asked for a DVD of Mr. Bill Moyer’s speech from his Synod in The City  
25 presentation. Those in attendance applauded their willingness to pay for a DVD.  
26
- 27 8. Mr. Dean Jufii (HI) encouraged everyone to learn more about the Pohnpeian Black Pepper Project. It is  
28 a micro-economic development collaboration between Wider Church Ministries, Make-A-Difference  
29 Fund and the Hawaii Conference. Check out the Hawaii Conference website and click on the justice  
30 and witness icon.  
31
- 32 9. Mr. Arnold Thomas (NY) stated gun violence kills more people than all the casualties during the Iraq  
33 War. Find out more on God, not Guns Sabbath, September 29 and 30. Information is available at  
34 [www.godnotguns.org](http://www.godnotguns.org).  
35
- 36 10. Ms. Dorothy Lovell Buckley (CT) encouraged everyone to “green” themselves, green their church,  
37 green their Conference, make it all green and sustainable.  
38

39 In response to the comments regarding recycling, Rev. Davida Foy Crabtree, Connecticut Conference Minister,  
40 indicated there are blue bins under Section 103. Recycling is the law in Connecticut and the Civic Center is required  
41 to recycle plastics, paper, etc.  
42

43 **3. RECOGNITION OF THOSE RECEIVING AWARDS**

44 Assistant Moderator Elizabeth King called upon Ms. Cally Rogers-Witte and Ms. Edith Guffey to recognize all  
45 those who received awards at this General Synod. The following churches and individuals were recognized:  
46

47 **Justice and Witness Ministries**

48 Local Church Award to Amistad United Church of Christ, Reverend Dennis Duhaylungsod, pastor  
49 Social Prophet Award to Dr. Timothy Nonn  
50

51 **Wider Church Ministries**

52 Ministries Heart of Mission Award to Reverends Alan Coe and Shari Prestemon  
53 Awards of Affirmation

54 Presbyterian Church of East Africa, accepted by Reverend Samuel Muriguh  
55 Dr. Prawate Khind-Arn, General Secretary, Christian Conference of Asia  
56 Dr. K. B. Rokaya, General Secretary, National Council of Churches in Nepal

1 Reverend Dr. Zsolt Kadar, Superintendent and General Secretary, Collegium Doktorom,  
2 The Reformed Church of Hungary  
3 Dr. Mary Mikkael, President, Near East School of Theology  
4 The Child Sponsorship Award  
5 St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Mechanicsburg, PA, accepted by Reverend Karin  
6 Stork-Whitson  
7 Open and Affirming Leadership Award  
8 Ms. Ann B. Day and Ms. Donna Enberg  
9 HIV and AIDS Leadership Award  
10 Ms. Yvette A. Flunder  
11 **Local Church Ministries**  
12 Excellence in Teaching  
13 Ms. Carolyn Bogott  
14 Ms. Tami Dudo  
15 Ms. Kathy McCallie  
16 Ms. Vickie Sewing  
17 Pilgrim Press Mayflower Awards  
18 Church and Society award to Ms. Laurene Beth Bowers  
19 Leadership award to Reverend Kenneth L. Samuel  
20 Vitality award to Mr. Anthony B. Robinson  
21 Heritage award to Ms. Randi J. Walker  
22  
23 **United Black Christians**  
24 Ministries award to the four Covenanted Ministries  
25 Local Church awards to Ainsworth United Church of Christ, Portland, OR  
26 Euclid Avenue Congregational Church, Cleveland, OH  
27 Mt. Zion Congregational United Church of Christ, Cleveland, OH  
28 The Congregational Church of Park Manor, Chicago, IL  
29 Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago, IL  
30 Individuals  
31 Ms. Carol A. Brown, Mr. Charles Brown, Dr. Mittie Chandler, Ms. Francine L. Vinson,  
32 Ms. Gloria A. Little, Reverend Dr. Pamela June Anderson, Ms. Brenda James and  
33 Mr. Michael Downs  
34 United Black Christians Chapter  
35 Region III, Washington, D.C.  
36  
37 **United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries**  
38 Mr. Tyler Greene  
39 Reverend Dr. Robert Loesch  
40 Mr. Joseph Maki  
41  
42 **Antoinette Brown Recipients**  
43 Reverend Virginia Kreyer  
44 Reverend Talitha Arnold  
45  
46 **Fiftieth Anniversary Women of Vision**  
47 Ms. Marilyn M. Breitling  
48 Rev. Yvonne Delk  
49 Rev. Anne E. Holmes  
50 Rev. Carol Joyce  
51 Rev. Alice Rosehill Kahokuoluna  
52 Rev. Murdale Leysath  
53 Rev. Candita Mattos  
54 Rev. Rosemary McCombs Maxey  
55 Ms. Louise Wallace  
56

1                   **Honored Lay Women**

2                   Recognized as a group

3  
4 Assistant Moderator King corrected the previous statement regarding the blue recycling bins. They are for paper  
5 only.

6  
7 Ms. King then led the General Synod in prayer, giving thanks for the gifts of vision and faithfulness of all those who  
8 received awards at the Twenty-sixth General Synod. The recipients were thanked with a round of applause.  
9

10  
11 **4. INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATE FOR WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES EXECUTIVE**

12 Ms. King called upon Rev. Curtis Reuter, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Wider Church Ministries, and  
13 Rev. Mary Ann Neevel, Vice Chairperson of the Wider Church Ministries Board, for the introduction of the Rev.  
14 Ann Calvin Rogers-Witte, nominee for re-election as Executive Director of Wider Church Ministries.  
15

16 Rev. Rogers-Witte introduced her counterpart in the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, Rev. David Vargus, Co-  
17 Executive of Global Church Ministries. Ms. Rogers-Witte spoke of the loss of over two million dollars, making her  
18 job challenging, if not difficult, but always a wonderful experience. She promised two years ago to make our global  
19 ministries “our” ministries and that is in process. We’ve always been committed to taking God’s love to the farthest  
20 corners of the world. We changed “doing for” others into “doing with” others. We need to keep reminding our  
21 churches that Our Church’s Wider Mission is our primary source of funding for working together. Together we can  
22 be part of God’s miracles of transformation.  
23

24 **5. INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE PROCESS**

25 Moderator Lawrence thanked the Committee Process Facilitators, Ms. Sheldon Culver (MOMS), Mr. Dennis  
26 Frische-Mouri (IK), Mr. Roy Mosely (CA NV,N), Ms. Susan Townsley (CONN) and David Anderson (PNW). She  
27 then asked all committee chairpersons to rise and be recognized.  
28

29 **6. RESOLUTION: REGARDING THE TAR CREEK SUPERFUND SITE**

30 Ms. Lawrence reminded the delegates of the process related to the microphones and called upon Mr. Jeff Filkins,  
31 Chair of Committee One, to present the recommended actions from that committee.  
32

33 Mr. Filkins thanked all involved in the process and moved the adoption of the resolution “Regarding the Tar Creek  
34 Superfund Site.”  
35

36 07-GS-14 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the resolution “Regarding the Tar Creek Superfund  
37 Site.”  
38

39 **REGARDING THE TAR CREEK SUPERFUND SITE**

40  
41 WHEREAS, during this time the U.S. Federal authorities have spent at least \$100 million in the area trying to clean  
42 up damage from lead and zinc mining activities of the past 70 years; and  
43

44 WHEREAS, homes and communities within the Site are located above abandoned mine shafts and are in immanent  
45 danger of 250-300 ft. “cave ins” at any time; and  
46

47 WHEREAS, contamination from the Tar Creek mining operations extends into those areas of the states of Kansas,  
48 Missouri and Oklahoma adjacent to the Site; and  
49

50 WHEREAS, contamination has been found to exist in areas of the United States where mining wastes have been  
51 shipped from the Site for use as fill material in construction of foundation footings for buildings, parks, school  
52 playgrounds, highways, parking lots and various other construction uses; and  
53

54 WHEREAS, a major portion of the land that is owned by the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma is within the Superfund  
55 site; and  
56

1 WHEREAS, the property values of real estate of residents who live inside the designated superfund site have been  
2 greatly diminished; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, the damage to the health of the estimated 19,000 persons living in and adjacent to the Site, especially  
5 the small children who have dangerously high levels of lead in their blood, continues while the efforts of various  
6 Federal and State agencies to solve the problem prove to be unsuccessful.  
7

8 WHEREAS, the Site is not limited to the 40 square mile epicenter on the Quapaw Reserve, but extends downstream  
9 to the Neosho and Spring Rivers to the middle of the Grand Lake o' the Cherokees where stream and sediment  
10 contamination impact the aquatic life, plants and game in the area. These impacts damage resources utilized by the  
11 Eastern Shawnee, Seneca-Cayuga, Peoria, Wyandotte and Ottawa Tribes as well as low income subsistence users.  
12

13 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ:  
14 Petitions the appropriate officers and offices of local, state, federal and Native American tribal governments to move  
15 forward immediately to establish and implement a plan to solve this problem which affects persons living in and  
16 adjacent to the Site; and  
17

18 Sends this resolution, duly signed by the President of the United Church of Christ to the President of the United  
19 States of America, the United States Senators and the members of the United States House of Representatives from  
20 the states of Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma, the Majority and Minority leaders of the United States Senate; the  
21 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Governors and other appropriate officers of these states  
22 and the Chair of the Business Committee of the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma.  
23

24 Commends the ongoing efforts of Local Environmental Action Demanded Agency, Inc. of Vinita, OK (L.E.A.D.) to  
25 document and remedy the hazardous situation in the Site; and

26 Recommends immediate broad based ecumenical and community efforts to facilitate opportunities for those  
27 residents of the hazardous Tar Creek Superfund Site to voluntarily relocate, on a temporary or permanent basis, to  
28 less toxic areas until such time as the Site has been restored to a habitable condition; and  
29

30 Recommends that the agencies involved determine the extent of the area where contaminants have come to reside  
31 and provide a remedial plan that addresses the contaminant impacts from the Tri-State Mining District to the Spring  
32 and Neosho Rivers and the Grand Lake o' the Cherokees.  
33

34 Supports the efforts of the Oklahoma Conference of Churches initiate remedial action in collaboration with local  
35 churches and community groups at the Site; and  
36

### 37 **FUNDING**

38 Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the  
39 affected agencies and the funds available.  
40

### 41 **7. RESOLUTION: A RESOLUTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

42 Mr. Filkins moved the adoption of the resolution "A Resolution on Climate Change."  
43

44 Ms. Melinda McLain (LCM) moved to amend the resolution on line 125 by adding "and that Local Church  
45 Ministries develop materials to help churches "green" their buildings."  
46

47 07-GS-15 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the amendment adding "and that Local Church  
48 Ministries develop materials to help churches "green" their buildings" on line 125.  
49

50 07-GS-16 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the resolution "A Resolution on Climate Change" as  
51 amended.  
52

### 53 **A RESOLUTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

54  
55 WHEREAS, the impact of global warming, as currently predicted and understood by leading scientists and scientific  
56 bodies around the world in reports of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, as well as in reports of

1 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the National Academy of Sciences, will dramatically and  
2 negatively alter God's gracious gift of creation;

3  
4 WHEREAS, the effects of global warming are already clearly evidenced in the melting of glaciers and shrinking of  
5 the polar caps, threatening the polar bear with extinction and the Native Peoples of the Arctic with loss of food  
6 resources, land, ancient traditions and ways of being in the world;

7  
8 WHEREAS, experts speak with a profound sense of urgency and clearly state that the window of opportunity to  
9 avoid catastrophic climate change is rapidly diminishing;

10 WHEREAS, the predicted impact of global warming will have a disproportionate impact on those living in poverty,  
11 least developed countries, the elderly and children and those least responsible for the emissions of greenhouse gases;

12  
13 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ admits  
14 Christian complicity in the damage human beings have caused to the earth's climate system and other planetary life  
15 systems, and urges recommitment to the Christian vocation of responsible stewardship of God's creation, and  
16 expresses profound concern for the pending environmental, economic, and social tragedies threatened by global  
17 warming, to creation, human communities and traditional sacred spaces;

18  
19 WE FURTHER RESOLVE that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges the United  
20 States Government to respond to global warming with great urgency and firm leadership by supporting mandatory  
21 measures that reduce the absolute amount of green house gas emissions, and in particular emissions of carbon  
22 dioxide, to levels recommended by nationally and internationally recognized and respected scientific bodies;

23  
24 WE FURTHER RESOLVE that the Twenty-sixth Synod of the United Church of Christ urges state and local  
25 governments to support and invest in energy conservation and, specifically, in sustainable, renewable and affordable  
26 systems of transportation, and calls on business and industry to lead in responses to global warming through  
27 increased investments in efficient and sustainable energy technologies that are economically accessible and just;

28  
29 WE FURTHER RESOLVE that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges all segments  
30 of the Church to address global warming in their decisions and investments and in their educational and advocacy  
31 efforts;

32  
33 TO THAT END, the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on the Covenanted Ministries  
34 of the United Church of Christ, specifically Wider Church Ministries and Justice and Witness Ministries, to address  
35 the severe nature of this global warming crisis as one of the most urgent threats to humankind and, indeed, all of  
36 God's precious planet earth and that Local Church Ministries develop materials to help churches "green" their  
37 buildings.

#### 38 39 FUNDING

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

#### 42 43 **8. INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATE FOR ASSOCIATE GENERAL MINISTER**

44 Assistant Moderator Kevin Manz called on Rev. Sharon MacArthur, Chairperson of the Executive Council, for the  
45 introduction of Ms. Edith Guffey, candidate for re-election as Associate General Minister. If elected, this will be  
46 Ms. Guffey's third and final four year term.

47  
48 Ms. Guffey indicated she felt best able to support the United Church of Christ in this administrative role, even  
49 though she has an enormous passion for Justice and Witness Ministries. She urged each person to find ways to live  
50 out his or her commitments. She hopes her commitment and love for the United Church of Christ is clear and that  
51 her work exemplifies that. She looks forward to working with enthusiasm, commitment, passion and integrity and  
52 to having an honest conversation with colleagues about racial justice.

53  
54 Mr. Manz thanked Ms. Guffey and instructed that a ballot be completed by the Business Committee to include all  
55 persons presented.

56



1 **9. KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY MS. MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN**

2 Moderator Merlyn Lawrence called upon Mr. Bryant Cureton, President of Elmhurst College to introduce the  
3 keynote speaker, Ms. Marian Wright Edelman.  
4

5 Ms. Edelman spoke of the need to share what we have to do together to reset America's social compass. The three  
6 richest citizens' combined income in our country exceeds the income of fifty million people living in twenty-five  
7 states. People are hungry for leadership and community. As the richest nation on earth, we have thirteen million  
8 poor children. Our states spend almost three times as much for individuals in prison as we do for children in school.  
9 Ms. Edelman's message was followed by a short video from the Children's Defense Fund. She then received a  
10 standing ovation.  
11

12 Moderator Lawrence thanked Ms. Edelman and called upon Ken Medema to lead a lyrical response to Ms.  
13 Edelman's presentation.  
14

15 **10. RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL STAFF**

16 Assistant Moderator Elizabeth King introduced national staff members, who received a long, loud, standing ovation  
17 as they assembled on stage. She then led everyone in a prayer of thanksgiving for our leaders and a blessing of our  
18 dinner meal.  
19

20 **11. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

21 Ms. King called on Ms. Edith Guffey for announcements.  
22

23 Ms. King then declared the Third Plenary of the Twenty-sixth General Synod to be complete.  
24

25 **Monday Evening – June 25, 2007**

26 **Fourth Plenary Session**

27  
28 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

29 Moderator Merlyn Lawrence called the fourth plenary of the Twenty-sixth General Synod to order at 7:30 p.m. and  
30 led everyone in prayer.  
31

32 **2. SPEAK OUT!**

33 Ms. Lawrence welcomed SpeakOut! participants.  
34

- 35 1. Mr. David Claypool (RM) expressed concern that General Synod attendees were receiving a  
36 reputation in Hartford for being poor tippers. He emphasized that poor wage earners need good  
37 tips and shared the proper formula to figure the appropriate 20% tip.  
38
- 39 2. Mr. John Tostenson (NH) lifted up the name of Greg Pitman and his participation in outdoor  
40 ministry. He thanked Greg for the lives that have been touched through his work at Horton  
41 Center.  
42
- 43 3. Ms. Bridgette Nicholson and Mr. W. Mark Clark (SW) announced the search for a new conference  
44 minister. They encouraged delegates and visitors to check out the ad in *Opportunities* and noted  
45 the deadline date for applications.  
46
- 47 4. Ms. Adrian McCombs Maxey(CAIM) appealed for support of youth programs and their leaders  
48 that honor youth and young adults. She invited everyone to acknowledge the work of Eric Smith,  
49 Elaina Larson and other leaders of the youth clergy group.  
50
- 51 5. Ms. Mary Morton (PW) called attention to the United Church of Christ's claim to extravagant  
52 welcome, open and affirming and a uniting church. She felt this language seeks to fulfill the  
53 political agenda and is not in line with everyone's thoughts. It represents language that is partisan.  
54 The United Church of Christ must strive to become more inclusive.  
55

- 1 6. Ms. Caroline Jahn (IK) called for prayer and calls to political representatives in the move to end  
2 violence, death and destruction in Sri Lanka. Innocent civilians are being abducted and killed.  
3  
4 7. Mr. T. Michael Rock (MINN) and Mr. Kirk Moore (IL) noted *i.UCC*, the virtual community of the  
5 United Church of Christ that offers an online Bible study and prayer chapel for folk who may feel  
6 disenfranchised and want to be part of a church community.  
7  
8 8. Mr. Don Christensen (MN) made an appeal for support of Balaam’s Courier, a publication that has  
9 been part of the tradition of General Synod since 1975. He invited everyone to make a small  
10 donation.  
11  
12 9. Mr. Gayle Kinney (CONN) acknowledged himself as a union member who is proud of the United  
13 Church of Christ’s history of solidarity with workers. This solidarity prompted the move to the  
14 Civic Center’s space for General Synod. He encouraged everyone to consider the conditions of the  
15 workers that are assisting with the God Is Still Speaking material.  
16  
17 10. Ms. Janis Dasher (IS), Chaplain of the United States Air Force, asked that those who have served  
18 or will deploy with the armed serves, stand along with parents who have children who will serve  
19 in harm’s way. She invited churches to continue their prayers for peace and to extend their  
20 welcome to those returning from battle. Especially those who suffer from injuries that are not  
21 visible such as post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).  
22

23 The moderator thanked all who participated in the Speak Out!

### 24 **3. ELECTIONS**

25 Ms. Lawrence explained the stages in which elections would be completed. The first stage is the election of the  
26 Executive Minister for Wider Church Ministries and the Associate General Minister. She called upon Mr. Curtis  
27 Rueter, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Wider Church Ministries.  
28

29  
30 Mr. Rueter moved that the Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte be called by the General Synod of the United Church of Christ  
31 to a four-year term as the Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries and an Officer of the United Church of  
32 Christ.  
33

34 07-GS-17 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls the Rev. Cally Rogers-  
35 Witte to a four-year term as the Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries and an Officer of the United Church  
36 of Christ.  
37

38 Ms. Lawrence called upon Ms. Sharon MacArthur, Chairperson of the Executive Council for the election of the  
39 Associate General Minister.  
40

41 Ms. MacArthur moved that Ms. Edith Guffey be called by the General Synod of the United Church of Christ to a  
42 four-year term as Associate General Minister and an Officer of the United Church of Christ.  
43

44 07-GS-18 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls Ms. Edith Guffey to a  
45 four-year term as Associate General Minister and an Officer of the United Church of Christ.  
46

47 Ms. Lawrence called Rev. Rogers-Witte and Ms. Guffey to the stage to receive a round of applause.  
48

49 Moderator Lawrence than moved to the second stage of elections and called upon Mr. Aaron Gould, Vice  
50 Chairperson of the Executive Council. The remaining elections are for uncontested positions.  
51

52 Mr. Gould moved that the Twenty-sixth General Synod elect the nominees for the Moderators, the nominees for the  
53 Executive Council and the nominees for the Boards of Directors of Justice and Witness Ministries, Local Church  
54 Ministries and Wider Church Ministries, and the Office of General Ministries.  
55

1 07-GS-19 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod elects the nominees for the Moderators, the nominees for the  
2 Executive Council and the nominees for the Board of Directors of Justice and Witness Ministries, Local Church  
3 Ministries and Wider Church Ministries, and the Office of General Ministries.  
4

5 Mr. Gould then asked the tellers to distribute the ballots for the Nominating Committee election. Results will be  
6 announced Tuesday morning.  
7

#### 8 9 **4. RESOLUTION: RESOLUTION ON WORKER JUSTICE AT SMITHFIELD**

10 Assistant Moderator Elizabeth King called on committee chairperson Geoff Brace to present the recommended  
11 action from Committee Ten. Mr. Brace briefly described the work of the committee. This committee was one of  
12 fellowship, worship, diligence, laughter and consensus. Mr. Dennis Pittman was a welcome addition to the dialogue  
13 of the committee.  
14

15 Mr. Brace moved, on behalf of Committee Ten, that the Twenty-sixth General Synod adopt the resolution “Worker  
16 Justice at Smithfield.”  
17

18 07-GS-20 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the resolution on “Worker Justice at Smithfield” as  
19 amended by the committee.  
20

#### 21 **RESOLUTION ON WORKER JUSTICE AT SMITHFIELD**

22  
23 WHEREAS, the Smithfield Packing plant in Tar Heel, North Carolina has a history of intimidating, threatening and  
24 harassing workers who engage in organizing activities to defend their rights, improve their working conditions and  
25 ensure their wellbeing in the workplace;  
26

27 WHEREAS, Smithfield Packing continues to delay and deny justice for Smithfield workers;  
28

29 WHEREAS, the efforts of consumers, community organizations, faith-based organizations, labor organizations and  
30 legislators will continue to be critically important in bringing justice to Smithfield;  
31

32 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 26<sup>th</sup> General Synod of the United Church of Christ supports justice for  
33 workers at Smithfield Packing and, in particular, the national and local campaign, in which Justice and Witness  
34 Ministries of the United Church of Christ participates, that is designed to bring worker justice to Smithfield  
35 employees and their families;  
36

37 WE FURTHER RESOLVE, that the 26<sup>th</sup> General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges members of churches  
38 in the United Church of Christ to become informed about working conditions at Smithfield by examining the  
39 extensive background at [www.ucc.org/justice/smithfield](http://www.ucc.org/justice/smithfield);  
40

41 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the 26<sup>th</sup> General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon members of  
42 churches of the United Church of Christ, having been informed, to advocate for worker justice at Smithfield,  
43 specifically to contact the parent company, Smithfield Foods, and request that management in the Smithfield plant in  
44 Tar Heel, North Carolina, be instructed to stop, and refrain from further, abuse, intimidation and violence against  
45 their workers and to provide their workers with the same rights that other Smithfield employees enjoy in union  
46 plants: a safe place to work, essential dignity and respect, and the protection of a union contract to encourage a  
47 culture of safety and respect in the workplace.  
48

#### 49 **FUNDING**

50 Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the  
51 affected agencies and the funds available.  
52

#### 53 **5. RECOGNITION OF NEW AND RETIRING CONFERENCE MINISTERS**

54 Assistant Moderator Manz called upon Rev. Randy Hyvonen, Conference Minister of the Montana-Northern  
55 Wyoming Conference and Chairperson of the Council of Conference Ministers, to introduce those who have begun  
56 their ministries as Conference Ministers since our last General Synod.

1  
2 Rev. Hyvonen introduced the following:  
3 Rev. Kent Siladi, Florida Conference, beginning July 15  
4 Rev. Rich Pleva, Iowa Conference  
5 Rev. Jim Antal, Massachusetts Conference  
6 Rev. Karen Smith Sellers, Minnesota Conference  
7 Rev. Gary Schulte, New Hampshire conference  
8 Rev. Douglas Anders, South Central Conference  
9 Selected by the Search Committee, affirmed by the Board, yet to be called by the Conference:  
10 Rev. Robert Molsberry, Ohio Conference  
11 Rev. Sheldon Culver, Illinois South Conference

12  
13 Interim Conference Ministers:  
14 Rev. John Gantt, Central Pacific Conference  
15 Rev. Jack Richards, Florida Conference  
16 Rev. Char Burch, Missouri-Mid South Conference  
17 Rev. Phil Hart, Ohio Conference  
18 Rev. Lark Hapke, Southwest Conference

19  
20 Acting Conference Ministers:  
21 Rev. Jim Langdoc, Illinois South Conference  
22 Rev. Hollis Bredeweg, Pacific Northwest Conference

23  
24 Those concluding service;  
25 Rev. Jane Fisler-Hoffman, Illinois Conference, when her term ends in 2008  
26 Rev. Jane Heckles, Southern California Conference, December 31, 2007  
27 Rev. Dan Romero, Southern California Conference, December 31, 2007  
28

29 Mr. Manz thanked all of the above for their service to their conferences and the entire United Church of Christ.

30  
31 Rev. Hyvonen then presented the gift of a comma cross to Ms. Edith Guffey in commemoration of the work of the  
32 national staff.

### 33 34 **6. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

35 Moderator Lawrence called upon Ms. Edith Guffey for announcements.

36  
37 Ms. Guffey announced the offering from Friday's evening worship totaled \$16,000 and will be given to two local  
38 Connecticut Conference ministries: Adventures in the City, a summer multicultural enrichment camp-in-the-city for  
39 disadvantaged children and to Silver Lake Conference Center serving children and youth in the Conference for fifty  
40 years.

41  
42 Sunday's worship offering totaled \$44,000 and will be given to the Strategic Initiative Fund.  
43

### 44 **7. CELEBRATION OF THE MINISTRY OF JOE MALAYANG**

45 Ms. Guffey then introduced a time of recognition and farewell for Rev. Jose Malayang, who is leaving his work in  
46 the national office. She invited Mr. Rich Flueschtling, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Local Church  
47 Ministries, to speak on behalf of Local Church Ministries and Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte to speak on behalf of the  
48 Collegium of Officers. They led the General Synod in a service of releasing Rev. Malayang from the duties of  
49 Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries and as an Officer of the United Church of Christ. Gratitude and  
50 thankfulness was expressed for his time among us.

51  
52 Rev. Malayang offered a word of thanks and joy for the privilege of serving the United Church of Christ. He  
53 acknowledged his colleagues and ecumenical partners who nurtured him in faith, and his family who serves as a  
54 source of support and care. The service closed with prayer, led by Rev. John Thomas, General Minister and  
55 President of the United Church of Christ, and a hymn of thanksgiving.  
56

1 **8. RECESS**

2 Assistant Moderator Elizabeth King declared the Twenty-sixth General Synod to be in recess following the evening  
3 worship at 9:00 p.m.  
4

5 **The Monday evening worship service centered around a story of light.**  
6  
7

8  
9 **Tuesday Morning – June 26, 2007**

10 **Fifth Plenary Session**  
11

12 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

13 Following gathering music by Mr. Ken Medema, Moderator Lawrence called the fifth plenary session of the  
14 Twenty-sixth General Synod to order at 8:30 a.m. with an opening prayer.  
15

16 **2. SPEAK OUT!**

17 Ms. Lawrence welcomed Speak Out! participants.  
18

- 19 1. Ms. Lori Whittemore (ME) spoke of her recent work team efforts in New Orleans with Ms. Alan  
20 Coe. She invited others to participate as well by visiting the Disaster Ministry Booth.  
21
- 22 2. Ms. Joyce Watson (MONT-NO.WYO), Chairperson of the Local Church Ministries Board,  
23 announced the Board is seeking an Acting Executive Minister. For more information or  
24 applications, please respond to [lcmssearch@aol.com](mailto:lcmssearch@aol.com).  
25
- 26 3. Mr. Brian Gaudet (CONN) reminded delegates that Silver Lake Conference Camp in Connecticut  
27 was also celebrating its fiftieth anniversary.  
28
- 29 4. Mr. Earl Miller (IK) indicated Ms. Marian Wright Edelman’s speech yesterday reminded him that  
30 former President Paul Sherry had adopted a “Building a World Fit for Children” campaign during  
31 his terms of office.  
32
- 33 5. Mr. Max Surjadinata (NY) invited delegates to pray for Palestinian students who could not attend  
34 classes due to check points and increasing unrest by the Israeli government.  
35
- 36 6. Mr. Ron Trimmer (IS) indicated one hundred United Church of Christ congregations were  
37 participating in efforts to address unemployment by assisting in training over one million persons  
38 for careers in construction.  
39
- 40 7. Ms. Marja Coons-Torn (PC) read in the local Hartford newspaper that the reviews on the newly  
41 released Nintendo games celebrated appalling violence. She urged delegates to write Nintendo  
42 and for local congregations to study the issue.  
43
- 44 8. Ms. Lael Atkinson (MASS) reminded delegates of the notable phrases from key presentations.  
45 More than one thousand two hundred people marched for peace yesterday. If God Is Still  
46 Speaking, then take that message home.  
47
- 48 9. Mr. Ron Trimmer (SOC) offered a word of thanks for the return of his wallet. He expressed his  
49 appreciation for the hospitality expressed by that act of kindness and felt blessed to be here.  
50
- 51 10. Ms. Janet Stoddard (CONN) acknowledged her eight years as a campus minister in Connecticut,  
52 filled with challenges too numerous to list and many joys as well. She urged the United Church of  
53 Christ to recognize the great number of students who do not belong to any church and continue to  
54 support campus ministries.  
55

56 **3. NOMINATING COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS**

1 Moderator Lawrence thanked all of the nominees who agreed to have their names submitted for consideration, and  
2 who were willing to undertake the responsibilities of membership on the Nominating Committee. The following  
3 persons were elected:

4			
5	Lori Jamshire (HI)	Judy Jones (NY)	Gail Holmes (WI)
6	Bernard Wilson (CONN)	J. Matthew Deal (PW)	Sheldon Culver (MOMS)
7	Nora Mismangle (MN)	Ray Reed (SOC)	Nelson Spencer (SE)
8	Norma Lopez (ILL)		

9 **4. RESOLUTION: RENEWING THE COVENANT WITH THE RURAL CHURCH**

10 Assistant Moderator Elizabeth King introduced Ms. Sandra Hudson (FL), Chairperson of Committee Seven, for the  
11 introduction of resolutions from the committee. Ms. Hudson introduced the resolution “Renewing the Covenant  
12 with the Rural Church” indicating the committee had amended the original resolution prior to presentation to the  
13 delegates for vote.

14  
15 Ms. Hudson moved the adoption of the resolution “Renewing the Covenant with the Rural Church.”

16  
17 07-GS -21 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the resolution “Renewing the Covenant with the  
18 Rural Church as amended by committee.

19  
20 **RENEWING THE COVENANT WITH THE RURAL CHURCH**

21  
22 Throughout its history, the United Church of Christ has faithfully lifted up our call to respond to the needs of the  
23 poor and the marginalized. Because of this faithful awareness, significant ministries developed responding to the  
24 needs of brothers and sisters who have been overlooked because of cultural, ethnic, orientation or racial reasons.  
25 There is, however, a growing distress in Rural America, with its small towns and small congregations, as its  
26 communities fade from the landscape. This diminishing of the rural population and with it the very sense of  
27 community that has been a source of strength leaves those who remain spiritually, physically and emotionally  
28 vulnerable. Inherent with our faith is a belief that God is the source of our hope. We in the United Church of Christ  
29 acknowledge that God is experienced most fully when we are in community. Nevertheless, when that sense of  
30 community is threatened by forces beyond the reach of the residents, then the experience of God and the hope which  
31 God enables for us all is also threatened. While the United Church of Christ has sought in the past to address the  
32 predicament of the small rural congregation, its members and pastors, today there is a vast gulf between the needs of  
33 rural America and the ability of the United Church of Christ in all its settings to respond. Therefore the following  
34 resolution is offered:

35  
36 WHEREAS, over sixty percent of the churches in the United Church of Christ are located in rural areas of our  
37 country, and

38  
39 WHEREAS, many of these congregations have memberships that are near or below fifty, with an average  
40 attendance of less than thirty-five, and

41  
42 WHEREAS, Rural America is central in our basic faith about God's economy which recognizes that through the  
43 cycle of planting and harvesting, God's rich and abundant Spirit is manifested, and

44  
45 WHEREAS, the health and vitality of the rural congregations, with their historic, covenantal presence, within the  
46 body of the United Church of Christ, is as vital to the health of the entire church as any other group of  
47 congregations, (Ephesians 4:5), and

48  
49 WHEREAS, many of these small rural congregations are in communities that suffer from out-migration with  
50 declining populations that offer little or no prospect at present for numerical growth, though there are signs of a rural  
51 renaissance to which these congregations are similarly ill equipped to respond, and

52  
53 WHEREAS, many of these congregations have few young folk who can help to carry the financial or duty burden,  
54 and

55  
56 WHEREAS, these congregations frequently find themselves unable to support the usual patterns of worship,

1 Christian Education and other activities so necessary for healthy church life, and

2  
3 WHEREAS, these congregations struggle to secure pastoral leadership, and

4  
5 WHEREAS, many of these rural congregations are located in areas so isolated they provide little or no opportunity  
6 for yoking with other congregations, and

7  
8 WHEREAS, these rural congregations struggle to provide the basic components of church life, and

9 WHEREAS, having received, as fully as any other, the call to discipleship and the vision of faith filled church life,  
10 many rural congregations face their inability to fulfill their call to discipleship, because of lack of resources:

11  
12 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod recognizes the critical importance of rural  
13 ministry within the United Church of Christ.

14  
15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Synod recognizes the special needs of the significant number of  
16 churches in the United Church of Christ that are rural including the need for resources for Christian Education,  
17 small membership Sunday Schools, meaningful worship even when the numbers are very small, outreach in the  
18 midst of isolation, networking to build support, attracting pastoral leadership, and developing a vision that will  
19 guide congregations into the future; and therefore:

20  
21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Synod recognizes the need to provide leadership that will empower  
22 small membership rural congregations to address the justice issues that often go unnoticed such as rural poverty,  
23 human rights, domestic violence, youth guidance and development, economic injustice and drug and alcohol abuse;  
24 and therefore:

25  
26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Collegium of Officers will organize a task force with representation  
27 including national staff, conferences, seminaries, other educational institutions and rural churches; and therefore:

28  
29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force will establish goals and strategies to address the needs and  
30 challenges of rural churches and to identify and develop a strategy for disseminating existing resources for rural  
31 churches; and therefore:

32  
33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force report to the Executive Council at each of its meetings and that  
34 the Task Force will present its recommendations for implementation including staffing resources at the Fall 2008  
35 Executive Council; and therefore:

36  
37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Collegium will report to the Twenty-seventh General Synod on how the  
38 Collegium is responding to the needs and challenges of the Rural Churches; and therefore:

39  
40 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that through these programmatic and resource avenues the United Church of Christ  
41 will become a center for information sharing, support, and guidance for the rural congregations and the small  
42 isolated communities they serve.

43  
44 **FUNDING**

45 Funding and implementation of this resolution is to be made in accordance with the mandates and available funding  
46 of the affected agencies.

47  
48 **5. RESOLUTION: TO RECOGNIZE 2007 AS A SABBATH YEAR**

49 Ms. Lawrence invited Ms. Hudson to continue with the second resolution from Committee Seven. Ms. Hudson  
50 referred to several changes from the original resolution made during the committee process.

51  
52 Ms. Hudson moved the adoption of the resolution “To Recognize 2007 as a Sabbath Year.”

53  
54 Ms. Asher Reisman (ME) moved an amendment to line 170 “Be it further resolved that the General Synod of the  
55 United Church of Christ encourage ethical investment and business development through the continent. Further that

1 the General Synod charges the rich world to recognize its moral duty and indeed their own best interests lie in  
2 helping their African neighbors establish good governance and stable economies.”

3  
4 07-GS-22 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the amendment “Be it further resolved that the  
5 General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourage ethical investment and business development through the  
6 continent. Further that the General Synod charges the rich world to recognize its moral duty and indeed their own  
7 best interests lie in helping their African neighbors establish good governance and stable economies.”

8  
9  
10 Mr. Dan Hatch (HI) alerted the delegates that in line 138, the House Bill is listed as #1130 and should read #2634.

11  
12 07-GS-23 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the resolution “To Recognize 2007 as a Sabbath  
13 Year.”

14  
15 **TO RECOGNIZE 2007 AS A SABBATH YEAR**

16  
17 WHEREAS, the Hebrew Scriptures contain a liberating, just vision of life in community, governed by Sabbath  
18 cycles -- the Sabbath Day, the Sabbath Year, and the Jubilee Year; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, these cycles are reminders of God’s intent that all creatures enjoy fullness of life and the abundance of  
21 God’s world; and

22  
23 WHEREAS, the Sabbath Year is at the heart of Moses’ final instructions to the Hebrew people before they enter the  
24 Promised Land (Deuteronomy 15:1-18) ; and

25  
26 WHEREAS, Sabbath Year observance requires that every seven years debts are canceled and those enslaved  
27 because of debts are freed, restoring equal relations among community members and preventing exploitation in  
28 which the rich accumulate wealth at the expense of the poor; and

29  
30 WHEREAS, Jubilee Year 2000 was proclaimed across the world as a way to live out God’s call to remove extreme  
31 debt and restore balance in creation and among peoples, and the Millennium Development Goals of the UN were  
32 adopted widely as a means to achieve major poverty reduction by the year 2015, and

33  
34 WHEREAS, seven years later (2007) we are half way to the MDG goal year of 2015 and much remains to be done  
35 as poverty has increased in Sub-Saharan Africa and elsewhere, a call to action in recognizing a Sabbath Year in  
36 2007 is one way to continue earlier commitments to live out the Jubilee promises for our time; and

37  
38 WHEREAS, General Synods of the United Church of Christ, the national instrumentalities of other denominations,  
39 World Council of Churches, and many other churches and organizations have called for churches to restore right  
40 relationships by supporting the lifting of debt from heavily indebted nations; and

41  
42 WHEREAS, Jubilee USA Network is a coalition of non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations, and  
43 churches, including the United Church of Christ, whose work is education about and advocacy for debt-cancellation  
44 for impoverished and heavily indebted nations; and

45  
46 WHEREAS, the JUBILEE Act (HR 2634) was re-introduced in the U.S. Congress in March 2007 calling for total  
47 cancellation of debt for every country which meets the UN Millennium Development Goals; and

48  
49 WHEREAS, as Christians, we are commended to reveal our love for God and neighbor by our actions within the  
50 global family; and,

51  
52 WHEREAS, Wangari Mathaai and Bishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Prize winners, challenged churches and  
53 religious communities at the 2007 World Social Forum in Nairobi, Kenya by asking “*Where is the voice of the*  
54 *church? You have the numbers and the money, so why are you silent? The debt is immoral and unjust so let’s raise*  
55 *our voices to cancel the debt!*”



1 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to General Synod Twenty-six recognize and affirm 2007 as a  
2 "Sabbath Year," in response to the Biblical call to cancel debt without conditionality and proclaim Jubilee for  
3 impoverished countries today;  
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that member churches, and all settings, Associations, Conferences, and National  
6 Ministries of the United Church of Christ be encouraged to commemorate this Sabbath year and begin working  
7 towards Sabbath year 2014, by becoming "Jubilee Congregations," a program based on four simple commitments:

- 8 1. Pray for a Jubilee for the world's poorest countries.
- 9 2. Provide a Jubilee contact person who will serve as a liaison between the congregation and Jubilee USA.
- 10 3. Contribute one dollar per active member per year to Jubilee USA, the proceeds of a special collection, or  
11 another amount to be determined by the congregation.
- 12 4. Advocate for debt cancellation by sending the equivalent of one letter per active member per year to a member  
13 of Congress or the administration calling on them to "drop the debt."  
14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that churches and all settings, Associations, Conferences, and National Ministries of  
16 the United Church of Christ be invited to make Jubilee Justice a continuing part of the worship life of their  
17 congregation by holding a Jubilee Sunday service each year and to commemorate the Sabbath Year by participating  
18 in Jubilee USA's rolling, 40 day fast for debt cancellation and an end to global poverty, which will take place from  
19 September 6 – October 15, 2007; and  
20

21 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the General Synod of the UCC encourage ethical investment and business  
22 development throughout the continent. Further, that the GS charge the rich world to recognize its moral duty and  
23 indeed their own best interests lie in helping their African neighbors establish good governance and state economies.  
24

#### 25 FUNDING

26 Funding and implementation of this resolution is to be made in accordance with the mandates and available funding  
27 of the affected agencies.  
28

### 29 **6. CONTINUATION OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORT / ACTION RELATED TO PUERTO RICO** 30 **CONFERENCE**

31 Moderator Lawrence called on Ms. Sharon MacArthur, chairperson of the Executive Council, who described a brief  
32 history of activity related to the resolution adopted by the Puerto Rico Conference on June 10, 2006 to disaffiliate  
33 with the United Church of Christ. MacArthur's report also indicated the Executive Council had been visited by the  
34 General Minister of the Puerto Rico Conference, the Rev. Edward Rivera Santiago.  
35

36 Ms. MacArthur moved the adoption of "The Resolution on the Ending of the Recognition of the Iglesia Evangelica  
37 Unida de Puerto Rico as a Conference of the United Church of Christ."  
38

39 07-GS-24 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts "The Resolution on the Ending of the Recognition of  
40 the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico as a Conference of the United Church of Christ."  
41

42 Rev. John Thomas, General Minister and President, invited delegates to join him in prayer.  
43

### 44 **ENDING OF THE RECOGNITION OF THE IGLESIA EVANGELICA UNIDA DE PUERTO RICO AS A** 45 **CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST** 46

47 WHEREAS an Extraordinary Assembly of the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico (IEUPR) meeting June 10,  
48 2006, voted to "disaffiliate from the United Church of Christ," and

49 WHEREAS subsequent conversations with the leadership of the IEUPR have confirmed the desire of the church to  
50 end its historic and existing relationship with the UCC,  
51

52 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ regretfully,  
53 but respectfully, receives the action of the Extraordinary Assembly of the IEUPR to disaffiliate from the United  
54 Church of Christ; and  
55

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod acknowledges with gratitude the historic  
2 relationship of the United Church of Christ with the IEUPR, stretching back over 100 years to the ministry of the  
3 American Missionary Association; and  
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ ends its  
6 recognition of the IEUPR as a Conference of the United Church of Christ; and  
7

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod affirms the work of Local Church Ministries,  
9 the Cornerstone Fund, and Justice and Witness Ministries in facilitating a process to resolve outstanding issues  
10 related to loans, grants, mortgages, mission projects and support, and deed restrictions; and  
11

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod affirms the continued relationship of the  
13 United Church of Christ to the Seminario Evangelico de Puerto Rico and to Ryder Memorial Hospital, and requests  
14 that the Council for Health and Human Services Ministries facilitate a process to enable Ryder Memorial Hospital to  
15 retain recognition as a health and human service agency related to the United Church of Christ; and  
16

17 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod requests the Collegium of Officers to invite  
18 dialogue with the leadership of the IEUPR in the hope that a new relationship of mutuality and common mission  
19 may eventually be established between our two churches.  
20

#### 21 **7. RESOLUTION: CHANGING THE COMPOSITION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD**

22 Assistant Moderator Kevin Manz explained to delegates the procedural process involved in presenting a substitute  
23 motion and introduced Ms. Julie Peeples (SC), Chairperson of Committee Five for the presentation of the resolution  
24 entitled “Changing the Composition of the General Synod.”  
25

26 Ms. Peeples moved the adoption of the substitute motion presented by the committee entitled “Changing the  
27 Composition of the General Synod.”  
28

29 07-GS-25 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the substitute motion as presented by the committee  
30 entitled “Changing the Composition of the General Synod.”  
31

#### 32 **CHANGING THE COMPOSITION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD**

33  
34 WHEREAS the intent of the proposed resolution entitled “Changing the Composition of the General Synod” is to  
35 change the composition of the General Synod, with the goal of increasing the involvement of local churches in the  
36 General Synod, we propose the following motion:  
37

38 In order to strengthen covenantal relationships and to encourage increased participation of local churches in the  
39 work and ministry of the General Synod, while maintaining the mandates for a diverse delegation, General Synod  
40 Twenty-six directs the Executive Council to engage in a conversation with the conferences about increasing local  
41 church involvement in General Synod, including the nomination and election process for General Synod delegates,  
42 and to report back on that conversation with recommendations to General Synod Twenty-seven.  
43

#### 44 **8. RESOLUTION: A REAFFIRMATION OF MARRIAGE BASED ON THE WORD OF GOD**

45 Assistant Moderator Elizabeth King called upon Ms. Ginger Brasher-Cunningham (MASS), chairperson of  
46 Committee Three, for presentation of the recommendations of the committee.  
47

48 Ms. Brasher-Cunningham noted that no proponents of the resolution were present during the work of the committee.  
49 She further noted that one of the proponents of the resolution has since left the denomination.  
50

51 Ms. Brasher-Cunningham moved the adoption of the resolution “A Reaffirmation of Marriage Based on the Word of  
52 God” and indicated the committee recommended no action.  
53

54 Ms. King explained the consequences of a vote to take no action.  
55

56 Following discussion, Mr. Elliot Munn (ME) moved the previous question.

1  
2 07-GS-26 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod votes to close debate.  
3

4 07-GS-27 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the recommendation of the committee to take no  
5 action on the resolution “A Reaffirmation of Marriage Based on the Word of God.” (Resolution attached: Page 45.)  
6

7 A division of the house was requested and the results were 633 yes votes, 135 no votes, and 10 abstentions.

8 **9. RESOLUTION: A REAFFIRMATION OF THE HISTORIC AND ECUMENICAL CHRISTIAN**  
9 **PERSPECTIVE ON MARRIAGE**

10 Ms. Ginger Brasher-Cunningham introduced the second resolution from Committee Three.  
11

12 Ms. Brasher-Cunningham moved the adoption of the resolution “A Reaffirmation of the Historic and Ecumenical  
13 Christian Perspective on Marriage” and indicated the committee recommends no action be taken on the resolution.  
14

15 **10. ORDER OF THE DAY**

16 Assistant Moderator King indicated that we reached the order of the day. Ms. King stated the body will return to the  
17 motion on the floor later this morning.  
18

19 **11. PRESENTATION BY MS. LYNN REDGRAVE**

20 Ms. Melinda Keck (CONN) a member of First Congregational United Church of Christ, Kent, CT, along with her  
21 daughter Sara, introduced Ms. Lynn Redgrave, a member of their church.  
22

23 Ms. Redgrave gave a stirring speech about her encounter with breast cancer beginning in January 2003. She spoke  
24 warmly of the love and God’s healing grace that had been extended to her by the members of First Congregational  
25 United Church of Christ in Kent. Ms. Redgrave included photographs of her journey.  
26

27 **12. SONG BREAK**

28 Mr. Ken Medema offered a musical response to Ms. Redgrave’s presentation.  
29

30 **13. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE**

31 Rev. Steven Camp (SOC) requested a point of personal privilege to express appreciation for the results of the  
32 StillSpeaking Initiative which most effectively communicates who we are. Rev. Camp noted that it would be most  
33 appropriate for us to express our gratitude for the efforts and creative genius of Mr. Ron Buford. The delegates  
34 responded with a standing ovation for Mr. Buford.  
35

36 **14. COLLEGIUM REPORT**

37 Ms. King introduced Rev. Hans Holznagel and members of the Collegium, Rev. John Thomas, Ms. Edith Guffey,  
38 Rev. Linda Jaramillo, Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte, and Rev. Jose Malayang for the presentation of the Collegium of  
39 Officers.  
40

41 Rev. Malayang discussed the dissent and conflict within some congregations following the Twenty-fifth General  
42 Synod’s vote of marriage equality and the resources that were developed to help individuals and churches study the  
43 complex and controversial issues before the church. He also pointed out that two hundred seventy-five new  
44 congregations were received into the United Church of Christ since the year 2000, as well as the scholarship and  
45 grants available for leadership.  
46

47 Rev. Rogers-Witte talked of the expanding volunteer opportunities in the United States and overseas for pastors on  
48 sabbatical, college students, recent grads, adult professionals, young retirees and others. All of this work is done in  
49 cooperation and consultation with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), our international partners and with a  
50 variety of ministries in many settings.  
51

52 Rev. Jaramillo discussed the desolation and disrepair that continues nearly two years after Hurricane Katrina. The  
53 United Church of Christ is committed to seeking justice, as well as relief and recovery work for the long haul. Ms.  
54 Rogers-Witte also mentioned that The Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ refunded health and dental  
55 premiums to two damaged churches, gave Ministerial Assistance grants to members and made special arrangements

1 to get medicines to persons in affected areas. Gifts to Our Church’s Wider Mission – to Basic Support and the  
2 special offerings – make these many-faceted responses possible.  
3

4 Rev. John Thomas spoke of the fact that, even as total giving continues to rise in our local churches, fewer dollars  
5 are reaching the Conference and national settings of the church. He talked of the streamlining and/or reshaping of  
6 management and governance structures. A team of representatives from each body affected has met several times to  
7 see if there is a way to reconcile varied viewpoints. He is hopeful that a creative proposal will be developed that all  
8 can embrace.  
9

10 Ms. Guffey talked of the continuation of work carried on by each of our national ministries, even in the face of  
11 declining dollars. The production of resources, our liaison work with the conferences, our relationships with  
12 ecumenical partners, personnel, archives, and General Synod, to name a few, continue to occur through the Office of  
13 General Ministries. All of this, and more, is part of Our Church’s Wider Mission National Basic Support and the  
14 four special mission offerings.  
15

16 The Collegium was thanked with applause.  
17

#### 18 **15. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL INCLUDING BUDGET PRESENTATION AND VOTE**

19 Assistant Moderator Kevin Manz introduced Mr. Don Paterson who introduced Mr. Jim Moos for the Adoption of  
20 the Biennial budget.  
21

22 Mr. Moos moved, on behalf of the Executive Council, that the Twenty-sixth General Synod adopt a national Basic  
23 Support allocation based on \$9.5 million and \$9.75 million for the budget years 2008 and 2009, respectively.  
24

25 07-GS-28 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts a national Basic Support allocation based on \$9.5  
26 million and \$9.75 million for the budget years 2008 and 2009, respectively.  
27

28 Mr. Moos moved, on behalf of the Executive Council, that the Twenty-sixth General Synod delegate the  
29 determination of the percentage allocation for Our Church’s Wider Mission National Basic Support for the 2008-  
30 2009 biennium to the Executive Council.  
31

32 07-GS-29 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the recommendation that the determination of the  
33 percentage allocation for Our Church’s Wider Mission National Basic Support for the 2008-2009 biennium be made  
34 by the Executive Council.  
35

#### 36 **16. RESOLUTION: A REAFFIRMATION OF THE HISTORIC AND ECUMENICAL CHRISTIAN** 37 **PERSPECTIVE ON MARRIAGE**

38 Assistant Moderator Elizabeth King indicated it was time to return to the motion from Committee Three made by  
39 Ms. Brasher-Cunningham. Ms. Brasher-Cunningham had moved the adoption of the resolution “A Reaffirmation of  
40 the Historic and Ecumenical Christian Perspective on Marriage” and per her Committee’s recommendation,  
41 suggested no action be taken on the resolution.  
42

43 Mr. Robert Thompson, representing the Faithful and Welcoming Churches, supported the committee’s  
44 recommendation and stated that as a conservative member of the United Church of Christ, he felt more welcomed at  
45 this General Synod than ever before and expressed his gratitude to the delegates.  
46

47 Mr. Jim Craig (KO) called the question.  
48

49 07-GS-30 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the recommendation of the committee to take no  
50 action of the resolution “A Reaffirmation of the Historic and Ecumenical Christian Perspective on Marriage.”  
51 (Resolution attached: Page 46.)  
52

#### 53 **17. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPORT ON** 54 **ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM**

55 Moderator Lawrence called on Mr. Carlos Correa for a report on the twentieth anniversary of the Report on  
56 Environmental Racism. Mr. Correa indicated that before 1985, nobody had heard anything about environmental  
57

1 racism. The study was implemented to look at the inequality of community racism issues faced by African  
2 Americans, Latin Americans and Pacific Islanders. Mr. Correa introduced a video and a report from a National  
3 Press Club presentation on the issue.  
4

#### 5 **18. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE**

6 Ms. King called on Ms. Reta Fiero from the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries who requested that  
7 sticks be made available to those with disabilities so moderators can be alerted to those persons when they wish to  
8 speak.  
9

#### 10 **19. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

11 Ms. Edith Guffey offered the following announcements.  
12

13 Thanks to all participants who were involved in a wide variety of service projects on Monday morning.  
14

15 There will be DVD's available of many of the presentations. Order forms will be on-line.  
16

17 The difficulties with housing at the University of Hartford have been resolved.  
18

19 Ms. Linda Jaramillo invited those who have been challenged and moved by Ms. Marian Wright-Edelman to stand in  
20 solidarity with our children this evening at worship. In addition to the monetary offering at this evening's worship,  
21 delegates were invited to also write a letter or card to their congress person regarding our concerns.  
22

23 Ms. Guffey expressed deep appreciation to Mr. Ken Medema for his musical presentations.  
24

#### 25 **20. RECESS**

26 Moderator Lawrence declared the fifth plenary session concluded.  
27

28 **Tuesday Afternoon -- June 26, 2007**

29 **Sixth Plenary Session**  
30

#### 31 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

32 Assistant Moderator Kevin Manz called the sixth plenary session of the Twenty-sixth General Synod to order at  
33 2:30 p.m.  
34

35 Mr. Manz thanked the youth stewards from the Connecticut Conference for their outstanding assistance during the  
36 meeting.  
37

#### 38 **2. SPEAK OUT!**

39 Mr. Manz welcomed the final Speak Out! participants.  
40

- 41 1. Ms. Linda Roosa (PNE) shared her concern for children and adults involved in the global slave  
42 trade. She recommended the book entitled "The Global Slave Trade and How You Can Help."  
43
- 44 2. Mr. David Clark (MASS) offered thanks to those who have accommodated and have been willing  
45 to work with those who have special needs.  
46
- 47 3. Mr. Laverne Joseph (CA NV, S) spoke of the need for affordable housing for all. He encouraged  
48 everyone to contact their congressmen and express concern before a bill is introduced in Congress.  
49
- 50 4. Ms. Mary James (NH) talked about the United Church of Christ partnership with the United  
51 Church of Zimbabwe. She reminded everyone of the current state of human injustice,  
52 unemployment and deaths related to AIDS and malaria in Zimbabwe.  
53
- 54 5. Ms. Jean Souther (MASS) asked everyone to consider being a mission volunteer and to give to  
55 Our Church's Wider Mission which is the major source of income for Global Ministries,  
56 missionaries and their work.

- 1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37
6. Mr. Cody Long (PNE) spoke of youth and young adult ministry and mission affiliated with Lancaster Theological Seminary. The group has raised over \$30,000 for the Lesotho Child Counseling Unit in Africa, which works with orphans and those with AIDS. Cody urged everyone to help with these efforts..
  7. Mr. Ryan Mathews (OHIO) thanked Ms. Edith Guffey, our national staff members and American Medical Response for their work in transporting persons with disabilities. The staff, assisted by AMR serves as testimony to the extravagant welcome and hospitality of the United Church of Christ.
  8. Mr. Bob Inderbitzen (CONN) reported the members of the Connecticut Conference had provided 14,000 dozen cookies for the delegates' enjoyment and told everyone to "take some home."
  9. Ms. Debra Parson (KO) spoke of the work being done at the Evangelical Children's Home in St. Louis, which serves homeless and at-risk youth. She asked for prayers and financial support.
  10. Mr. William Wildman (ME) issued a challenge and goal for the Twenty-seventh General Synod to do something about seminarian loan debt relief. He intends to work toward a pronouncement that addresses debt relief.
  11. Mr. William Hendrick (CAC) spoke of how much hotel management values its employees. We should be careful not to alienate hotel management who identify with the values of the United Church of Christ. While unions are necessary in some hotels, there are many non-union hotels that treat staff well and pay decent wages.
  12. Mr. Christopher Jenkins (MASS) requested the United Church of Christ reach out to the main stream press so the general public is more aware of who we are.
  13. Ms. Olgha Sandman (IL) brought words of gratitude for the faithful support of the Immokalee Farm Workers Ministry. This ministry won agreement with McDonalds and continues to work with Burger King until justice is accomplished for its workers.
  14. Ms. Mary Brownlow (VT) talked of the desire of the Iranian people for peace and how they have been hijacked by their government.

38 Assistant Moderator Manz thanked all of the Speak Out! participants.

39  
40 **3. RESOLUTION: A CALL FOR A MORE HUMANE US IMMIGRATION POLICY; END MIGRANT**  
41 **DEATHS; SUPPORT IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES**

42 Mr. Manz called on Mr. Rodney Sutton, chairperson of Committee Two, for the introduction of resolutions from the  
43 committee.

44  
45 Mr. Sutton introduced the resolution "A Call for a More Humane US Immigration Policy; End Migrant Deaths;  
46 Support Immigrant Communities. " He referenced the grammar correction in line 282 deleting the word "neither"  
47 and replacing the word "nor" with "and." He then moved the adoption of the resolution. Mr. Sutton then invited  
48 Ms. Lara Westby to speak to the resolution.  
49

50 Ms. Phyllis Evelyn (MA) moved to amend the resolution on line 314 to delete the word "and" and add the words  
51 "and families facing or in the deportation process."  
52

53 07-GS-31 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the amendment on line 314 to delete the word "and"  
54 and add the words "and families facing or in the deportation process."  
55

1 Mr. William Sawyer (NH) Mr. Mark Furnalt moved amendments to the resolution. Those amendments were  
2 defeated.

3  
4 Following discussion, Mr. Al Thompson (MN) moved the previous question.

5  
6 07-GS-32 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod voted to close debate.

7  
8 07-GS-33 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the resolution “A Call for a More Humane US  
9 Immigration Policy; End Migrant Deaths; Support Immigrant Communities” as amended.

10  
11 **A CALL FOR A MORE HUMANE US IMMIGRATION POLICY; END MIGRANT DEATHS; SUPPORT**  
12 **IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES**

13  
14 WHEREAS, Jesus and the scriptures give us clear instruction on how we are to treat the foreigner and neighbors in  
15 need; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, the Biblical heritage of the Judeo Christian tradition specifically identifies the “stranger” in our midst  
18 as deserving of our love and compassion; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, we have been called by the one God to tear down all the borders we have built between us so that we  
21 may see each person as a child of God, so that we may learn to love and welcome all of God’s children as members  
22 of one family and one world; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, our consciences are affronted by federal policies and actions that detain immigrants, that prosecute  
25 undocumented workers, that fracture families and prosecute those who would give them aid; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, more than 3,000 men, women and children have died attempting to cross the US/Mexico border since  
28 the implementation of the blockade strategy of border enforcement and there is little evidence that this policy has  
29 been effective in slowing the tide of illegal immigration; and

30  
31 WHEREAS, many of us are in local churches and communities where we are aware of migrant peoples, but largely  
32 unaware of their personal, communal, and national stories; and

33  
34 WHEREAS, the United States is affected by the presence of new immigrants from all over the world, and

35  
36 WHEREAS, although countries have the right to control their own borders, it is not an absolute right; the Church  
37 recognizes a basic God given right for shelter, food, clean water and other basic necessities; and

38  
39 WHEREAS, the blockade strategy of border enforcement has created an underground market for the smuggling of  
40 human beings which exploits its vulnerable victims, and has encouraged an upsurge in vigilante activities, fosters an  
41 anti-immigrant atmosphere and represents the potential for violence; and

42  
43 WHEREAS, current immigration policy forces upon migrant families potentially deadly choices which separate and  
44 dislocate them from one another, precluding free travel and mobility to return to their families; and

45  
46 WHEREAS, migrant workers and their families enter the United States to live and work, and the current  
47 immigration policy makes that passage dangerous, illegal, disorderly, and inhumane, with very few of the basic  
48 rights afforded to all workers under international law; and

49  
50 WHEREAS, approximately ten to twelve million undocumented workers and their families currently living in the  
51 United States are pressured to live covertly, without rights, and in vulnerable situations all over the United States;  
52 and

53  
54 WHEREAS, the root causes of this migration lie in environmental, economic, and trade inequities between the  
55 United States, Mexico, and all of Latin America, policies which reduce tariffs and taxes that would support the poor  
56 in Mexico and Latin America; eliminate agricultural subsidies and low-interest loans for the poor in Mexico and

1 Latin America while keeping those subsidies in the United States and in Canada; reduce social spending for health  
2 care, food stamps, and welfare reform in Mexico and Latin America; liberalize land ownership policies, thus  
3 limiting the ability of the poor in Mexico and Latin America to own or share in the land; deregulate environmental  
4 and labor laws in Mexico and Latin America; and limit the rights of Mexican and Latin American workers to protest  
5 or seek remedies for wrongs done to them; and  
6

7 WHEREAS, the fragile desert environment has sustained severe damage as a result of migrant and responding  
8 enforcement patrols moving through remote desert regions; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, General Synod XIII of the United Church of Christ (1981) adopted a Pronouncement on Immigration  
11 calling upon all settings of the church to:

- 12 a. advocate for the rights of immigrants;
- 13 b. aid undocumented immigrants in attaining legal status;
- 14 c. aid immigrants in reunification with their families and in placement in areas  
15 of the country most favorable for their productive participation in society;
- 16 d. assist in meeting the social welfare needs of immigrants; and
- 17 e. be inclusive of immigrants in existing and new churches; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, General Synod XXIV of the United Church of Christ adopted a resolution supporting Humane Borders,  
20 a faith-based group that offers assistance to those in need by maintaining water stations on and near the border and  
21 recognizing that there is more that can be done within and by the United Church of Christ regarding border issues;  
22 and  
23

24 WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ proudly declares an extravagant welcome to all who seek to be in  
25 relationship with Jesus Christ;  
26

27 THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that General Synod Twenty-six of the United Church of Christ declares that  
28 the Militarized Border Enforcement Strategy of the United States government has been ineffective and inhumane.  
29

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UCC congregations with their congressional representatives, advocate for a  
31 policy that allows immigrant workers and their families to live and work in a safe, legal, orderly and humane manner  
32 through an Employment-Focused immigration program (as opposed to employer focused) that guarantees basic  
33 international workers' rights to organization, collective bargaining, job portability, religious freedom, easy and safe  
34 travel between the United States and their homeland, achievable and verifiable paths to residency, and a basic  
35 human right of mobility.  
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the conference ministers be urged to participate in delegations and immersion  
38 programs, and that UCC congregations seek out opportunities for face to face dialogue with immigrant communities.  
39

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the congregations and pastors of the UCC study the immigration issue through  
41 discussion and reflection of films such as "El Norte" and "Babel" and books such as "The Devil's Highway" by Luis  
42 Alberto Urrea.  
43

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that congregations and pastors form grass roots organizations working in  
45 conjunction with established groups such as:

- 46 • Border Links
- 47 • Presbyterian Border Ministry
- 48 • Samaritan Patrols
- 49 • Illinois Maya Ministry
- 50 • The New Sanctuary Movement
- 51 • Center for Education and Social Transformation  
52

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that General Synod XXVI urges the Covenanted Ministries of the UCC and the  
54 various settings of the Church to seek opportunities for building and participating in existing interfaith coalitions and  
55 partnering with global and U.S. organizations/institutions that advocate for justice and provide services for those in



1 the undocumented community most in need, e.g. abandoned immigrant children, abused women, and families facing  
2 or in the deportation process.

3  
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we reaffirm the action of General Synod XIII on the resolution JUSTICE IN  
5 IMMIGRATION and General Synod XXIV resolution supporting HUMANE BORDERS.

6  
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that General Synod XXVI calls upon the leaders of Conferences, Associations and  
8 congregations to extend an extravagant welcome and radical hospitality to and continue to minister and care for all  
9 who come to our doors.

10 FUNDING

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

13  
14 **4. RESOLUTION: RETURNING TO UNITY AND DIVERSITY IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

15 Assistant Moderator Elizabeth King called on Ms. Lisa Gardner, chairperson of Committee Four, to present the  
16 committee's resolution.

17  
18 On behalf of Committee Four Ms. Gardner moved the adoption of the resolution "Returning to Unity and Diversity  
19 in the United Church of Christ" and recommended no action be taken.

20  
21 07-GS-34 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod voted to take no action on the resolution "Returning to Unity  
22 and Diversity in the United Church of Christ." (Resolution attached: Page 46)

23  
24 **5. RESOLUTION: REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO COVENANTAL RELATIONSHIPS**

25 Moderator Lawrence again called upon Ms. Lisa Gardner. Ms. Gardner introduced the resolution "Reaffirming our  
26 Commitment to Covenantal Relationships" and moved its adoption as amended by the committee.

27  
28 07-GS-35 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the resolution "Reaffirming our Commitment to  
29 Covenantal Relationships," as amended by the committee.

30  
31 **REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO COVENANTAL RELATIONSHIPS**

32  
33 WHEREAS, 2007 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United Church of Christ, and

34  
35 WHEREAS, the occasion of the founding of the United Church of Christ was preceded with extensive discussions,  
36 prayer, scholarship, research, and negotiations to establish a common vision for this new venture in Christianity, and

37  
38 WHEREAS our forebears came to an agreement known as The Basis of Union with Interpretations and summarized  
39 the faith of our denomination in the Statement of Faith, and

40  
41 WHEREAS, Jesus prayed in John 17:21 "that they may all be one" and these words have been the official motto of  
42 the United Church of Christ, and

43 WHEREAS, the Twenty-fifth General Synod reaffirmed that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior and the representation  
44 of that central faith tenet by our symbol, and

45  
46 WHEREAS, it is our desire that the United Church of Christ continue to reflect theological diversity that includes  
47 members and churches who consider themselves to be evangelical, conservative, orthodox, or traditional (ECOT) as  
48 well as centrist, progressive, and liberal,

49  
50 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod, meeting in Hartford, Connecticut,  
51 reaffirms the Basis of Union with Interpretations and the Preamble to the United Church of Christ constitution as  
52 ongoing valued and cherished testimonies of faith that guide our common life and identity in the United Church of  
53 Christ, and under the ongoing guidance of the Holy Spirit, and commends these documents for review, reflection,  
54 and study at all levels of the church.  
55

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod calls upon all settings of the church to  
2 consider prayerfully its policies and statements in terms of their impact on the unity and future of local churches,  
3 associations, and conferences in the UCC.  
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod recognizes and affirms the efforts of those  
6 among us who are encouraging all members and all churches to remain in the United Church of Christ and to  
7 increase covenantal partnerships through giving to the wider church, by sharing joys and concerns, and by  
8 participating in every aspect of denominational life.  
9

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod acknowledges the existence of a broad  
11 spectrum of thought on contemporary issues of theology and ethics, and advocates fair representation of all points of  
12 view in all settings of the United Church of Christ.  
13

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-Sixth General Synod urges Association, Conference and General  
15 Synod meetings to welcome speakers, displays and educational opportunities that exemplify an openness to the wide  
16 range of ministries and theological diversity in our churches.  
17

#### 18 FUNDING

19 Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the  
20 affected agencies and the funds available.  
21

### 22 **6. RESOLUTION: LEGALIZATION OF PHYSICIAN AID IN DYING**

23 Assistant Moderator Kevin Manz called upon Ms. Liza Torres, chairperson of Committee Six, to introduce the  
24 resolutions from that committee.  
25

26 Ms. Torres introduced the resolution “Legalization of Physician Aid in Dying” and moved its adoption, as amended  
27 by the committee.  
28

29 Ms. Martha Jacobs (Chaplain) offered a friendly amendment adding “professional” before United Church of Christ  
30 Chaplains. The amendment was accepted by the committee.  
31

32 Rev. John Thomas (OHIO) posed a question to the committee chair, asking to support the study of the proposal. He  
33 then suggested a punctuation change as a friendly amendment. The change was accepted by the chair as part of the  
34 text.  
35

36 Following additional discussion, Ms. Christina Kukock (MN) moved the previous question.  
37

38 07-GS-36 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod votes to close debate on the resolution “Legalization of  
39 Physician Aid in Dying.”  
40

41 07-GS-37 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the resolution “Legalization of Physician Aid in  
42 Dying,” as amended by the committee.  
43

### 44 **LEGALIZATION OF PHYSICIAN AID IN DYING**

45  
46 WHEREAS, life is both a sacred and a perishable gift from God;  
47

48 WHEREAS, God intends that created life be more than simply the existence of a human organism (John 10:10);  
49

50 WHEREAS faith sees death as a door into another room in God’s house (John 14: 2,3,19);  
51

52 WHEREAS, compassion—love acted out—flows from the heart of God and through God’s children  
53 (Luke 10: 25-37);  
54

55 WHEREAS, from the beginning of our lives to life everlasting, God leads us, sustains us, and is always with us  
56 (Psalm 139: 7-12);

1  
2 WHEREAS, medical technology, pain management and palliative care have made great advances, yet some persons  
3 still face intolerable suffering during a terminal illness;  
4

5 WHEREAS, the Ninth General Synod and the Eighteenth General Synod both passed end-of-life choice resolutions  
6 entitled “Rights and Responsibilities of Christians Regarding Human Death,” which did not address the issue of  
7 physician aid in dying;  
8

9 WHEREAS, other faith communities have addressed end-of-life issues over the past 20 years;  
10 WHEREAS, Oregon in 1997 passed a “Death with Dignity Act” permitting a mentally capable, dying adult to  
11 request and receive from a physician a prescription to hasten death if the patient finds his or her suffering to be  
12 unbearable, but only if strict and specific safeguards are followed;  
13

14 WHEREAS, in Oregon since 1997 there have been no incidents of abuse of this law, and its use has been a rare  
15 choice, since the will to live is the greatest safeguard there is, yet thousands who will never use the law to hasten  
16 their own death are comforted to know that this choice is legally available if they should be among the few who  
17 need it and choose it;  
18

19 WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court has affirmed Oregon’s right to have such a law;  
20

21 WHEREAS, many physicians, religious leaders, dying patients and family members strongly support physician aid  
22 in dying with strong safeguards to prevent abuse;  
23

24 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod calls upon the local churches, conferences,  
25 and Justice and Witness Ministries in consultation with UCC Disabilities Ministries, Council for Health and Human  
26 Service Ministries (CHHSM), UCC Professional Chaplains and Counselors, UCC Faith Community Nurses and  
27 Physicians to study the following proposal and report their views through Justice and Witness Ministries to the  
28 Twenty-seventh General Synod for further consideration and action:  
29

30 That on the grounds of compassion and choice, if strict safeguards to prevent abuse are followed, a terminally ill and  
31 mentally competent adult should have a legal right to request and receive medication from a willing physician to  
32 hasten death if the patient finds his or her suffering to be unbearable.  
33

#### 34 FUNDING

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

#### 38 **7. RESOLUTION: A CALL FOR SOLIDARITY WITH THE PERSECUTED IN THE PHILIPPINES,** 39 **AND AN END TO EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLINGS AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

40 Moderator Merlyn Lawrence called on Ms. Sarah Frische-Mouri, chairperson of Committee Eight, for the  
41 introduction of resolutions from the committee.  
42

43 Ms. Frische-Mouri moved the adoption of the resolution “A Call for Solidarity with the Persecuted in the  
44 Philippines, and an End to Extra-Judicial Killings and Other Human Rights Violations,” as amended by the  
45 committee.  
46

47 Ms. Jelani McGadney (MI) moved an amendment to strike lines 126 and 127 from the resolution:  
48 “future military appropriations from the United States to the Philippines should be conditional . . . “ and to change to  
49 “any future appropriations from the United States of America should be conditional on . . . “  
50

51 Following discussion, a motion was made to close debate.  
52

53 07-GS-38 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod votes to close debate on the amendment.  
54

1 07-GS-39 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the amendment to strike lines 126 and 127 from the  
2 resolution: “future military appropriations from the United States to the Philippines should be conditional . . . “ and  
3 to change to “any future appropriations from the United States of America should be conditional on . . . “  
4

5 Ms. Jelani McGadney then moved a second amendment to the resolution to strike lines 133 and 134:  
6 “military appropriations be conditional upon demonstrated promotion of human rights . . .” and replace with  
7 “any appropriations to the Filipino Government be conditional upon demonstrated promotion of human rights.”  
8

9 07-GS-40 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the amendment by general consent.  
10

11 07-GS-41 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the resolution “A Call for Solidarity with the  
12 Persecuted in the Philippines, and an End to Extra-Judicial Killings and Other Human Rights Violations.”  
13

14 **A CALL FOR SOLIDARITY WITH THE PERSECUTED IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND AN END TO**  
15 **EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLINGS AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**  
16

17 WHEREAS, More than 800 people have been murdered in extra-judicial killings in the Philippines over the past 5  
18 years, and nearly 200 people have been forcibly abducted, with none of these cases solved;  
19

20 WHEREAS, Those who have been killed or disappeared have been involved in work for economic and political  
21 justice within the legal framework, yet characterized by the Philippine government as *destabilizers* and *enemies of*  
22 *the state*;  
23

24 WHEREAS, Our sisters and brothers of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, are subject, as are most of  
25 the citizens of the Philippines, to a culture of repression and terror, and additionally live and work with the  
26 awareness that 16 of the 27 religious workers killed to date [March, 2007] have been members of the UCCP;  
27

28 WHEREAS, \$179.6 million has been provided by the U.S. government to the Philippines, from 2001-2004 “to equip  
29 security forces” [See GAO report, July, 2005] with then-assistant U.S. Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz  
30 referring to the Philippines as the “Second Front in the War on Terror” [See on-line *AsiaTimes*, May, 2003];  
31

32 WHEREAS, in a country where basic needs for health care, public education, and gainful employment are  
33 neglected, the Philippine government has allocated \$208 million for military hardware upgrades to combat  
34 insurgency;  
35

36 WHEREAS, As people of faith we cry out to the Most High to “*listen and do justice for the vulnerable and the*  
37 *oppressed, so that mortals may bring terror no more;*”  
38

39 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that General Synod XXVI calls upon The General Minister and President  
40

- 41 • to communicate to the United States Congress that future appropriations from the United States of America  
42 to the Philippines should be conditional on the demonstrated promotion of human rights through effective  
43 prosecution, trial and appropriate punishment of those alleged to perpetrate, assist, tolerate or are otherwise  
44 responsible for human rights violations against civilian populations;  
45
- 46 • to encourage Wider Church Ministries, Justice and Witness Ministries, Conferences, and Local Churches to  
47 advocate that any appropriations to the Filipino Government be conditional upon demonstrated promotion  
48 of human rights;  
49
- 50 • to ask individual members of the United Church of Christ, U.S.A., and Local Churches to pray for our  
51 partner church, the United Church of Christ, Philippines, in this time of upheaval, and to understand and be  
52 ultimately concerned for the economic, political, and religious dynamics of the country;  
53
- 54 • to invite our ecumenical partners in the United States to join us in denouncing the extrajudicial killings and  
55 forced disappearances in the Philippines;  
56

- 1 • to call upon Philippines President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to stop the executions and violence and call the  
2 perpetrators into account under the law;  
3  
4 • to call upon U.S. President George W. Bush to reconsider his 2003 description of the Philippines as a  
5 “model of democracy” and to pursue the realization of democratic rule in the Philippines;  
6  
7 • to maintain supportive communication with the UCCP;  
8  
9

10 Wider Church Ministries

- 11  
12 • to encourage mission partnerships between Conferences and the UCCP;  
13  
14 • to maintain supportive communication with the UCCP;  
15  
16 • to provide and disseminate information on the current state of the Philippines to Local Churches &  
17 Conferences;  
18

19 Justice & Witness Ministries

- 20  
21 • to call upon U.S. government agencies and elected representatives to examine the links between U.S. funds  
22 and the violence and repression in the Philippines;  
23  
24 • to identify, through Justice and Peace Network communications, legislators who could be called upon to  
25 provide leadership in addressing policy and funding issues pertinent to the violations of human rights in the  
26 Philippines;  
27  
28 • to provide information and resources to raise awareness in Local Churches;  
29

30 Conferences

- 31  
32 • to express support and solidarity with the members of the UCCP in living out Jesus Christ’s Gospel  
33 message, particularly in promoting economic justice. (Luke 4:18-19);  
34  
35 • to establish linkages (dialogue, conversations, programs, etc.) toward mission partnerships with the UCCP.  
36

37 Local Churches

- 38  
39 • to seek out and employ avenues of advocacy for those persecuted in the Philippines;  
40  
41 • to prayerfully consider forming personal relationships with members of UCCP in affected areas for support  
42 and solidarity.  
43

44 FUNDING

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 **8. ACTION RELATED TO THE STILLSPEAKING INITIATIVE**

49 Assistant Moderator Kevin Manz called upon Mr. Aaron Gould, Vice Chairperson of the Executive Council, to  
50 present an action related to the StillSpeaking Initiative.  
51

52 Mr. Gould stated that in 1999 an action was taken that stated: “Through the Strengthen the Church offering we will  
53 share in the growth and future of the United Church of Christ through its local congregations and conferences. We  
54 will further our commitment to be a multi-racial/multi-cultural church, accessible to all. We will strengthen and

1 renew existing congregations and fund leadership for new congregations. We will provide for exciting new  
2 programs for youth and young adults and fund leadership development for the whole church.”  
3

4 On behalf of the Executive Council, Mr. Gould moved that the Twenty-sixth General amend this action by adding a  
5 final sentence that will read: “We will provide support for the StillSpeaking Initiative,” and authorize Local Church  
6 Ministries and the Office of General Ministries to design a formula that continues to support the ministries currently  
7 receiving funding from the national share of Strengthen the Church and provides for the StillSpeaking Initiative to  
8 receive funding from increased giving to Strengthen the Church.  
9

10 Following discussion, a motion was made to close debate.

11 07-GS-42 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod votes to close debate.  
12

13 07-GS-43 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod votes to amend the 1999 action taken with regard to the  
14 Strengthen the Church offering by adding a final sentence that will read: “We will provide support for the  
15 StillSpeaking Initiative,” and authorize Local Church Ministries and the Office of General Ministries to design a  
16 formula that continues to support the ministries currently receiving funding from the national share of Strengthen the  
17 Church and provides for the StillSpeaking Initiative to receive funding from increased giving to Strengthen the  
18 Church.  
19

20 Following the above vote, a motion was made and seconded that called for a Division of the House. The final vote  
21 total was: 384 yes – 286 no – 89 abstentions.  
22

23 Assistant Moderator Elizabeth King led the delegates in prayer following the vote.  
24

25 Assistant Moderator Manz thanked Mr. Gould and called upon Ms. Marilyn Dubasek, who gave a report on the  
26 StillSpeaking Initiative.  
27

28 Ms. Dubasek reported that in only three years, approximately sixty percent of our members are in congregations that  
29 claim the brand of the United Church of Christ – that is “No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey,  
30 you’re welcome here.” She stated we are not the same church we were three years ago. God is still speaking, and  
31 God has awakened and breathed life into this movement, this spirit and commitment in us. It is not short term. It’s  
32 not fragile. And it’s not going away. She asked that everyone not underestimate what God can do, what our church  
33 can do, what we can do. Imagine success. Plan for it. Pray for it. Keep at it. Be thankful to God. Be the people  
34 the future demands. Be the United Church of Christ, where God is still speaking.  
35

36 Mr. Manz thanked Ms. Dubasek on behalf of the General Synod and the whole church for the work she and her staff  
37 have done in the StillSpeaking effort.  
38

39 Rev. Linda Jaramillo spoke on behalf of the Collegium and expressed gratitude to Ms. Dubasek and Mr. Ron  
40 Buford, whose passion, vision and hard work as the StillSpeaking director gave this effort voice and personality  
41 across our church. She also thanked the Executive Council, boards of the covenanted ministries, conferences, our  
42 StillSpeaking churches and individuals who visited our churches and who took a chance with us. She stated that the  
43 Executive Council approved a plan that returns direction for the StillSpeaking Initiative to the Proclamation, Identity  
44 and Communication Ministry Team and implements a comprehensive fundraising plan.  
45

46 Mr. Phil Porter and Ms. Valerie Tutson then introduced new StillSpeaking radio and television commercials.  
47 The presentation was followed by a musical selection from Mr. Ken Medema.  
48

49 Assistant Moderator Manz asked the delegates what their desire was about extending the order of business so that all  
50 resolutions could be considered. A motion was then made and seconded that the agenda be extended until business  
51 is completed.  
52

53 07-GS-44 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod votes to extend the agenda until business is completed.  
54

55 Mr. Manz thanked the delegates for their dedication.  
56

1 **9. RESOLUTION: AGAINST DEPLETED URANIUM WEAPONS**

2 Assistant Moderator Manz called upon Ms. Carol Stanley, chairperson of Committee Nine, for the introduction of  
3 business from that committee.  
4

5 Ms. Stanley introduced the resolution "Against Depleted Uranium Weapons" and moved its adoption, as rewritten  
6 by the committee. Rev. Ino Limvere (NOPL) spoke to the resolution.  
7

8 07-GS-45 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod votes to adopt the resolution "Against Depleted Uranium  
9 Weapons" as rewritten by the committee.  
10

11 **AGAINST DEPLETED URANIUM WEAPONS**

12  
13 WHEREAS, the United States government has admitted to the use of depleted uranium weapons in Iraq and  
14 Afghanistan AND

15  
16 WHEREAS, the Parliament of the European Union has on March 13, 2003, passed a resolution to request a  
17 moratorium on the use of depleted uranium weapons AND

18  
19 WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut and Louisiana have passed laws to test for the presence of radiation in their  
20 veterans from the effects of exposure to depleted uranium; AND

21  
22 WHEREAS, the uranium oxide depleted uranium created by the explosion of these weapons on impact remains  
23 radioactive and harmful for billions of years; AND

24  
25 WHEREAS, the Pentagon has recently stated that they will not clean up depleted uranium from weapons used in  
26 Iraq; AND

27  
28 WHEREAS, such radioactive weapons including depleted uranium arguably violates the Geneva Conventions on  
29 warfare; AND

30  
31 WHEREAS, the use of depleted uranium violates the historic injunctions of the Christian tradition for the conduct of  
32 a "just war" AND

33  
34 WHEREAS, numerous recent books and websites have pointed to the dangers of depleted uranium weapons for  
35 human health; AND

36  
37 WHEREAS, Jesus in Matthew, Chapter 7, Verse 12 has given us the Golden Rule not to do to our neighbor what  
38 we would not want done to us, and to befriend the victim, and because we would not want any part of the world to  
39 become contaminated with depleted uranium particles that have the potential to cause cancer and genetic mutations  
40 in victims for thousands of years;

41  
42 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, deplores  
43 the use of depleted uranium weapons in recent conflicts in Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq, AND

44  
45 LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod calls for a world-wide freeze on the  
46 production of depleted uranium, sale and use of depleted uranium weapons, AND

47  
48 LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod calls for an internationally acceptable  
49 study of the long-term health effects of battle-generated depleted uranium on our veterans and on the affected  
50 citizens in other countries.

51  
52 LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that we call on the United States government to be mandated to provide health  
53 care to members of our armed forces who have been exposed to the effects of depleted uranium weapons.  
54

55 FUNDING

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 **10. INVITATION TO THE TWENTH-SEVENTH GENERAL SYNOD.**

5 Moderator Merlyn Lawrence called upon Rev. Kent Ulery, Michigan Conference Minister, and Ms. Dianne Roberts,  
6 co-chair of the host committee, to invite delegates to the Twenty-seventh General Synod in Grand Rapids.  
7

8 **11. REPORT ON COMMUNITY GROUPS**

9 Moderator Lawrence invited Mr. Phil Porter to report on the community groups.  
10

11 **12. THANKS AND RECOGNITION**

12 Moderator Lawrence called on Ms. Edith Guffey to thank the Connecticut Conference Local Arrangements  
13 Committee and volunteers. Ms. Guffey invited the Local Arrangements Committee to the stage for a round of  
14 applause.  
15

16 Ms. Guffey reported the total registration for the Twenty-sixth General Synod as 9,089 persons. She also noted  
17 receipt of a letter from the service employees union that offered thanks for the United Church of Christ's support of  
18 workers and their right to organize.  
19

20 Rev. John Thomas reviewed the agenda change that required an adjustment to the worship schedule. He noted the  
21 offering would be in support of Our Church's Wider Mission. He also indicated there would be an opportunity for  
22 anointing and everyone attending worship would receive a light as part of the worship service.  
23

24 **13. SECOND REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

25 Ms. Guffey reported final registration at 9,089.  
26

27 **14. INSTALLATION OF MODERATORS**

28 A service of installation was held for incoming moderators of the Twenty-seventh General Synod.  
29

30 **15. GENERAL SYNOD WRAP-UP**

31 The Proclamation, Identity and Communication Ministry Team presented the Twenty-sixth General Synod video  
32 entitled "50 Years Bold."  
33

34 Moderator Lawrence thanked the Proclamation, Identity and Communication Ministry Team members for all their  
35 hard work and many long hours to help make this General Synod a success.  
36

37 Mr. Ken Medema then led the General Synod in a closing song.  
38

39 **16. ADJOURNMENT**

40 Ms. Lawrence thanked everyone in attendance for their participation and commitment to this Twenty-sixth General  
41 Synod and called on Ms. Sharon MacArthur, Chairperson of the Executive Council, to present one final motion.  
42

43 Ms. MacArthur moved the adjournment of the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ at the  
44 conclusion of the evening's worship service.  
45

46 07-GS-46 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod voted, with applause, to adjourn the Twenty-sixth General  
47 Synod of the United Church of Christ at the conclusion of the evening's worship service.  
48

49 **The closing worship sermon was given by Dr. Mary Mikhael, President of the Near East School of Theology  
50 in Beirut, Lebanon.**  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52

*A Pastoral Letter on the Iraq War*  
*From the Collegium of Officers*  
*United Church of Christ*

June 22, 2007

“God expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry.”  
(Isaiah 5.7)

The war in Iraq is now in its fifth year. Justified as a means to end oppression, this war has imposed the new oppression of terror on the people of Iraq. Justified as the only way to protect the world from weapons of mass destruction, this war has led to the massive destruction of communal life in Iraq. Justified as a means to end the rule of terror, this war has bred more terror. Every day we look for justice, but all we see is bloodshed. Every day we yearn for righteousness, but all we hear is a cry.

Thousands of precious American lives have been lost; thousands more have been altered forever by profound injuries. We grieve each loss and embrace bereaved families with our prayers and compassion. Tens of thousands more innocent Iraqi lives are daily being offered on the altar of preemptive war and sectarian violence. They, too, are precious, and we weep for them. In our name human rights have been violated, abuse and torture sanctioned, civil liberties dismantled, Iraqi infrastructure and lives destroyed.. Billions of dollars have been diverted from education, health care, and the needs of the poor in this land and around the world. Efforts to restrain the real sources of global terrorism have been ignored or subverted. Trust and respect for the United States throughout the world has been traded for self-serving political gain. Every day we look for justice, but all we see is bloodshed. Every day we yearn for righteousness, but all we hear is a cry.

We confess that too often the church has been little more than a silent witness to evil deeds. We have prayed without protest. We have recoiled from the horror this war has unleashed without resisting the arrogance and folly at its heart. We have been more afraid of conflict in our churches than outraged over the deceptions that have killed thousands. We have confused patriotism with self-interest. As citizens of this land we have been made complicit in the bloodshed and the cries. Lord, have mercy upon us.

In the midst of our lament we give thanks – for pastors and laity who have raised courageous voices against the violence and the deceit, for military personnel who have served with honor and integrity, for chaplains who have cared for soldiers and their families with compassion and courage, for veterans whose experience has led them to say, “no more,” for humanitarian groups, including the Middle East Council of Churches, who have cared for the victims of violence and the growing tide of refugees, for the fragile Christian community in Iraq that continues to bear witness to the Gospel under intense pressure and fear, for public officials who have challenged this war risking reputation and career. The Gospel witness has not been completely silenced, and for this we are grateful.

Today we call for an end to this war, an end to our reliance on violence as the first, rather than the last resort, an end to the arrogant unilateralism of preemptive war. Today we call for the humility and courage to acknowledge failure and error, to accept the futility of our current path, and we cry out for the creativity to seek new paths of peacemaking in the Middle East, through regional engagement and true multinational policing. Today we call for acknowledgement of our responsibility for the destruction caused by sanctions and war, thereby, we pray, beginning to rebuild trust in the Middle East and around the world. Today we call for repentance in our nation and for the recognition in our churches that security is found in submitting to Christ, not by dominating others.

To this end may we join protest to prayer, support ministries of compassion for victims here and in the Middle East, cast off the fear that has made us accept the way of violence and return again to the way of Jesus.

1 Thus may bloodshed end and cries be transformed to the harmonies of justice and the melodies of peace. For  
2 this we yearn, for this we pray, and toward this end we rededicate ourselves as children of a loving God who  
3 gives “light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”  
4

5 John H. Thomas Linda Jaramillo Edith A. Guffey  
6 José A. Malayang Cally Rogers-Witte  
7

8  
9 Endorsed By

10		
11	Douglas E. Anders	Jim Antal
12	South Central Conference	Massachusetts Conference
13		
14	Charles P. Barnes	Geoffrey A. Black
15	Rhode Island Conference	New York Conference
16		
17	Charles Buck	Char Burch
18	Hawaii Conference	Missouri Mid-South Conference
19		
20	Stephen C. Camp	Nick Carter
21	Southern Conference	Andover Newton Theological School
22		
23	Marja Coons-Torn	Davida Crabtree
24	Penn Central Conference	Connecticut Conference
25		
26	John R. Deckenback	Timothy C. Downs
27	Central Atlantic Conference	Southeast Conference
28		
29	Roddy Dunkerson	David R. Gaewski
30	Nebraska Conference	Maine Conference
31	John M. Gantt	Mary Susan Gast
32	Central Pacific Conference	California, Nevada Northern Conference
33		
34	Stephen C. Gray	David M. Greenhaw
35	Indiana-Kentucky Conference	Eden Theological Seminary
36		
37	David Hansen	Lark J. Hapke
38	Kansas-Oklahoma Conference	Southwest Conference
39		
40	Don Hart	Phil Hart
41	United Church Foundation	Ohio Conference
42		
43	Jane Heckles	Susan Henderson
44	California, Nevada Southern Conference	Vermont Conference
45		
46	Jane Fisler Hoffman	Randy Hyvonen
47	Illinois Conference	Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference
48		
49	Jim Langdoc	Koloman Karl Ludwig
50	Illinois South Conference	Calvin Synod Conference
51		
52	Alan N. McLarty	William McKinney

1	Penn West conference	Pacific School of Religion
2	Kita McVay	Alan C. Miller
3	United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities	Penn Northeast Conference
4		
5	Gene E. Miller	Mark Henry Miller
6	South Dakota Conference	Pacific Northwest Conference
7		
8	F. Russell Mitman	David S. Moyer
9	Pennsylvania Southeast Conference	Wisconsin Conference
10		
11	Rich Pleva	Riess W. Potterveld
12	Iowa Conference	Lancaster Theological Seminary
13		
14	Tom Rehling	C. Jack Richards
15	Rocky Mountain Conference	Florida Conference
16		
17	Dan Romero	Gary M. Schulte
18	California, Nevada Southern Conference	New Hampshire Conference
19		
20	Karen Smith Sellers	Wade Schemmel
21	Minnesota Conference	Northern Plains Conference
22		
23	Susan Thistlethwaite	Kent J. Ulery
24	Chicago Theological Seminary	Michigan Conference
25		
26		
27		
28		
29		
30		
31		
32		
33		
34		
35		
36		
37		
38		
39		
40		
41		
42		
43		
44		
45		
46		
47		
48		
49		
50		
51		
52		
53		
54		
55		

**RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED -- NO ACTION TAKEN BY THE GENERAL SYNOD**

**A REAFFIRMATION OF MARRIAGE BASED ON THE WORD OF GOD**

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ affirms in its membership with the World Alliance of Reformed Churches that “the Word of God given in the Old and New Testaments to be the supreme authority in matters of faith and life;” and

WHEREAS Scripture explicitly defines marriage to be between one man and one woman (Gen.1:27, Gen. 2:24, Matt. 19: 4, Mk. 10:6, I Cor. 11:11-12, Eph. 5:31); and

WHEREAS Scripture clearly condemns homosexuality as a sin (Lev. 18:11, Lev. 20:13, Rom. 1:26-27); and

WHEREAS it is the duty of the church to draw all sinners closer to Christ by loving them, not by affirming their sin (Matt. 22:37-40, Jn. 13:34-35, Rom. 6:1-4, 12-14); and

WHEREAS the resolution from the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirms same-sex marriage as equivalent to marriage between one man and one woman, which is in direct violation of Scripture; and

WHEREAS the same resolution calls upon all churches within the United Church of Christ to engage in serious, respectful, and prayerful discussion of the covenantal relationship of marriage;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ must not allow its core principles to be compromised in response to popular societal movements and trends; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that compromising the core principles of the United Church of Christ as such is denying the true nature and purpose of Christ’s church and subsequently commending activities which lead to spiritual death; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ vehemently affirms that marriage is to be understood as a God-ordained relationship exclusively between one man and one woman; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ reaffirms the Scriptural definition of marriage as being between one man and one woman and in doing so recognizes the error of and furthermore reverses the resolution of Twenty-fifth General Synod entitled In Support of Equal Marriage Rights for All; and

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ to produce study materials accurately representing the non-secular, purely Scriptural perspective on the covenantal relationship of marriage as defined by the Word of God.

1 **A REAFFIRMATION OF THE HISTORIC AND ECUMENICAL CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE ON**  
2 **MARRIAGE**

3  
4 WHEREAS the Holy Scripture describes marriage as a God ordained relationship to be entered into between one  
5 man and one woman; and

6  
7 WHEREAS the United Church of Christ affirms in its membership with the World Alliance of Reformed Churches  
8 that “the Word of God given in the Old and New Testaments to be the supreme authority in matters of faith and  
9 life;” and

10  
11 WHEREAS the Constitution of the United Church of Christ declares that our Church “claims as its own the faith of  
12 the historic Church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the insights of the Protestant Reformers;” and

13  
14 WHEREAS both the ecumenical and historical community of Christian churches throughout the world hold that  
15 marriage is between one man and one woman, and;

16  
17 WHEREAS the fairness and justice issues surrounding the granting of legislative and institutional benefits can be  
18 legislatively addressed apart from the redefinition of marriage; and

19  
20 WHEREAS the Twenty-sixth General Synod calls upon all settings of the United Church of Christ to engage in  
21 serious, respectful, and prayerful discussion of the covenantal relationship of marriage; and

22  
23 WHEREAS Executive Council of the United Church of Christ in April 2004 called the church to action and  
24 dialogue on marriage; and

25  
26 WHEREAS the debate surrounding the issue of same sex marriage is too often marred by personal attacks and  
27 slander that are antithetical to Christ’s commandment to love one another just as he has loved us;

28  
29 THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ  
30 affirms with the ecumenical and historical Christian Church that marriage is to be understood as a God ordained  
31 relationship between one man and one woman; and,

32  
33 LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ reaffirms  
34 in accordance with the historic creeds of the Christian faith and the insights of the Protestant Reformers that  
35 Scripture is the supreme authority for all matters of Christian faith and practice and calls upon General Synod to  
36 reaffirm the authority of Scripture in all matters of faith and life within the United Church of Christ; and

37  
38 LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ  
39 recognizes the error of the statement “it is not possible to rely exclusively on scripture for understanding marriage  
40 today” contained within the resolution “In Support of Equal Marriage Rights for All” adopted by the Twenty-fifth  
41 General Synod; and,

42  
43 LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon  
44 all churches, Associations, Conferences and Covenanted Ministries of the national offices of the United Church of  
45 Christ to engage in a serious and substantive discussion of the issues surrounding same sex marriage without the use  
46 of vitriol or personal attacks on persons of opposing views; and,

47  
48 LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon  
49 the Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ to produce study materials fairly and accurately  
50 representing a diversity of theological perspectives on the covenantal relationship of marriage.

1 **RETURNING TO UNITY AND DIVERSITY IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

2  
3 WHEREAS, diversity is touted, even celebrated in the United Church of Christ;

4  
5 WHEREAS, in recent years mottos and marketing materials emphasize only a very liberal theological perspective,  
6 causing some conservative congregations to feel alienated if they remain with the theological heritage of the church;

7  
8 WHEREAS, a climate of misunderstanding has been created by churches objecting to General Synod resolutions;

9  
10 THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Forty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Penn Central Conference calls  
11 for an end to rhetoric that fuels hostility and misunderstanding towards whose theological persuasion is different  
12 than a Conference or General Synod Resolution.

13  
14 LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Penn Central Conference urge that Association, Conference and General Synod  
15 meetings would have speakers, displays and educational opportunities that would exemplify an openness to the wide  
16 range of ministries and the inclusion of the theological diversity in our churches.

17  
18 LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Penn Central Conference request the Executive Council of the United  
19 Church of Christ direct that all promotional materials emphasize the essentials of our faith that help promote unity,  
20 rather than non-essentials i.e. one's sexual preference and one's interpretation of when life begins, that have become  
21 sources of tension and dispute within the church.

22  
23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Penn Central Conference calls upon General Synod Twenty-six to direct the  
24 Executive Council to establish a seat on the Council as a representative of renewal groups in the United Church of  
25 Christ and that this seat be filled on a rotating term basis by ones representing the Biblical Witness Fellowship,  
26 Focus Renewal Ministries and the Faithful and Welcoming Churches of the United Church of Christ.

27  
28 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Penn Central Conference urge dissenting individuals and churches to remain  
29 within the United church of Christ to maintain our celebrated diversity while raising their concerns in a loving  
30 manner that would preserve our unity.

31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56

INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS

1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6	REGARDING THE TAR CREEK SUPERFUND SITE	14
7		
8	A RESOLUTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE	15
9		
10	RESOLUTION ON WORKER JUSTICE AT SMITHFIELD	19
11		
12	RENEWING THE COVENANT WITH THE RURAL CHURCH	22
13		
14	TO RECOGNIZE 2007 AT A SABBATH YEAR	24
15		
16	ENDING OF THE RECOGNITION OF THE IGLESIA EVANGELICA	25
17	UNIDA DE PUERTO RICO AS A CONFERENCE OF THE	
18	UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST	
19		
20	CHANGING THE COMPOSITION OF GENERAL SYNOD	26
21		
22	A CALL FOR A MORE HUMANE US IMMIGRATION POLICY;	31
23	END MIGRANT DEATHS; SUPPORT IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES	
24		
25	REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO COVENENTAL RELATIONSHIPS	33
26		
27	LEGANIZATION OF PHYSICIAN AID IN DYING	34
28		
29	A CALL FOR SOLIDARITY WITH THE PERSECUTED IN THE PHILIPPINES,	36
30	AND AN END TO EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLINGS AND	
31	OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLANTIONS	
32		
33	AGAINST DEPLETED URANIUM WEAPONS	39
34		
35	A REAFFIRMATION OF MARRIAGE BASED ON THE WORD OF GOD	44
36	(No Action Taken)	
37		
38	A REAFFIRMATION OF THE HISTORIC AND ECUMENICAL CHRISTIAN	45
39	PERSPECTIVE ON MARRIAGE	
40	(No Action Taken)	
41		
42	RETURNING TO UNITY AND DIVERSITY IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST	46
43	(No Action Taken)	
44		
45	PASTORAL LETTER ON THE IRAQ WAR	41
46		
47	IN SUPPORT OF A RENEWED AND BALANCED STUDY AND RESPONSE	APPENDIX A
48	TO THE CONFLICT BETWEEN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL	
49	(Referred directly to an Implementing Body)	
50		
51	STANDING RULES OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH GENERAL SYNOD	APPENDIX B
52		
53		
54		
55		
56		

1 Respectfully submitted;

2  
3 Nancy Cope  
4 Chief Recorder

5  
6 Recorders;  
7 Michell Farrow  
8 Chris Noffke  
9 Ann Plumley  
10 Teresa Stirling

11  
12 Editors;  
13 Martha Baumer  
14 Carol Brown  
15 W. Mark Clark  
16 Donald Hart  
17 John Humphrey  
18 Kevin Manz  
19 Libby Tigner

20  
21 Denise Shimell  
22 Editing Proofreader

23  
24  
25  
26 Adopted and Approved by the Executive Council of the General Synod  
27 Sunday, October 14, 2007

28  
29 Lee Foley  
30 Minister for Governing Body Relations

31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36 **Edith A. Guffey**  
37 **Administrator, the Twenty-sixth General Synod**  
38  
39  
40  
41



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8 **APPENDIX A**

9  
10 **IN SUPPORT OF A RENEWED AND BALANCED STUDY AND RESPONSE**  
11 **TO THE CONFLICT BETWEEN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL**

12  
13  
14  
15  
16 **SUBMITTED BY:**

17  
18 Don Niederfrank (Wisconsin Conference); Matt Braddock (Connecticut Conference); Mary  
19 James, William Sawyer, John Tostenson (New Hampshire Conference); Tadd Allman-Morton  
20 (Massachusetts Conference); James Darnell (Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors);  
21 Brady Abel, James Mennerick (Missouri Mid-South Conference); Russ Kohrs (Central Atlantic  
22 Conference); Rick Ashley and Rosa Smith-Williams (South Central Conference)

23  
24  
25 **SUBMITTED ON:** June 1, 2007

26  
27  
28 **SUMMARY:**

29  
30 This resolution calls upon the 26<sup>th</sup> General Synod of the United Church of Christ to:

- 31 • encourage all settings of the Church to engage in ongoing and balanced study of the  
32 causes, history and context of the conflict between the Arab and Israeli people in the  
33 Middle East,
- 34 • publicly condemn the use of the media, textbooks and other educational materials that  
35 encourage children and young people to hate and destroy those with opposing  
36 viewpoints,
- 37 • publicly condemn all ongoing and escalating violence that prevents a peaceful resolution  
38 from being agreed upon and implemented, and
- 39 • establish a Task Force to study the complex situation in an in-depth and balanced  
40 manner.

41  
42  
43 **BACKGROUND:**

44  
45 The 25th General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed two resolutions in 2005  
46 concerning the ongoing violence in the Middle East (“Tear Down the Wall” and “Concerning the  
Use of Economic Leverage in Promoting Peace in the Middle East”). We continue to be  
committed to assisting the Palestinian and Israeli people in finding a just two-state solution that  
will ensure a secure, peaceful and productive future. Because the “Tear Down the Wall”  
resolution focused solely on the actions of Israel, we also have a responsibility to more fully  
understand and name the ways other nations and forces have contributed to the situation. Further  
study of the causes and history of the conflict would bring forth a balanced response that holds  
all parties accountable in appropriate ways, supports mutual understanding and dialog with  
people of various perspectives, and contributes in a positive way to the wider community that is  
committed to justice and peace in the Mideast.

In recent months, we have seen a dramatic increase in violence in the Palestinian territories

47 bordering at times on civil war, including in the Gaza Strip, from which Israel completely  
48 disengaged in 2005. This tragic violence reveals underlying tensions between the Palestinian  
49 political groups of Hamas and Fatah that threaten the welfare of the Palestinian people and  
50 diminish prospects of a viable Palestinian state. In the first five months of 2007, more than 200  
51 Palestinians were killed and 1,065 injured as a result of internal fighting. Fifty-five of these  
52 deaths occurred during the week of May 13 alone. The potential for Palestinian civil war has  
53 never before been so real. If civil war comes to pass, it would be disastrous for everyone in the  
54 region.

55  
56 As the possibility for a brighter future for Palestinians is diminished not only by actions of Israel  
57 but also by violent internal battles being waged between Palestinian political parties and militias,  
58 members of the United Church of Christ must develop a broader understanding of the violence  
59 that plagues this part of the world. We cannot raise our voices only to point out the  
60 transgressions of one side. Rather, when innocent lives are being shattered by an atmosphere of  
61 intolerance, incitement and internal strife, we are called to an honest and searching critique of all  
62 of the forces in conflict.

63  
64 Tensions between the two main Palestinian factions began surfacing following the murder of  
65 three children of a senior Fatah officer in December 2006, and escalating internal Palestinian  
66 violence and a turn towards possible civil war did not become apparent until well into the New  
67 Year. Thus, the need for readdressing the situation based upon these new events which appear to  
68 be independent of the conflict with Israel could not have been anticipated before the January 1,  
69 2007, deadline for submitting resolutions to be considered at the 26th General Synod.

70  
71

## 72 BIBLICAL, THEOLOGICAL AND ETHICAL RATIONALE:

73  
74 Jesus called his followers to work for peace. “Blessed are the peacemakers,” he said, “for they  
75 will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9). However, this call is not easily lived out.  
76 Creating an environment fostering peace between longtime enemies requires disciplined  
77 peacemakers with flexibility in the face of changing circumstances, compassion for suffering on  
78 both sides, commitment to the possibility of reconciliation, and the ability to delve deeply into  
79 complex issues with discernment and wisdom. The United Church of Christ is called to nothing  
80 less than these ideals.

81  
82 The conflict between the Israelis and the people of Palestine and the Arab states – one that has  
83 confounded many peacemakers in the past – is one of the most historically, politically,  
84 economically, culturally, and religiously complex situations facing the modern world. Psalm  
85 103:6 says, “The Lord works for vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.” As a  
86 peacemaker, the Church in all of its settings must continue to speak out whenever violence,  
87 hatred and oppression occur, standing in support of *all* who are oppressed and subjected to  
88 injustice as new realities emerge. God commands it: “Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose  
89 the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke to let the oppressed go free and to break  
90 every yoke? (Isaiah 58:6).

91  
92 By continuing to humbly study, pray, discern and witness about the conflict in the Middle East,

93 the wider Church will be led to further truths: “For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth  
94 come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to  
95 those who walk blamelessly, guarding the paths of justice and preserving the way of his faithful  
96 ones. Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; for  
97 wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; prudence will  
98 watch over you; and understanding will guard you” (Proverbs 2:6-11).

99  
100 Finally, in our response to this situation and in our advocacy for peace, we are called to live out  
101 the prayer displayed at St. George’s Cathedral in Jerusalem: “Let us pray not for Arab or Jew,  
102 nor for Palestinian or Israeli, but let us pray rather for ourselves, that we may not divide them in  
103 our prayers but keep them both together in our hearts. Amen.”

104  
105

106 RESOLUTION:

107

108 WHEREAS, the 26<sup>th</sup> General Synod of the United Church of Christ continues to affirm the right  
109 of the peoples of both Israel and Palestine to live in peace, side by side in two secure and  
110 economically viable states; and

111

112 WHEREAS, the 25<sup>th</sup> General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed two resolutions  
113 focusing on the actions of Israel, entitled “Tear Down the Wall” and “Concerning the Use of  
114 Economic Leverage in Promoting Peace in the Middle East,” and has yet to fully address other  
115 forces contributing to the ongoing violence, oppression and suffering in the region; and

116

117 WHEREAS, many children and young people are not being educated for peace but are being  
118 exposed to hatred and intolerance in textbooks and the media; and

119

120 WHEREAS, in recent months violence has dramatically escalated between the Palestinian  
121 factions Fatah and Hamas, especially in the Gaza Strip, in spite of the fact that Israel disengaged  
122 from Gaza in September 2005; and

123

124 WHEREAS the potential for Palestinian civil war has never before been so real, and if it comes  
125 to pass would be disastrous for everyone in the region; and

126

127 WHEREAS, the escalating violence between Fatah and Hamas now calls us to consider whether  
128 we may have overlooked many aspects of an extraordinarily complicated situation and  
129 extraordinarily complicated relationships in the region; and

130

131 WHEREAS, we reaffirm our call to act as peacemakers in this war-torn yet holy land;

132

133 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 26<sup>th</sup> General Synod of the United Church of Christ  
134 recognizes the need for ongoing balanced study, commentary and critique related to the conflict  
135 in the region;

136

137 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the 26<sup>th</sup> General Synod condemns all media programs,  
138 publications, advertising campaigns, textbooks and groups that perpetuate violence instead of

139 promoting peace; and

140

141 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the 26<sup>th</sup> General Synod directs the Executive Council to  
142 establish a Task Force to engage in ongoing and balanced study of the causes, history and  
143 context of the conflict, including appropriate responses to the situation that may or may not lead  
144 to further support of economic leverage and removal of the security barrier. The Task Force is to  
145 report to the 27<sup>th</sup> General Synod in 2009 for any necessary further action, and also to report to all  
146 settings of the Church so that they, too, may have a deeper understanding of the situation.

147

148

149 IMPLEMENTATION:

150

151 The United Church of Christ Executive Council is requested to be the primary implementer of  
152 this resolution.

153

154

155 FUNDING:

156

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

159

160

161

162

163

164

165

166

167

168

169

170

171

172

173

174

175

176

177

178

179

180

181

182

183

1 **APPENDIX B**

2  
3 **STANDING RULES FOR THE TWENTY-SIXTH GENERAL SYNOD**  
4 **As approved by the Executive Council April 24, 2006**

5 **The Membership of the General Synod**

6 1. The General Synod is the representative body of the United Church of Christ and  
7 is composed of delegates chosen by the Conferences, from among the members of its  
8 Local Churches, the voting members of the Boards of Directors of Justice and Witness  
9 Ministries, Local Church Ministries and Wider Church Ministries, and of ex officio  
10 delegates; these shall constitute the voting delegates. The ex officio delegates with vote  
11 are the members of the Executive Council, including the Officers of the United Church of  
12 Christ, the Moderator and Assistant Moderators. There are also associate delegates who  
13 have voice without vote (United Church of Christ Constitution, paragraph 53, and Bylaws  
14 190-191).

15  
16 **Accreditation and Seating of Voting Delegates and Associate Delegates**

17 2. Delegates will be accredited by the General Synod Registrar or the Assistant  
18 Registrar or their agents at the registration desk upon presentation of proper credentials.  
19

20 3. Conference Ministers are responsible for certifying substitutes to fill vacancies in  
21 the conference's delegation. These persons shall be registered by the Registrar or the  
22 Assistant Registrar and accredited as delegates.  
23

24 4. Composition of delegations can be challenged by voting or associate delegates  
25 only. Delegate seats which are contested will remain vacant until the General Synod  
26 Credentials Committee (Bylaw 204) makes a recommendation to the Synod and a  
27 decision is made by majority vote of the Synod.  
28

29 A. A challenge of a delegation shall be made to the Executive Council and/or  
30 the Credentials Committee at least one month prior to the General Synod  
31 for appropriate consideration and recommendation to the General Synod.

32 B. In the event of a challenge to the composition of a delegation, the  
33 Credentials Committee shall consider the matter on the basis of the (1)  
34 provisions of the Conference for electing its General Synod delegates, (2)  
35 provisions as described in paragraph 186 of the Bylaws for the  
36 composition of the Conference delegations.

37 5. Voting delegates (Bylaws 185-189) wearing the proper badge will be seated in the  
38 specifically designated delegate section. Conference delegates will be seated with their

39 conference delegation. Members of the Covenanted Ministries Boards of Directors will  
40 be seated with their Covenanted Ministry.

41  
42 6. Associate delegates (Bylaw 190 and 191) wearing the proper badge will be seated  
43 in the specifically designated associate delegate section, except the chairperson of the  
44 governing board and the chief executive officer(s) of each Conference who may be seated  
45 with their Conference delegation. Associate Delegates to General Synod have voice  
46 without vote in all aspects and functions of General Synod, including committees.

47  
48 7. No other persons will be allowed in the delegate section except Non-Delegates  
49 having voice without vote as described below, and persons designated by the General  
50 Synod Administrator as General Synod staff, national staff liaisons and persons with  
51 press credentials. All delegates, associate delegates, non-delegates having voice without  
52 vote and other persons mentioned in this paragraph must have appropriate credentials  
53 from the General Synod Registrar

54

55

#### 56 **Accreditation and Seating of Non-Delegates Having Voice Without Vote**

57 8. Any chairperson or chief executive officer of any national program agency,  
58 both temporary and permanent, created by General Synod action, or of any of the  
59 bodies representing a historically underrepresented constituency (Bylaw 221), who is  
60 not either a voting delegate or an associate delegate (Bylaws 184-191) shall be  
61 accorded the privilege of voice without vote and of seating with the associate delegates.

62

63 9. When the interests of their respective institutions or groups are before the General  
64 Synod, the chief executive officers of the institutions related to the Council for Higher  
65 Education or the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries shall have the  
66 privilege of voice without vote.

67

68 10. A group is composed of at least 25 members of the United Church of Christ who  
69 have come together because they are persons of a particular constituency or interested in  
70 a specific issue or concern. Such groups may have voice without vote under the following  
71 conditions:

72

73 A. The General Synod may vote, on recommendation of the Business  
74 Committee, to grant to not more than two non-delegate representatives of  
75 a group the privilege of voice without vote and of seating with the  
76 associate delegates, if the group meets the following criteria:

77 (1) The group must consist of at least 25 members of the United  
78 Church of Christ and more than one Conference must be  
79 represented in its membership.

80

81 (2) The group must show cause to the Business Committee why  
82 elected delegates cannot effectively represent its cause or concern

83 to the General Synod.

84

85 (3) The two non-delegate representatives given voice without vote  
86 must hold membership in a local church of the United Church of  
87 Christ.

88

89 B. Any request for voice without vote privileges at the Twenty-fifth General  
90 Synod must be made in writing to the General Synod Business  
91 Committee in care of the Office of General Ministries of the United  
92 Church of Christ **no later than February 15<sup>th</sup> immediately preceding**  
93 **the General Synod** meeting. A list of at least 25 current members  
94 including local church membership reflecting membership in more than  
95 one conference must accompany all requests.

96 C. For groups not formally related to the United Church of Christ,  
97 privilege of voice without vote ends with the adjournment of General  
98 Synod.

99 11. Honored Guests, Former Officers of the United Church of Christ, Moderators of  
100 past General Synods, Chief Executive Officers of formerly Recognized and Established  
101 Instrumentalities, and the Commission of Racial Justice, and Ecumenical Guests who are  
102 not associate delegates may be accorded the privilege of voice without vote and of  
103 seating with the associate delegates by vote of the General Synod.

104

#### 105 **Procedures for Communicating and Considering Formal Motions**

106 12. Matters of concern to members of the United Church of Christ may be presented  
107 in the form of Formal Motions for consideration by a General Synod. Formal Motions are  
108 Proposed Pronouncements; Proposals for Action; and Resolutions and Other Formal  
109 Motions. All matters submitted by a Conference or Association shall be considered by the  
110 Synod. (By-laws 166 and 171). The administrator of the General Synod will recommend  
111 to the Executive Council proposed disposition of these proposals for formal motion based  
112 on the procedures set forth in this paragraph. The Committee of Reference will then  
113 propose recommendations regarding the disposition of these proposals, and report these  
114 recommendations to the General Synod.

115 a. Items that are expected to be routine, noncontroversial, or dealt with in a  
116 special hearing will be reported directly to the plenary session by the  
117 Executive Council. This might include but is not limited to such items as  
118 the budget, amendments to constitution or Bylaws, statements of  
119 commendation, recognition and celebration.  
120 b. All proposed pronouncements and proposals for action shall be assigned to  
121 committee.  
122 c. Items which are complicated or controversial, which require background  
123 discussion and study, which merit and need a hearing process, or which  
124 have a system-wide impact will be assigned to a committee. The proposer

125 shall supply a resource person to the committee.  
126 d. Any item which reiterates previous action shall normally be referred by  
127 the General Synod to the body or bodies implementing such action. If a  
128 proposed motion differs significantly from previous policy, or action of  
129 the two preceding General Synods, it shall be assigned to a committee.  
130 The burden of proof is on those submitting the policy to explain how the  
131 proposal is different or necessary to a timely, current ministry of the UCC.  
132  
133

#### 134 A. Proposed Pronouncements

135 (1) Definition: A Pronouncement is a statement of Christian conviction on a matter of  
136 moral or social principle and has been adopted by a two-thirds vote of a General Synod.  
137 It is based on biblical, theological and ethical grounds. Until adopted, the statement  
138 presented for consideration by a General Synod is a Proposed Pronouncement. Proposals  
139 for Action shall not be included in Proposed Pronouncements. (See B. Proposals for  
140 Action, below.)  
141

142 (2) Sources: A Proposed Pronouncement may be submitted only by:

- 143 (a) a General Synod delegate or delegate-elect with the written concurrence of  
144 at least ten additional General Synod delegates or delegates-elect from two  
145 or more Conferences;
- 146 (b) a Local Church, with the written concurrence of at least five other Local  
147 Churches of the United Church of Christ;
- 148 (c) an Association;
- 149 (d) a Conference;
- 150 (e) a Covenanted, Associated or Affiliated Ministry, or other body as defined  
151 in Article VI of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.  
152

153 (3) Procedures for Considering Proposed Pronouncements are:

- 154 (a) A Copy of the Proposed Pronouncement must be sent to the Office of  
155 General Ministries **at least eight months before the opening of a  
156 General Synod.**
- 157 (b) The Office of General Ministries will send the Proposed Pronouncement  
158 to the Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and delegates **at least  
159 six months in advance of a General Synod.** It shall be labeled "Proposed  
160 Pronouncement--Circulated for Discussion and Comments."  
161 (c) The Executive Council shall designate a committee or other group to  
162 review the Proposed Pronouncement and make recommendations to a  
163 General Synod. The initiator(s) of the Proposed Pronouncement shall  
164 designate a person to support the Proposed Pronouncement before the  
165 committee or group designated by the Executive Council. Additional  
166 persons may provide support or opposition.  
167 (d) The Office of General Ministries will receive responses to the Proposed  
168  
169



170 Pronouncement from Local Churches, delegates, delegates-elect,  
171 Associations, Conferences, Covenanted, Associated, or Affiliated  
172 Ministries, or other bodies as defined in Article VI of the Bylaws of the  
173 United Church of Christ including the record of any votes taken. The  
174 Office of General Ministries will provide one copy of each response to the  
175 committee or group designated to review the Proposed Pronouncement,  
176 retaining one copy in the Office of General Ministries. A report shall be  
177 made to the General Synod of the volume and character received.  
178 (e) The committee or group designated by the Executive Council to review  
179 the Proposed Pronouncement shall have the following duties:

- 180 1. To coordinate the responses received;
- 181 2. To hold open hearing(s) after proper notice.
- 182 3. To present, after such hearing(s), to a plenary session of the  
183 General Synod its recommendations for action. Such action may be  
184 approval, disapproval, amendment, consolidation, referral or no  
185 action. A substitute motion or other amendment which radically  
186 alters the basic intent or direction of the original Proposed  
187 Pronouncement, however, shall be ruled out of order.

188 (f) Copies of the Proposed Pronouncement and the recommendations of the  
189 committee or group reviewing the Proposed Pronouncement must be  
190 distributed to the delegates before action can be taken.

191 (g) If adopted, the Pronouncement shall be communicated throughout the  
192 United Church of Christ and to the public.

193  
194 (4) Format: A Proposed Pronouncement and its supporting materials shall be  
195 submitted and circulated in the following format: (Proposed Pronouncements and  
196 supporting materials which do not follow this format will be returned for revision.)  
197

198 (a) A brief title with an information sheet indicating the source of the  
199 Proposed Pronouncement, date of submission, and any other information  
200 pertinent to the Proposed Pronouncement.

201 (b) A brief summary (an abstract).

202 (c) Background statement indicates significance and rationale for the  
203 Proposed Pronouncement.

204 (d) Biblical, theological and ethical rationale for the Proposed  
205 Pronouncement.

206 (e) The statement of Christian conviction upon which the General Synod will  
207 vote.  
208

209 (5) The Statement of Christian Conviction is the only portion of the Proposed  
210 Pronouncement which will be voted on by the General Synod. Committees functioning  
211 for the General Synod, however, shall consider and may amend any portion of the  
212 Proposed Pronouncement.  
213

## 214 B. Proposals for Action

215  
216  
217  
218  
219  
220  
221  
222  
223  
224  
225  
226  
227  
228  
229  
230  
231  
232  
233  
234  
235  
236  
237  
238  
239  
240  
241  
242  
243  
244  
245  
246  
247  
248  
249  
250  
251  
252  
253  
254  
255  
256  
257  
258  
259  
260

(1) Definition: A Proposal for Action is a recommendation for specific directional statements and goals implementing a Pronouncement. A Proposal for Action normally accompanies a Pronouncement. Additional Proposals for Action may also be considered at a later date. (A Proposal for Action may be submitted and circulated in anticipation of the adoption of a Proposed Pronouncement.)

(2) Sources: Proposals for Action may be submitted only by

- (a) a General Synod delegate or delegate-elect, with the written concurrence of at least ten additional General Synod delegates or delegates- elect, from two or more Conferences;
- (b) a Local Church, with the written concurrence of at least five other Local Churches of the United Church of Christ;
- (c) an Association;
- (d) a Conference;
- (e) a Covenanted, Associated or Affiliated Ministry or other body as defined in Article VI of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

(3) Procedures for Considering Proposals for Action are:

- (a) A copy of the Proposal for Action must be sent to the Office of General Ministries **at least eight months before the opening of the General Synod.**
- (b) The Office of General Ministries will send the Proposal for Action to the Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, proposed implementor(s), and delegates **at least six months in advance of a General Synod.** It shall be labeled "Proposal for Action--Circulated for Discussion and Comments."
- (c) The Executive Council may designate a committee or other group to review the Proposal for Action and make recommendations to the General Synod, or the Executive Council may present the Proposal for Action with its own recommendation to the General Synod. The initiator(s) of the Proposal for Action shall designate a person to support the Proposal for Action before the committee or group designated by the Executive Council. Additional persons may provide support or opposition.
- (d) The Office of General Ministries will receive responses to the Proposals for Action from Local Churches, delegates, delegates-elect, Associations, Conferences, Covenanted, Associated, or Affiliated Ministries and other bodies as defined in Article VI of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ including the record of any votes taken. The Office of General Ministries will provide one copy of each response to the committee or group which may have been named by the Executive Council to review the Proposals for Action, and one copy to the initiator(s) of the Proposals for Action, retaining one copy in the Office of General Ministries. A report shall be made to the General Synod of the volume and character of the responses received.

- 261 (e) The proposed implementors shall be required to provide to the General  
262 Synod a statement of feasibility and an estimate of the financial  
263 implications for the Church at the national level of the Proposal for  
264 Action.  
265 (f) Copies of the Proposal for Action and the recommendations pertaining to  
266 it, including a statement of financial implications, must be distributed to  
267 the delegates before action can be taken.  
268 (g) If adopted, the Proposal for Action shall be communicated throughout the  
269 United Church of Christ, to the public and to those named as  
270 implementors.  
271

272 (4) Format: A Proposal for Action shall include the following: (Proposals for  
273 Action and supporting materials which do not follow this format will be returned for  
274 revision.)

- 275 (a) A brief title with an information sheet indicating the source of the  
276 Proposal for Action, date of submission, and any other information  
277 pertinent to the Proposal for Action.  
278 (b) A brief summary (an abstract).  
279 (c) Background statement indicating the Pronouncement(s) or the Proposed  
280 Pronouncement(s) on which it is based, the Synod(s) at which it was  
281 adopted or is proposed, and the rationale for the Proposal for Action.  
282 (d) The names of the implementor(s) expected to develop the strategies and  
283 program to carry out the Proposal for Action.  
284 (e) The directional statements and goals upon which the General Synod will  
285 vote.  
286 (f) A statement that the implementing body is responsible to develop the  
287 strategy and program of the directional statements and goals.  
288 (g) A statement that the funding for the implementation of the Proposal for  
289 Action will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the  
290 affected agencies and the funds available.  
291

292 (5) The Directional Statements and Goals are the only portions of the Proposal for  
293 Action that will be voted on by the General Synod. Committees functioning for the  
294 General Synod, however, shall consider and may amend any portion of the Proposal for  
295 Action.  
296

### 297 C. **Resolutions and Other Formal Motions**

298  
299 (1) Definitions:  
300

- 301 (a) Resolution of Witness: A Resolution of Witness is an expression of the  
302 General Synod concerning a moral, ethical or religious matter confronting  
303 the church, the nation, or the world, adopted for the guidance of the  
304 officers, Associated or Affiliated Ministries, or other bodies as defined in  
305 Article VI of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ; the consideration

- 306 of local churches, associations, conferences and other bodies related to the  
 307 United Church of Christ; and for a Christian witness to the world. It  
 308 represents agreement by at least 2/3rd of the delegates voting that the view  
 309 expressed is based on Christian conviction and is a part of their witness to  
 310 Jesus Christ. The text of the proposed resolution should be so phrased as  
 311 not to bring into question the Christian commitment of those who do not  
 312 agree.
- 313 (b) Prudential Resolutions: A Prudential Resolution establishes policy,  
 314 institutes or revises structure or procedures, authorizes programs, approves  
 315 directions or requests actions by a majority vote.
- 316 (c) Other Formal motions include actions other than those provided for above  
 317 by majority vote.
- 318
- 319 (2) Sources: A Resolution or Other Formal Motion may be submitted by  
 320
- 321 (a) General Synod Delegate or Delegate-elect with the written concurrence of  
 322 at least ten additional General Synod Delegates or Delegates-elect from  
 323 two or more conferences,
- 324 (b) a Local Church with the written concurrence of at least five other local  
 325 churches of the United Church of Christ,
- 326 (c) an Association,
- 327 (d) a Conference,
- 328 (e) a Covenanted, Associated or Affiliated Ministry or other body as defined  
 329 in Article VI of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.
- 330
- 331 (3) Procedures for Considering Resolutions and Other Formal Motions are:  
 332
- 333 (a) Proposed Resolutions and Other Formal Motions shall be submitted before  
 334 the following deadlines:
- 335 1. A copy of the Resolution or Other Formal Motion **must be sent**  
 336 **electronically\* to the Office of General Ministries by January 1**  
 337 **before the opening of the General Synod. The Office of**  
 338 **General Ministries shall make copies available to delegates by**  
 339 **April 1.**
- 340
- 341 2. A Resolution or Other Formal Motions which could not have been  
 342 anticipated or submitted in conformance with the above deadline  
 343 **must be received electronically\* by the Office of General**  
 344 **Ministries at least three weeks prior to the opening session of**  
 345 **the General Synod at which it is to be considered.**
- 346
- 347 3. A Resolution or Other Formal Motion which could not have been  
 348 anticipated or submitted three weeks prior to the opening session  
 349 of the General Synod may be presented to the Office of General  
 350 Ministries electronically during those three weeks or by a voting

351 delegate to the Executive Council on the day of registration or at a  
352 designated point in the agenda of Synod where new business may  
353 be introduced by title only, or when there is no other business  
354 before the Synod, provided that there will remain twenty-four  
355 hours for study before action is taken by the Synod. The presenter  
356 must be accompanied by two other delegates, at least one of whom  
357 must be from a second conference, and must provide at least 1000  
358 copies of the proposed Resolution or Other Formal Motion for  
359 distribution to the Executive Council, Business Committee,  
360 Officers, chairpersons of committees, delegates, and to each  
361 conference.

362  
363 4. Resolutions or Other Formal Motions submitted by a Conference  
364 or Association (Bylaws 166 and 171) shall be considered by the  
365 General Synod. These proposals are subject to the deadlines  
366 articulated in this section except in cases where a Conference or  
367 Association Annual Meeting takes place fewer than three weeks  
368 before the General Synod. In such cases, the Conference or  
369 Association must provide at least 1000 copies of the proposed  
370 Resolution or Other Formal Motion for distribution to the  
371 Executive Council, Business Committee, Officers, chairpersons of  
372 committees, delegates, and to each Conference.

373  
374 (b) Every Resolution or Other Formal Motion received prior to the General  
375 Synod shall be referred to the Executive Council or, during the General  
376 Synod meeting, to the Business Committee. The Executive Council or  
377 Business Committee shall, in respect of each proposal, either (1) present  
378 its own recommendations to the General Synod or (2) assign it to a  
379 committee or other group for review and recommendation to the General  
380 Synod. Such recommendations may include approval, disapproval,  
381 amendment, consolidation, referral, or no action. (see Rule 22)

382  
383 (c) Resolutions or other formal motions addressing issues addressed by one of  
384 the two preceding General Synods would normally be referred by the  
385 General Synod to implementing bodies unless the proposal would  
386 significantly change the previous action or address an urgent and  
387 significantly altered context. The burden of proof is on those submitting  
388 the policy to explain how the proposal is different or necessary to a timely,  
389 current ministry of the UCC.

390  
391 (d) Copies of each Resolution or Other Formal Motion and the  
392 recommendation pertaining to it **must be distributed to delegates at least**  
393 **one-half day before action can be taken.**

394  
395  
396 (4) Format: Resolutions and Other Formal shall include the following information:

- 397  
398 (a) A brief title with information providing the source of the Resolution or  
399 Other Formal Motion, the date of submission and any other information  
400 pertinent to the Resolution or Other Formal Motion. The title must  
401 accurately reflect the intent of the proposed motion. If presented at  
402 General Synod, the names and conferences of the delegates presenting the  
403 Resolution or Other Formal Motion shall be included.  
404  
405 (b) A brief summary of the Resolution or Formal Motion.  
406  
407 (c) The biblical, theological and ethical rationale; and the expected outcome.  
408  
409 (d) The text of the motion.  
410  
411 (e) A statement that the funding for the implementation of the Resolution or  
412 Other Formal Motion will be made in accordance with the overall  
413 mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available. There is no  
414 financial guarantee of any kind other than the annual budget determined  
415 by the Executive Council (73 GS 81).  
416  
417 (f) A statement that the implementing body is responsible for developing the  
418 strategy and program designed to implement the Resolution or Other  
419 Formal Motion.

420 13. No more than three Proposed Pronouncements, Proposals for Action, Reports  
421 with Recommendations, Resolutions, and Overtures may be admitted to the agenda from  
422 any single source.  
423

424 14. Reports to be made to succeeding General Synods on a Pronouncement, Proposal  
425 for Action, Resolution or Other Formal Motion may be requested for no more than the  
426 three General Synods immediately following that General Synod.  
427

#### 428 **Reports to the General Synod**

429 15. Reports to the General Synod with no action required shall be placed on file. All  
430 reports made within the context of the meeting shall be contained in the official minutes  
431 of the meeting.

#### 432 **Conduct of the Business of the General Synod**

433 16. A quorum for the conduct of business at General Synod shall consist of one-third  
434 of the voting delegates, provided that in this number at least two-thirds of the  
435 Conferences are represented by at least one delegate each (United Church of Christ  
436 Constitution, paragraph 53).  
437

438 17. All proceedings of the General Synod shall, unless otherwise provided for, be  
439 governed by the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order (United Church of Christ

440 Bylaw 182).

441

442 18. Main motions, not in distributed printed material, and substantive amendments  
443 shall be presented to the moderator in writing, signed by the maker and seconder. Only  
444 voting delegates may make motions.

445

446 19. When a matter has been referred to a committee or group during the General  
447 Synod for review prior to its presentation to a plenary session for debate and action, the  
448 recommendation made to a plenary session by such committee or group shall be  
449 considered an original main motion fully open to amendment by the General Synod,  
450 except a recommendation which radically alters the basic intent or direction of the  
451 original matter referred to a committee or group shall be regarded as a substitute motion  
452 requiring a majority vote of the General Synod for consideration.

453

454 20. The agenda as adopted by the General Synod may be changed by two-thirds vote  
455 or general consent upon recommendation of the Business Committee or motion from the  
456 floor.

457

458 21. Debate shall conform to the following provisions:

459

460 A. Delegates and others wishing to be recognized shall obtain use of a  
461 microphone, address the moderator and identify themselves by name  
462 and Conference or other represented body.

463 B. Pro and con microphones may be designated by the moderator  
464 as required.

465 C. A delegate may not speak on an issue and conclude by moving the  
466 previous question.

467 D. A delegate may not present a combined motion to close debate on an  
468 amendment to a motion and the main motion.

469 E. No one may speak to the same debatable motion more than twice  
470 except to answer questions from the floor or the moderator.

471 F. A maximum of three minutes for the first speech is allowed the maker of  
472 the motion; subsequent speakers are limited to two minutes each, which  
473 can be divided into two speeches.

474

475 G. During timed floor debates and speak outs, microphones will be turned  
476 off at the expiration of a speaker's time provided for in the General  
477 Synod Standing Rules.

478 H. When time restrictions on speakers are required by these Standing Rules,  
479 an extension of time may be granted by the presiding moderator to the  
480 following persons:

- 481 (1) Speakers requiring translation into English from another language  
482 (time needed for the translation shall not be counted in the time  
483 allotment) and speakers who require sign language translation;  
484 (2) Speakers whose fluency in English is limited and for whom  
485 translation is not available;  
486 (3) Speakers with disabilities which affect mobility and/or speech.  
487  
488 A request for an extension of time shall be indicated to the floor  
489 parliamentarian who shall notify the presiding moderator.

490 I. Opportunity will be provided for two delegates speaking in favor and two  
491 delegates speaking in opposition to a motion before an amendment can be  
492 made.

493 J. A motion to limit or extend the limits of debate is itself undebatable; such  
494 motion requires a second and a two-thirds vote unless decided by general  
495 consent.

496 K. Non-delegates, not otherwise authorized to speak, may speak only by a  
497 two-thirds vote of the General Synod.

498 22. Voting shall conform to the following provisions:  
499

500 A. Votes shall be decided by the delegates present and voting. Abstentions  
501 shall not be counted in the total.

502 B. Voting shall be conducted on main motions, amendments and other  
503 motions, by the moderator by show of voting cards (not voice vote)  
504 except:

505 (1) When a standing vote is necessary as decided by the moderator;  
506 or

507  
508 (2) When a counted vote is required by decision of the assembly or by  
509 the moderator.  
510

511

### 512 **Minority Resolutions**

513 23. Requirements. In the case where a Formal Motion, Constitution and/or Bylaw  
514 amendment, or Priority is adopted by less than 75% of the votes cast, a minority  
515 resolution, expressing a minority viewpoint on the same subject matter, may be proposed  
516 at the same or the next business session of that General Synod.  
517

518 24. Procedures to be followed when a minority resolution is to be considered shall  
519 conform to the following provisions:  
520



- 521 A. A delegate who plans to propose a minority resolution should, at the time  
522 of the consideration of the original proposal, request of the moderator that  
523 the percentage of votes in the affirmative be determined and recorded so  
524 that eligibility for proposing a minority resolution can be established.
- 525
- 526 B. A minority resolution is to be voted only by those who voted in opposition  
527 to the original proposal. Each Conference shall be responsible to  
528 determine the eligibility of its own delegates in such a vote.
- 529
- 530 C. To become a matter of record of General Synod, a minority resolution  
531 shall require a majority vote of those voting as designated in 25.B, above.
- 532 D. An adopted minority resolutions shall be attached to the action to which it  
533 relates.

#### 534 **Procedures for Nominations and Elections**

- 535 25. The Nominating Committee shall make nominations from the platform as  
536 provided by the Constitution and Bylaws.  
537
- 538 26. Biographical information on each candidate shall be made available by the  
539 Nominating Committee for those it nominates. **The Nominating Committee shall**  
540 **submit its information to the General Synod not later than the opening of the**  
541 **business session in which the Nominating Committee reports to the General Synod.**  
542
- 543 27. Written consent of each nominee is required prior to election and should be  
544 submitted to the Office of General Ministries.  
545
- 546 28. There may be nominations from the floor for the positions of Moderator and  
547 Assistant Moderators of the General Synod. Nominees for these positions must fulfill the  
548 criteria established by the Bylaws for the contested position.  
549
- 550 29. Members of the Nominating Committee are nominated by the Executive Council.  
551 These nominations are made from the platform by the Business Committee. Nominations  
552 for these positions may be made from the floor if the nominees fulfill the criteria  
553 established by the Bylaws for the contested position.
- 554 30. The person making a nomination from the floor shall submit the required  
555 biographical information to the Office of General Ministries by the close of the  
556 business meeting during which the nomination is made and provide verification of the  
557 consent of the nominee in a form acceptable to the Office of General Ministries  
558 pending receipt of written confirmation.
- 559 31. All nominations shall be presented by name only. Biographical information for all  
560 nominees shall be distributed in printed form.

561

562 32. The Business Committee shall administer the nomination and election procedures.  
563 Designated representatives of the Nominating Committee will be a resource to the  
564 Business Committee in the nomination and election procedures. The Office of General  
565 Ministries shall provide adequate staff assistance to the Business Committee and the  
566 Nominating Committee.

567

568 33. Election by ballot shall be required only when an election is contested. When the  
569 election is contested, the sequence of names shall be varied on the printed ballots.  
570 Nominations made from the floor shall be so identified on the ballots.

571

572 34. All elections shall be decided by plurality except for those specified in Standing  
573 Rule 37. Votes for write-in candidates and abstentions shall not be counted.

574

575 35. Requirements and limitations for Nominations are set forth on the following  
576 chart:

577

578 Bio. Floor Nominating Info. No.of Noms. Seconding

579 (Max.Words) Allowed (Max.Min) Allowed (Max.Min)

580 50 Yes 5 2 2

581 50 Yes 3 No No

582 Moderators (only when contested)

583 Executive

584 50 No No No No

585 Covenanted

586 15 No No No No

587 Nominating

588 50 Yes No No No

589 All nominating and seconding speeches shall be made from the platform.

590 36. The Moderator and Assistant Moderators of the General Synod shall be elected  
591 by majority vote, a majority being based on the number of votes cast for the office. The  
592 results and number of votes cast for each candidate, shall be announced to the delegates  
593 in a timely manner. If no candidate receives a majority of votes cast on any ballot, the  
594 next ballot will include the two candidates receiving the largest number of votes and all  
595 other candidates who receive more than the average number of votes cast per candidate  
596 on the previous ballot.

597 **Procedure and Call by Election**

- 598 37. In the General Synod year in which the General Minister and President or the  
599 Associate General Minister of the Church is to be called by election or reelection, the  
600 candidate will be presented to the General Synod by the Executive Council. A single  
601 presentation for each candidate may be made, each to be no longer than 10 minutes.  
602
- 603 38. In the General Synod year in which the Executive Minister for Justice and  
604 Witness Ministries, Wider Church Ministries, or Local Church Ministries is to be called  
605 by election or reelection as an Officer of the Church, a candidate will be presented to the  
606 General Synod by the Board of Directors of the appropriate Covenanted Ministry. A  
607 single presentation for the candidate may be made, to be no longer than 10 minutes.  
608
- 609 39. Candidates for the Offices of General Minister and President, Associate General  
610 Minister, Executive Minister for Justice and Witness Ministries, Executive Minister for  
611 Wider Church Ministries and Executive Minister for Local Church Ministries, may each  
612 make a speech no longer than 20 minutes prior to the call by election.  
613
- 614 40. An affirmative vote of at least 60% of the votes cast is necessary for each  
615 candidate to be called and elected by the General Synod to serve as an officer of the  
616 church. The results of the vote for each candidate shall be announced to the delegates in a  
617 timely manner.  
618
- 619 **General Rules**
- 620 41. Meeting expeditors (such as pages) shall perform duties as designated by the  
621 Business Committee, and shall be non-delegates.
- 622 42. Only printed matter and other matter (including commercial) which has been  
623 approved by the Business Committee may be distributed on the floor of the General  
624 Synod and within its environs. Such material must contain the identity of the originator.  
625
- 626 43. The Business Committee will announce any necessary rules pertaining to  
627 photographs being taken during the General Synod meetings. These rules may be  
628 changed in the manner as other General Synod Standing Rules.  
629
- 630 44. Recording the procedures of General Synod is the responsibility of the Office of  
631 General Ministries.  
632
- 633 45. Planned demonstrations and celebrations on the floor and visitors' gallery of the  
634 General Synod plenary sessions must have prior approval of the Business Committee  
635 or be ruled out of order.
- 636 46. There shall be no smoking in the meeting hall during the business meetings of the  
637 General Synod.
- 638 47. All sessions of the General Synod and its delegate committees are open to the  
639 public and the news media while the Synod is in session.

640 48. The Planning Committee for General Synod 26 in consultation with the host  
641 Conference will determine the number of offerings to be received at General Synod 26  
642 and **shall announce the offering(s) at the Spring, 2007 meeting of Executive Council.**

643 In the event that an exceptional need arises after the Spring meeting of the  
644 Executive Council or during the General Synod itself, the Business  
645 Committee of the General Synod may authorize an additional  
646 offering to meet that need during the General Synod.

647 49. These General Synod Standing Rules shall be originally adopted as a group by  
648 two-thirds vote. Thereafter, any rule(s) may be amended, rescinded, or suspended by a  
649 two-thirds vote.

650 50. When General Synod is not in session, the Executive Council acting as General  
651 Synod ad interim may amend the Standing Rules, as necessary, to facilitate the collection,  
652 processing and distribution of items of business for a subsequent General Synod.  
653 Notification must be sent to local churches, conferences and delegates regarding such  
654 action(s) **at least one year prior to the beginning of the subsequent General Synod.**

655 51. Rules governing exhibits at the General Synod are provided in the Standing Rules  
656 of the Executive Council.

657  
658  
659  
660  
661  
662

\* **Electronic mailings to <synod@ucc.org >**