

RECOMMENDED ACTION; approval of the Consent Agenda for the October 2013 meeting of the United Church of Christ Board:

UCCB-13-10-02a—Grant voice without vote to the following staff members; Donald C. Clark, Michell Farrow, Lee Foley, Jan Gomoll, Don Hill, Kathy Houston, Ann Kiernozek, Heather Kimmel, Loey Powell, Christina Sattler, Denise Shimell, Kimberly Whitney;

UCCB-13-10-02b—Receive the Minutes of the June 2013 meeting of the predecessor body, the Executive Council of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ (merged into the United Church of Christ Board). The Minutes of the Executive Council continue for the next 18 pages.

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
AND THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
SITTING AS THE
BUSINESS COMMITTEE OF THE
TWENTY-NINTH GENERAL SYNOD**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2013
THE RENAISSANCE LONG BEACH HOTEL
111 EAST OCEAN BOULEVARD
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA**

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair, Ms. Penny Lowes, presiding, called the meeting to order, the time being 1:00 PM, Thursday, June 27, 2013.

OPENING PRAYER

The Vice Chair, Mr. Bernard Wilson, offered an opening prayer

DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Acting on the advice of the Registrar, Ms. Denise Shimell, Ms. Lowes declared a quorum present. Members present; Mr. Douglas Anders, Ms. Jane Anderson, Mr. Douglas Andrews, Ms. Jean Avison, Mr. Geoffrey Black, Ms. Dale Bonds, Mr. Walter John Boris, Mr. Robert Brown, Mr. Rueben Cedino, Ms. Marcia Charles, Mr. W. Mark Clark, Mr. Arthur Cribbs, Ms. Megan Culbertson, Mr. John Deckenback, Mr. Michael Downs, Mr. Harold Drury, Ms. Marjorie Ellis, Ms. Sylvia Ferrell-Jones, Mr. Carlos Floresca, Ms. Kelly Forbush, Mr. Gilberto Garcia-Rodriguez, Ms. Jean Golden, Mr. Robert Grove-Markwood, Mr. J. Bennett Guess, Ms. Barbara Hanks, Ms. Christine Hanson, Ms. Alice Harper-Jones, Mr. Don Hart, Ms. Ruth Harvey, Mr.

Richard Heiss, Ms. Kathleen Hoffman, Mr. Brian Holeman, Ms. Ann Ito, Ms. M. Linda Jaramillo, Mr. Steve Keithahn, Ms. Julie Kilmer, Ms. Hyo-Jung Kim, Ms. Katherine Lambertson, Mr. Bermin Langbata, Mr. Richard Leavitt, Mr. David Long-Higgins, Ms. Lowes, Mr. Doyle Luckenbaugh, Mr. Ioane Mailo, Mr. James Maki, Mr. Kevin Manz, Ms. Corliss Marsh, Mr. Doug McClelland, Ms. Kimberly McKerley, Mr. James Moos, Mr. David Moyer, Ms. Marilyn Pagan-Banks, Ms. Phyllis Palsma, Mr. Ronald Patterson, Ms. Leslie Penrose, Mr. Rich Pleva, Ms. Sharon Prestemon, Ms. Marta Rodriguez, Ms. Katherine Rogers, Ms. Susan Rotblat-Walker, Mr. Thomas Roust, Mr. Dwayne Royster, Ms. Shelia Rubdi, Mr. Gary Schulte, Mr. Fred Schwerdt, Ms. Christine Shesler, Mr. Bryan Sickbert, Ms. Kaji Spellman, Ms. Brenda Square, Ms. Carol Stanley, Mr. William Sterrett, Ms. Kelly Stone, Ms. Jane Tedder, Ms. Libby Tigner, Ms. Hattie Walker, Mr. Fredd Ward, Ms. Arlinda Wickland, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Douglas Wooten. Members excused; Ms. Dorinda Broadnax, Mr. Glenn Brown, Mr. William Edwards, Ms. Maren Elnes, Ms. Kathie Forman, Ms. Lana Ka'opua. Member absent; Mr. Joseph Vasarhelyi.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Ms. Lowes invited the membership to approve the printed agenda. It was moved and seconded, and;

It was VOTED

13-06-EC-01 to approve the Executive Council Agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2013 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Ms. Lowes invited the membership to approve the Minutes of the March 2013 meeting. It was moved and seconded, and;

It was VOTED

13-06-EC-02 to approve the minutes of the March 2013 Meeting of the Executive Council.

GRANT VOICE WITHOUT VOTE TO STAFF AND OTHERS MAKING PRESENTATIONS BEFORE THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Ms. Lowes referred to the agenda and invited the membership of the Executive Council to grant voice without vote to staff and others making presentations before the Executive Council. It was moved and seconded, and;

It was VOTED

13-06-EC-03 to Grant Voice without Vote to Staff and Others Advising the Executive Council: Mr. David Anderson, Ms. Anita Bradshaw, Ms. Tracy Carnes, Mr. Donald C. Clark, Mr. Lee Foley, Mr. Don Hill, Ms. Kathy Houston, Mr. Chris Noffke, Ms. Loey Powell, Ms. Susan Sanders, Ms. Christina Sattler, Ms. Shimell, Ms. Kimberly Whitney.

RESIGNATION OF RONALD HILDAHL FROM THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

It was VOTED

13-06-EC-04 to receive the resignation of Mr. Ronald Hildahl as the representative of the Northern Plains Conference to the Executive Council of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

RECEIVING 2012 FINANCIAL REPORTS AND SAS 114 LETTER

Ms. Lowes invited Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Houston for presentation and explanation of the combined audit and SAS 114 letter. Ms. Houston shared that the reports were received in draft form, outlined four minor editorial changes, and indicated that no further adjustments to the reports were anticipated.

In response to a question about the average “draw” on investments, Ms. Houston responded that the average draw has been approximately 7%. Ms. Houston also indicated that with new hotel management, it almost broke even for the year. The slight loss in 2012 includes depreciation. A slight increase in hotel revenue is anticipated in 2013.

It was reported that management expenses are in-line with industry standards.

In reporting about Special Offerings, it was noted that OGHS went down \$440K.

It was VOTED

13-06-EC-05 that the Executive Council receive the Executive Council and the Covenanted Ministries of the United Church of Christ and Certain Affiliated Entities December 31, 2012 Financial Report and SAS 114 letter.

REQUESTED REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2005 GENERAL SYNOD RESOLUTION “CONCERNING THE USE OF ECONOMIC LEVERAGE TO PROMOTE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST”

Ms. Lowes reminded the membership that interest had been expressed about how resolutions from General Synods were carried out, specifically the 2005 General Synod Resolution *Concerning the Use of Economic Leverage to Promote Peace in the Middle East*.

Ms. Lowes reported that the Pension Boards, the Collegium of Officers and the United Church Funds had worked collectively to create the proposed motion.

It was moved that the following motion be approved:

The Executive Council receives, with appreciation, the reports of The Pension Boards, the Collegium of Officers and the United Church Funds, as requested by

the Chair of the Executive Council at the March 2013 meeting, regarding the implementation of the 2005 General Synod Resolution *Concerning the Use of Economic Leverage to Promote Peace in the Middle East*. The Executive Council directs the Secretary to forward the reports to the Secretary of the United Church of Christ Board for its consideration and whatever action it deems fit.

It was moved to amend the motion to strike the words “and whatever action it deems fit.” and replace them with “*and urges the new Board to continue to encourage the use of economic leverage toward bringing an end to the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territories.*”

It was VOTED

13-06-EC-06

(2 abstentions) to adopt the amendment deleting the words “and whatever action it deems fit.” and replace them with “*and urges the new Board to continue to encourage the use of economic leverage toward bringing an end to the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territories.*”

It was VOTED

13-06-EC-07

(2 abstentions) to adopt the resolution as amended: the Executive Council receives, with appreciation, the reports of The Pension Boards, the Collegium of Officers and the United Church Funds, as requested by the Chair of the Executive Council at the March 2013 meeting, regarding the implementation of the 2005 General Synod Resolution Concerning the Use of Economic Leverage to Promote Peace in the Middle East. The Executive Council directs the Secretary to forward the reports to the Secretary of the United Church of Christ Board for its consideration and urges the new Board to continue to encourage the use of economic leverage toward bringing an end to the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territories.

ELECTION TO THE HISTORICAL COUNCIL

It was VOTED

13-06-EC-08 the election of Margaret (Peggy) Bendroth as Chair of the United Church of Christ Historical Council for a term of two years, Class of 2015.

ELECTIONS TO O.C. INC.

Mr. Kevin Mantz questioned whether the Executive Council was re-electing or simply affirming current members?

The Secretary, Mr. Foley, explained he had been in communication with the Office of Communication, Inc. regarding its lack of submission, for several years, of its Directors for election by the Executive Council and found that O.C., Inc.’s records to be in such disarray that it could not be determine who was properly seated on its board. He was, therefore, recommending the election of all currently-seated O.C, Inc. Directors. Mr. Foley said O.C., Inc.’s leadership had been admonished, and he expected future compliance with its own

governing documents and to the requirement that it submit its directors for election by the Executive Council or its successor body.

It was VOTED

13-06-EC-09 the Executive Council ratifies those currently in a position on the Office of Communication and elects new members to the Office of Communication Board as follows:

the election of Jim Antal to the Office of Communication, Inc., Board of Directors (current member).

the election of Sara Fitzgerald to the Office of Communication, Inc., Board of Directors (current member).

the election of Sandra J. Gadsden to the Office of Communication, Inc., Board of Directors (current member).

the election of W. Evan Golder to the Office of Communication, Inc., Board of Directors (new member).

the election of Kimberly Knight to the Office of Communication, Inc., Board of Directors (new member).

the election of Brian Lapis to the Office of Communication, Inc., Board of Directors (current member).

the election of Earl Williams to the Office of Communication, Inc., Board of Directors (current member).

ELECTIONS TO UNITED CHURCH FUNDS BOARD

It was VOTED

13-06-EC-10

the Executive Council affirms the request of the governance committee of United Church Funds that Elections to UCF Board that the following people be elected to the corporate membership of United Church Funds:

Class of 2019

Kathy Dwyer*
William Epke
Steven J. Guy
Nesa Joseph
Penny Lowes*

Class of 2017

Wade Zick*

*Not currently serving

GRANT VOICE WITHOUT VOTE TO RESOURCE PERSONS TO THE GENERAL SYNOD

It was VOTED

13-06-EC-11 the Executive Council recommends the Twenty-ninth General Synod grant voice without vote to the listed resource people.

Rita Nakashima Brock	Theological Reflector
Quinn Caldwell	Theological Reflector
Ben Chavis	Wilmington 10 Observance
Donald Clark	General Counsel
Bob Frieberg	Podium Parliamentarian
Maria Hinojosa	2nd Plenary Speaker
Denise Page Hood	Delegate Parliamentarian
Kathy Houston	Chief Financial Officer
Bernice Powell Jackson	Wilmington 10 Observance
Peter Kajayama	4th Plenary Speaker
David Orr	6th Plenary Speaker
David Schoen	Team Leader-Evangelism Ministry
Richard Sparrow	Speak Out Coordinator
Karen Georgia Thompson	Ecumenical Officer
Derran Wimer	Co-chair 2015 Local Arrangements Committee
Sue Wimer	Co-chair 2015 Local Arrangements Committee

RECEIVE SYNOD COMMITTEE LIAISON APPOINTMENTS

It was VOTED

13-06-EC-12 the Executive Council receives the appointments of the following members, by the Chair, as Executive Council Liaisons to the Twenty-ninth General Synod's Committee Process Team; Jane Anderson, Jean Avison, Marcia Charles, Hal Drury, Chris Hanson, David Long-Higgins, Doyle Luckenbaugh, Corliss Marsh, Doug McClelland, Christine Shesler, Kaji Spellman, Fredd Ward, Doug Wooten, Arlinda Wickland.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE

It was VOTED

13-06-EC-13 the Executive Council Adopts the Report of the Committee of Reference which recommends:

The Executive Council receives the item of Business submitted to it by the June 7, 2013 deadline, and refers as follows:

A Resolution on Ecumenical Relationship Between the United Church of Christ and the United Church of Canada qualifies under the "Could Not Have Been Anticipated" standing rule [XII(F)3(c)(1)(ii)] for

consideration by the General Synod and recommends it be referred to a Committee of the General Synod.

Also, the Committee of Reference acknowledges that the March 2013 action recommending A Formal Motion of Affirmation of Relationship Between the United Church of Christ and the Fellowship of Affirming Churches go to committee, but because it is a Motion rather than a Resolution, its proper action is to go to a hearing and then to go directly to plenary.

ACCREDITATION AND SEATING OF AUCCIIM NON-DELEGATES HAVING VOICE WITHOUT VOTE AT UCC GENERAL SYNOD 29

It was VOTED

13-06-EC-14 the Executive Council recommends the special application for accreditation and seating of the Association of UCC Intentional Interim Ministers as non-delegates having Voice Without Vote at the Twenty-ninth General Synod.

APPEAL OF STANDING RULE 12 OF THE STANDING RULES

The request for the waiver of Standing Rule 12 came as a request asking not for a resolution, but simply an affirmation of the letter from the Collegium regarding gun violence.

General Synod Moderator, Ms. Tigner reflected that this might set precedence for other groups in the future, having missed the deadline, seeking a way to have General Synod address the issue.

Mr. Foley replied there was precedence for this move and it was his feeling that suspending Rule 12 was a compromise, avoiding the possibility of gun control advocates bringing a late resolution during the Synod's First Plenary, thus causing the Committee of Reference and Executive Council to go into late-night session to consider it. Mr. Foley advised that the issue would come before Synod, one way or another, and the suspension of Rule 12 would cause the least disruption to the Synod agenda and Executive Council schedule.

A question was asked about the anonymous donation of \$25K to be used to seek non-violent solutions. This donation was reported at the March 2013 Executive Council meeting.

Ms. Jaramillo reported that conversations had been held about coordinating a summit of religious leaders. In conversations with the donor, they had requested that the program be postponed for three months. The donor will be coming back in August to explore what the summit would look like.

It was VOTED

13-06-EC-15 the Executive Council votes to waive Standing Rule 12, 3, C, (ii) of the Standing Rules of the Twenty-ninth General Synod and sends the Affirmation of the Collegium's Pastoral Letter Concerning the Defeat of the Manchin-Toomey Amendment to Senate Bill S649 directly to a

plenary session of the Twenty-ninth General Synod and recommends affirmation of said letter.

Text of the Pastoral Letter Released by the Collegium on April 17, 2013

As the names of thousands of women, men, and children lost to gun violence echo across the grounds of the U.S. Capitol today, we are deeply disappointed by the failure of the U.S. Senate to move forward with sensible, responsible legislation to address the scourge of gun violence by expanding background checks on commercial gun sales. Despite today's Senate vote against the Manchin-Toomey amendment to the Senate gun violence bill, we stand resolute and unwavering in our commitment to continue the work of ending gun violence in our society.

We simply cannot accept gun violence as the norm in our nation. It is nothing less than a moral imperative that our public policy reflects a commitment to lessening the toll that gun violence takes in communities throughout our country. While we recognize that no one piece of legislation in and of itself address the complex and multilayered context of gun violence, such common sense gun violence legislation can save lives, and we must take every action we can to keep our children, families and communities safe.

As people of faith, we know all too well the terrible toll that gun violence takes in our communities, year after year, day after day. The wounded, family members and friends of victims are members of our congregations and our local communities. We hold them in our arms, sit with them in hospital emergency rooms, share the tears and the ache of loss, offer prayers of accompaniment, and gather in candlelight vigils.

It is deeply troubling that our elected officials have rejected a measure that has the support of over 90% of the American public, gun owners among them. We are heartened by the hopeful signs of bipartisan dialogue and partnership that have been evident in this debate, and we encourage lawmakers to summon the political courage to continue such efforts.

The faith community has come together many times in the aftermath of gun tragedies over the years to urge legislators to pass laws that would further prevent gun violence, and we will not falter in this critical work. We will continue to advocate for sensible, responsible gun violence prevention that strengthens background checks on gun purchases, addresses gun trafficking, bans military-style assault weapons and high capacity ammunition clips.

Since the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School last December, over 3,000 women, men and children have been lost to gun violence. Words from the Gospel prod us, "Would that we knew the things that make for peace."

The UCC Collegium of Officers:

The Rev. Geoffrey A. Black, General Minister and President

The Rev. J. Bennett Guess, Executive Minister, Local Church Ministries

The Rev. James A. Moos, Executive Minister, Wider Church Ministries

The Rev. M. Linda Jaramillo, Executive Minister, Justice and Witness Ministries

W. Mark Clark, Associate General Minister

While the Senate was voting, names of people who have been killed by gun violence were read on the National Mall. One week earlier a makeshift grave with more than 3,300 markers, representing each person shot since Sandy Hook, lined the lawn outside the Capitol as a

reminder of gun violence victims whose lives were lost.

APPROVAL OF FINAL TWENTY-NINTH GENERAL SYNOD AGENDA

Ms. Lowes directed the membership of the Executive Council to the final proposed Twenty-ninth General Synod agenda and requested its adoption. It was moved, seconded, and;

It was VOTED

13-06-EC-16 the recommended approval of the Twenty-ninth General Synod Agenda by delegates to the Twenty-ninth General Synod.

+/-	Event
	<p style="text-align: center;">FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 28, 2013 HEARINGS 120 Minutes</p>
1:00	Educational Intensives
	<p style="text-align: center;">FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 28, 2013 PLENARY 1 120 Minutes</p>
3:00	<p>Opening Music</p> <p>Moderator Welcome/Call to Order</p> <p>Welcome from the Host Conference</p> <p>Introduction of General Synod Leadership</p> <p>Report of the Credentials Committee/Organization of the General Synod</p> <p>Quorum Declared</p> <p>Explanation of Electronic Voting</p> <p>Adoption of the General Synod Agenda</p> <p>Adoption of the Standing Rules and Granting Voice to Resource Persons</p> <p>Designation of Groups Granted Voice Without Vote</p> <p>Second Notice of Ministry Boards to Alter their Memberships</p> <p>Report of the General Synod Nominating Committee</p> <p>Initial Report of the Executive Council including Introduction of Slate for Nominating Committee</p>

+/-	Event
	<p>Committee of Reference Report/Empowering the Business Committee to Make Referrals of New Business for Action</p> <p>Introduction of New Business (by title only)</p> <p>Announcements</p> <p>RECESS 5:00 pm</p> <p>Dinner</p>
7:30	<p style="text-align: center;">FRIDAY EVENING, JUNE 28, 2013 OPENING WORSHIP/PLENARY 2 135 Minutes</p> <p>Gathering Music</p> <p>Call to Order</p> <p>Introduction of Honored Guests</p> <p>Re-Nomination and Speech of JWM Candidate</p> <p>Marriage Equality/Scarf Project</p> <p>Introduction of Ecumenical Guests</p> <p>Introduction of Overseas Guests/Haystack Video</p> <p>Announcements</p> <p>Theological Reflection</p> <p>Worship</p> <p>RECESS 9:45 PM</p>
8:30	<p style="text-align: center;">SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 29, 2013 PLENARY 3 210 Minutes</p> <p>Worship</p> <p>Call to Order</p>

+/-	Event
	<p>Speak Out!</p> <p>Collegium Report</p> <p>Re-Nomination and Speech of GMP</p> <p>Celebration of New Congregations</p> <p>Celebration of CHHSM 75th Anniversary</p> <p>Celebration of Wilmington 10</p> <p>Theological Reflection</p> <p>Announcements</p> <p>Maria Hinojosa</p> <p>RECESS NOON</p> <p>Lunch</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SATURDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 29, 2013 WORKSHOPS/SERVICE PROJECTS 180 Minutes</p> <p>Workshops/Service Projects/Meet the Candidates</p> <p>Luau</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SATURDAY EVENING, JUNE 29, 2013 120 Minutes</p> <p>7:30 Gathering Music</p> <p>Bernie Johnson Reagon and Toshi Reagon Concert</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUNDAY MORNING, JUNE 30, 2013 210 Minutes</p> <p>9:00 Committees Meet</p>

+/-	Event
	Lunch/Sponsored Meals
	SUNDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 30, 2013 COMMITTEES AND WORSHIP 150 Minutes
2:00	Committees Meet
3:00	Community-Wide Worship
	SUNDAY EVENING, JUNE 30, 2013 HEARINGS 120 Minutes
7:30	Hearings
	RECESS 9:30 PM
	MONDAY MORNING, JULY 1, 2013 PLENARY 4 210 Minutes
8:30	Call to Order
	Speak Out!
	Re-Nomination and Speech of the Candidate for LCM
	Budget Presentation and Vote
	Committee Block A
	Music/Stretch Break
	Committee Block B
	Election of Officers/Recognition of Collegium
	Celebration of the Ministry of W. Mark Clark

+/-	Event
	<p>Theological Reflection</p> <p>Announcements</p> <p>Lunch/Sponsored Meals</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MONDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 1, 2013 PLENARY 5 150 Minutes</p>
2:30	<p>Call to Order</p> <p>Speak Out!</p> <p>Committee Block C</p> <p>Election of United Church Board, Election of General Synod XXX Moderator and Assistant Moderator, Affirmation of Ex-Officio Members of UCCB, Election of General Synod Nominating Committee</p> <p>Committee Reports Block D</p> <p>Recognition of New and Retiring Conference Ministers</p> <p>Faith-In/Peter Kajayama Speech</p> <p>Theological Reflection</p> <p>Announcements</p> <p>RECESS 5:00 PM</p> <p>Dinner/Sponsored Meals</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MONDAY EVENING, JULY 1, 2013 PLENARY 6 120 Minutes</p>
7:30	<p>Call to Order</p> <p>Speak Out!</p> <p>Committee Block E</p> <p>Celebration of Pension Boards 100th Anniversary</p>

+/-	Event
	<p>Theological Reflection</p> <p>Announcements</p> <p>Transition Music</p> <p>Worship</p> <p>RECESS 9:30 PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TUESDAY MORNING, JULY 1, 2013 PLENARY 7 210 Minutes</p>
8:30	<p>Call to Order</p> <p>Speak Out!</p> <p>Committee Block F</p> <p>Recognition of Mission 4/1 Earth</p> <p>Environmental Speaker-David Orr</p> <p>Celebration of Existing Structure and Boards</p> <p>Introduction of United Church Board Membership</p> <p>Committee Block G</p> <p>Theological Reflection</p> <p>Announcements</p> <p>RECESS NOON</p> <p>Lunch</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 2, 2013 PLENARY 8 150 Minutes</p>
2:30	<p>Call to Order</p>

+/-	Event
	<p>Speak Out!</p> <p>Committee Block H</p> <p>Recognition of National Staff</p> <p>Committee Block I</p> <p>Invitation to General Synod XXX</p> <p>Thanks/Recognition of the Local Arrangements Committee</p> <p>Announcements (including the Credentials Committee Report)</p> <p>Installation of New Moderator and Assistant Moderator</p> <p>Final Theological Reflection</p> <p>Motion to Adjourn at the Close of Evening Worship</p> <p>RECESS 5:00 PM</p> <p>DINNER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TUESDAY EVENING, JULY 2, 2013 CLOSING WORSHIP</p>
7:30	Closing Worship

PRAYER FOR GENERAL SYNOD

Ms. Lowes invited General Minister and President, Mr. Black to offer prayer for the Twenty-ninth General Synod.

MERGER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL INTO THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD

Ms. Lowes moved to the merger of the Executive Council into the United Church of Christ Board, the final act required of the Executive Council, along with those of the Covenanted Ministry Boards scheduled for later in the week, to bring about the institution of the new governance structure for the Church. She recalled the nine year effort, through some very difficult and arduous times, to reach this point, naming some of those who previously served, and

some who still serve on the Executive Council, who stood firm and never wavered in their determination to bring about this day.

Ms. Lowes read the Resolution of Merger. Without debate it was moved and seconded, and;

It was VOTED

13-06-EC-17 to adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION OF MEMBERS/DIRECTORS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF
THE GENERAL SYNOD OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
APPROVING AGREEMENT OF MERGER**

Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the following resolution was duly adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the voting members, who are also the directors, of The Executive Council of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ, an Ohio public benefit corporation, present at a meeting duly called and held on June 27, 2013, the votes cast in favor of this resolution being at least equal to the quorum and all members casting votes being entitled to vote thereon:

RESOLVED, that the merger of The Executive Council of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ, an Ohio public benefit corporation, and Office of General Ministries (A Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ), an Ohio public benefit corporation, into United Church of Christ Board, an Ohio public benefit corporation, pursuant to and in accordance with the Agreement of Merger attached hereto, be, and the same hereby is, approved and adopted;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson and the Secretary of The Executive Council of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ be, and they are hereby, authorized and directed to execute and deliver the aforesaid Agreement of Merger, with such changes as are acceptable to the foregoing officers, on behalf of The Executive Council of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ, and to prepare or cause to be prepared an appropriate certificate of merger and to execute such certificate as required and cause the same to be filed in the office of the Ohio Secretary of State; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the officers of The Executive Council of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ be, and each of them is hereby, authorized and directed to take all such further action, execute and deliver all such other documents, and obtain all such other governmental approvals, as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

There were 79 votes in the affirmative. There were no votes against and no abstentions.

For nearly 30 seconds following the vote the membership sat in stunned and spontaneous silence at the magnitude of the action it had just taken, following nearly a decade of effort to achieve the governing structure it had just given its final approval to. There was no cheering or obvious celebration, just the silence and the sense of great accomplishment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Lowes asked the Executive Council liaisons to meet with Mr. Anderson at the back of the room following the meeting.

Ms. Hanson expressed thanks for the prayers and support during the death of her husband. “I would not have been able to do it without you.”

DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTRONIC VOTING DEVICES

Mr. Foley was invited to share with the members of the Executive Council the use and distribution process of the electronic voting devices.

Ms. Tigner indicated that during the first plenary delegates would have an opportunity to practice using the “clickers.”

Mr. Foley indicated that if there was a catastrophic failure of the “clickers”, the Synod would move to counting votes the old fashioned way.

GENERAL SYNOD WALK-THROUGH

Mr. Mark Clark was invited to share with the members any updates on the General Synod schedule. Mr. Clark provided a detailed “walk-through” of the General Synod schedule, logistics, meetings and plenary as well as additional issues and activities available to delegates and visitors.

REMARKS TO HONOR THE CLASS OF 2013

Ms. Lowes invited members of the Collegium to the podium to celebrate the final gathering of the Executive Council.

Mr. Black expressed appreciation to all members of the Executive Council, noting many take vacation time to participate in this leadership body of the United Church of Christ.

He said they would now take a moment to honor the membership and to encourage members to continue in leadership roles. “Mission is more than governance. Many of you have vast potential to continue on in other forms of leadership.”

As a token of appreciation of their leadership, the Collegium presented a Bible to each member with the member’s name engraved on the cover.

**REMARKS BY THE OUTGOING CHAIR
AND VICE-CHAIR OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Ms. Lowes presented personalized Bibles to each member of the Collegium, and expressed appreciation for their leadership. The members of the Executive Council responded with applause.

Ms. Lowes invited each class (2013, 2015, 2017) to stand and be recognized and honored. Ms. Lowes expressed appreciation to both Mr. Foley and Ms. Shimell for their outstanding work. The members of the Executive Council stood in standing ovation for their staff.

Ms. Lowes expressed appreciation for the opportunity of working with Mr. Bernard Wilson who will be continuing on the new United Church of Christ Board.

Ms. Lowes thanked each of the chairs and co-chairs of the respective committees of the Executive Council.

There being no further business to come before the body, Ms. Lowes, presiding, adjourned the final meeting of the Executive Council of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ, the time being 4:11 PM, Thursday, June 27, 2013.

Respectfully submitted;
Chris Noffke-Recording Secretary

Lee Foley-Secretary to the Corporation
The Executive Council of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ

September 17, 2013

End of Executive Council Minutes (UCCB-13-10-02b)

UCCB-13-10-02c—Receive the Minutes of the June 2013 meeting of the predecessor body, the Office of General Ministries Board (merged into the United Church of Christ Board);

**Minutes of the Board of Directors of the Office of General Ministries
(A Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ)**

**Saturday, June 29, 2013
The Renaissance Long Beach Hotel
Long Beach, California**

Call to Order, Quorum Call and other Administrative Business

The Chair, Ms. Susan Rotblat-Walker, presiding, called the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Office of General Ministries (A Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ) to order, the time being 7:31 AM, PDT, June 29, 2013. Ms. Rotblat-Walker asked Mr. Geoffrey Black to offer an opening prayer. Based on information provided by the Registrar, Ms. Denise Shimell, Ms. Rotblat-Walker declared a quorum present.

25 member were present; Ms. Pat Barnes-McConnell, Ms. Carol Barriger, Mr. Black, Ms. Betsy Bruaw, Mr. W. Mark Clark, Mr. Tom Croner, Ms. Katherine Eyberg, Ms. Carla Gregg, Ms. Jan Griesinger, Mr. Harold Harmison, Mr. Dile Holton, Mr. John Kleiman, Mr. Richard Leavitt, Mr. Evan Mandigo, Ms. Savannah Mason, Mr. David Pantermuehl, Mr. Christopher Ponnuraj, Ms. Michiko Reyes, Ms. Rotblat-Walker, Mr. Kenneth Samuel, Ms. Stella Schoen, Ms. Susan Shands, Ms. Kaji Spellman, Mr. Timothy Weible and Mr. Karl Whiteman. Members Mr. A.J. Lacefield, Ms. Jill Baker, Ms. Kathie Foreman, Mr. Cody Long, Ms. Kayla Kautz and Mr. Clarence Price were excused. Member Mr. James David was absent.

Staff members Mr. Lee Foley, Ms. Kathy Houston, Ms. Jennifer Kubala, Ms. Shimell, Ms. Karen Georgia Thompson, Ms. Susan Towner-Larsen and Ms. Kimberly Whitney were present.

Ms. Rotblat-Walker asked for a moment of silence for former Board member Mr. George Worcester who had died the previous month. She reminded the membership and staff that Mr. Worcester had concluded his service on the Board two years earlier and had been a major voice in the direction of the Ministry and its work.

Ms. Rotblat-Walker invited the membership and staff to breakfast before proceeding with other business.

Ms. Rotblat-Walker asked for and received a motion and a second, and;

It was VOTED

13-06-OGM-01 to approve the agenda, as posted for member review.

Ms. Rotblat-Walker asked for and received a motion and a second, and;

It was VOTED

13-06-OGM-02 to approve the March 2013 Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors.

Ms. Rotblat-Walker asked for and received a motion and a second, and;

It was VOTED

13-06-OGM-03 to grant voice without vote to staff members, Ms. Cheryl Barthelman, Mr. Donald C. Clark, Mr. Foley, Ms. Houston, Ms. Kubala, Ms. Ann Poston, Ms. Loey Powell, Ms. Shimell, Ms. Thompson, Ms. Towner-Larsen and Ms. Whitney.

Receipt of the Combined Audit

Ms. Rotblat-Walker called on Mr. Harmison, Vice-chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, to move the receipt of the Combined Audit, which he did. Ms. Houston, the Chief Financial Officer of the United Church of Christ and OGM Treasurer, then responded to questions from the membership regarding the “draft” nature of the document. She said there were no substantive changes expected between the draft and the final version of the audit, that some additional information regarding the Church Building and Loan Fund was needed before the document could be finalized, but that the Audit Coordinating Committee was recommending the Executive Council, OGM Board and other Covenanted Ministry Boards receive the audit at their meetings held in Long Beach.

Ms. Rotblat-Walker called the question, and;

It was VOTED 13-06-OGM-04

The Board of Directors of the Office of General Ministries receives The Executive Council and the Covenanted Ministries of the United Church of Christ and Certain Affiliated Entities December 31, 2012 Financial Report and SAS 114 letter.

Merger of the Office of General Ministries into the United Church of Christ Board

Ms. Rotblat-Walker moved to the merger of the Board into the United Church of Christ Board, the final action the membership was required to take to complete its work to enable the new governance structure of the United Church of Christ. Ms. Rotblat-Walker spoke of the eight year effort to come to this point, noting it was OGM that had initially proposed the new structure, pushing and prodding when other Ministries and organizations within the Church had resisted. She called OGM’s involvement essential to the restructure of the Church’s governance system and recalled the difficulties and hard times before achieving today’s vote. Ms. Rotblat-Walker reminded the membership the Executive Council had taken the same action to merge into the United Church of Christ Board two days earlier and at similar breakfast meetings being held simultaneously the Boards of Directors of Justice and Witness, Local Church and Wider Church Ministries were voting to change the composition of their memberships, their final act under the existing structure to enable the new system.

Ms. Rotblat-Walker then read the Resolution of Merger:

Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the following resolution was duly adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the voting members, who are also the directors, of Office of General Ministries (A Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ), an Ohio public benefit corporation, present at a meeting duly called and held June 29, 2013, the votes cast in favor of this resolution being at least equal to the quorum and all members casting votes being entitled to vote thereon:

RESOLVED, that the merger of The Executive Council of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ, an Ohio public benefit corporation, and Office of General Ministries (A

Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ), an Ohio public benefit corporation, into United Church of Christ Board, an Ohio public benefit corporation, pursuant to and in accordance with the Agreement of Merger attached hereto, be, and the same hereby is, approved and adopted;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson and the Secretary of the Office of General Ministries (A Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ) be, and they are hereby, authorized and directed to execute and deliver the aforesaid Agreement of Merger, with such changes as are acceptable to the foregoing officers, on behalf of the Office of General Ministries (A Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ), and to prepare or cause to be prepared an appropriate certificate of merger and to execute such certificate as required and cause the same to be filed in the office of the Ohio Secretary of State; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the officers of the Office of General Ministries (A Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ) be, and each of them is hereby, authorized and directed to take all such further action, execute and deliver all such other documents, and obtain all such other governmental approvals, as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

Mr. Foley responded to questions regarding the exact date the new structure would take effect, saying the enabling Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ would go in force concurrent with the closing gavel of the last business session of the Twenty-ninth General Synod on Tuesday afternoon, July 2, 2013. He noted the necessary paperwork from the attorneys would not be filed with the Ohio Secretary of State until about July 15, 2013, but that the United Church of Christ Board, the succeeding corporation, was fully and legally empowered and authorized to act on all matters of the Church during the intervening time.

Ms. Rotblat-Walker called the question, and;

It was VOTED
13-06-OGM-05 to adopt the Resolution of Merger.

There were 25 votes in the affirmative, no votes against and no abstentions.

Ms. Spellman offered a blessing for the action just taken and for the other Ministry Boards, the Executive Council, the United Church of Christ Board and the United Church of Christ.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Ms. Rotblat-Walker thanked the membership for the governance vote, noting the irony that the vote in fact dissolved the Corporation, put OGM out of business and the membership out of work. She thanked the membership for its service. She thanked staff, in particular, Mr. Foley, Ms. Houston and Ms. Shimell for their work over the years on behalf of the Board and thanked Ms. Alisa Lewis, the Director of Human Resources at the national setting of the Church, for her good work. Ms. Rotblat-Walker also thanked Ms. Kautz, the Vice-chair of the Board, who lost her grandmother in the days just prior to the meeting and was unable to attend. She also thanked

Ms. Forman, Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, who also could not attend the meeting, for her fine work and support over the years.

There being no further business to come before the membership Ms. Rotblat-Walker adjourned the final meeting of the Board of Directors of the Office of General Ministries (A Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ), the time being 8:17 AM, PDT, Saturday, June 29, 2013.

Respectfully submitted;
Lee Foley
Secretary to the Corporation-
The Office of General Ministries
(A Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ)

July 29, 2013

End of OGM Minutes (UCCB-13-10-02c)

UCCB-13-10-02d—Approve the Minutes of the Twenty-ninth General Synod;

BACKGROUND; the General Synod Ad Interim (United Church of Christ Board) is charged with approving the Minutes of the General Synod. The minutes have been edited by the Chief General Synod Recorder, staff in the Office of the General Minister and President and by six members of the United Church of Christ Board who sat on the Executive Council or one of the Covenanted Ministry Boards during the Twenty-ninth General Synod. Upon final corrections and the appending of various documents the General Synod Administrator is authorized to release the approved minutes, no later than November 1, 2013. The Minutes of the Twenty-ninth General Synod continue for the next 72 pages.

MINUTES TWENTY-NINTH GENERAL SYNOD

GOD’S VISION

**LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA
JUNE 28 – JULY 2, 2013**

CALL TO ORDER

**Friday Afternoon, June 28, 2013
First Plenary Session**

1. GENERAL SYNOD CALL TO ORDER

Moderator Libby Tigner (CA NV, S) called the first business session of the Twenty-ninth

General Synod to order at 3:10 PM and welcomed delegates, visitors and guests.

2. WELCOME FROM THE HOST CONFERENCE

Moderator Tigner noted the extravagant hospitality of Local Arrangements Committees of each General Synod that work throughout the biennium preparing for delegates, honored guests and visitors. She then introduced Mr. Felix Villanueva, Conference Minister for the California Nevada Southern Conference, who welcomed everyone to Long Beach.

3. INTRODUCTION OF GENERAL SYNOD LEADERSHIP

Moderator Tigner introduced Assistant Moderators Mr. Brian Holeman (CAC) and Ms. Dale Bonds (SC).

Ms. Tigner also introduced the Parliamentarians, Mr. Bob Frieberg (SD) who serves as Moderator's Parliamentarian, and Ms. Denise Page Hood (MICH) who serves as the delegates' Parliamentarian.

Ms. Hood and Mr. Frieberg alerted the delegates to appropriate procedural rules as well as the role of the Youth Stewards.

Ms. Tigner explained the committee process, including the composition and roll of the Agenda Committee.

4. REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Moderator Tigner called on Mr. Tony Fields (PW), Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, who moved the adoption of the Report of the Credentials Committee (Appendix A). He reported the delegation as a whole exceeds the number of delegates under the age of thirty and conferences have made good faith efforts to seek diversity and to be in compliance with the bylaws. Mr. Fields, Mr. Lee Foley, Minister for Governing Body Relations, and Ms. Susan Towner-Larsen, Minister for Conference Relations, will follow-up with conferences that haven't reached bylaw requirements.

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

5. QUORUM DECLARED

Moderator Tigner declared a quorum was present and the Twenty-ninth General Synod was in session with 843 delegates in attendance, representing all thirty-eight conferences.

6. INTRODUCTION OF ELECTRONIC VOTING

Moderator Tigner advised the California Nevada Southern Conference delegation will serve as honorary tellers for this General Synod as once again electronic voting will be used. She then instructed the delegates on the use of voting devices.

7. ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD AGENDA

Ms. Tigner indicated that the Executive Council will serve as the General Synod "ad Interim" and will serve as the Business Committee and Committee of Reference of the General Synod

during its sessions. As such it shall prepare the agenda and schedule all meetings of the General Synod, and recommend changes therein during sessions.

Moderator Tigner called on Ms. Penny Lowes, Chairperson of the Executive Council, who moved the adoption of the Agenda for the Twenty-ninth General Synod as included in The Second Report of the Executive Council (Appendix B), and authorization for the Agenda Committee to make any necessary adjustments.

13-GS-2 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod adopts the agenda as included in the Second Report of the Executive Council and authorizes the Agenda Committee to make any necessary adjustments.

8. ADOPTION OF THE STANDING RULES / GRANTING VOICE TO RESOURCE PERSONS

Moderator Tigner again called on Ms. Penny Lowes, who moved the adoption of the Standing Rules of the Twenty-ninth General Synod included in The First Report of the Executive Council (Appendix C).

13-GS-03 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod adopts the Standing Rules.

9. GRANTING VOICE WITHOUT VOTE TO RESOURCE PERSONS

Ms. Lowes recommended voice without vote be granted to resource persons approved by the Business Committee who will be asked to make reports and speak to certain issues. The names of those persons are included in The Second Report of the Executive Council Report (Appendix B) that was provided to delegates.

13-GS-04 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod grants voice without vote by consensus to resource persons approved by the Business Committee.

10. GRANTING VOICE WITHOUT VOTE TO DESIGNATED GROUPS

Ms. Lowes moved that the Twenty-ninth General Synod grant voice without vote to the designated groups and to their stated representatives who were approved by the Executive Council and included in The First and Second Reports of the Executive Council (Appendices B and C).

13-GS-05 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod grants voice without vote by consensus to the designated groups and to their stated representatives who were approved by the Executive Council.

11. SECOND NOTICE OF MINISTRY BOARDS TO ALTER THEIR MEMBERSHIPS

Moderator Tigner advised that more than the required percentage of conferences ratified the amendments of the United Church of Christ Constitution related to the creation of a new United Church of Christ Board and other significant changes to governance of the national setting. The final formal actions required for implementation are votes by the Boards of Directors of the Covenanted Ministries to take specific actions. These votes are scheduled to be taken at special Board meetings tomorrow morning.

Part of this process is that the Boards of Directors of Local Church Ministries, Justice and Witness Ministries and Wider Church Ministries must notify two regular meetings of the General Synod of their intent to change the sizes of their Boards of Directors. The first such notice was provided to General Synod Twenty-eight in Tampa two years ago. The following announcements serve as the second of the required notifications.

Ms. Tigner called on Ms. Carol Williams-Swoope of Local Church Ministries, Ms. Alice Harper Jones of Justice and Witness Ministries and Mr. Bing Tso of Wider Church Ministries to report on the actions of their respective Boards.

Ms. Williams-Swoope, Ms. Jones and Mr. Tso each announced their respective Boards approved the resolution to change the size and composition of their Board.

12. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Moderator Tigner called on Mr. J. Matthew Deal (PW) to present The Report of the Nominating Committee Chair (Appendix D).

Mr. Deal submitted The First Report of the Nominating Committee (Appendix E) and The Second Report of the Nominating Committee (Appendix F) and urged the election of the outstanding nominees presented in the two reports.

Ms. Tigner received the reports without objection and advised that elections will be held on Monday.

13. INITIAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Moderator Tigner invited Ms. Penny Lowes, Chairperson of the Executive Council, to present The Report of the Executive Council Chair (Appendix G) and to share reflections on the past biennium and bring before the General Synod four more pieces of business.

Ms. Lowes moved the adoption of The First Report of the Nominating Committee (Appendix E), the thirty-six at-large members of the United Church of Christ Board.

Moderator Tigner advised the election will be conducted on Monday afternoon and nominations for the United Church of Christ Board are now closed.

Ms. Lowes moved the election of Mr. Brian Holeman (CAC) as the Moderator of the Thirtieth General Synod, as found in The Second Report of the Nominating Committee (Appendix F).

Moderator Tigner stated the Standing Rules provide for floor nominations for this position. Seeing none, she advised that nominations for Moderator are now closed and the election will be held Monday afternoon.

Ms. Lowes moved the election of Ms. Sue Artt (IS) as the Assistant Moderator of the Thirtieth General Synod, as found in The Second Report of the Nominating Committee (Appendix F).

Moderator Tigner stated the Standing Rules provide for floor nominations for this position.

Seeing none, she advised that nominations for Assistant Moderator are now closed and the election will be held Monday afternoon.

Ms. Lowes moved the election of the slate of at-large candidates for the Thirtieth General Synod Nominating Committee as nominated by the Executive Council and posted for delegate review since March and found in The First Report of the Executive Council (Appendix C).

Moderator Tigner stated the Standing Rules provide for floor nominations for these positions. Seeing none, she advised that nominations for at-large candidates for the Thirtieth General Synod Nominating Committee are now closed and the election will be held Monday afternoon.

Ms. Tigner thanked Ms. Lowes for her exemplary service to the church and her gracious leadership as Chair of the Executive Council during this biennium.

14. COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT

Moderator Tigner called on Mr. Doug Wooten, Chairperson of the Executive Council's Committee of Reference, for a report.

Mr. Wooten moved the Twenty-ninth General Synod adopt the Committee of Reference Reports, as found in The First Report of the Executive Council (Appendix C) and The Second Report of the Executive Council (Appendix B) and delegate to the Business Committee the referral of new business submitted during the first plenary of this General Synod.

13-GS-06 – The Twenty-ninth General Synod adopts the Committee of Reference Report and delegates to the Business Committee the referral of new business submitted during the first plenary of this General Synod.

15. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BUSINESS (BY TITLE ONLY)

Moderator Tigner reviewed the process for bringing new business to the General Synod. No new business was presented.

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moderator Tigner called on Associate General Minister Mr. W. Mark Clark for announcements.

1. Mr. Clark recognized Ms. Sara Morse and Ms. Beth Kennett, Head Ushers and Floor Managers for the Bar of the House.
2. A Q-R code on the back of the program book can be scanned to access a mobile-friendly version of the General Synod website. A URL code can also be accessed.
3. Free wireless access is available at no charge. Instructions are listed in the program book.
4. Please pick up badge holders in the registration area.
5. Please be sure to stop by the Exhibit Hall throughout General Synod. The exhibits will be open today at noon through noon on Tuesday.
6. Sign-ups for our first SpeakOut! tomorrow morning will be immediately following this plenary.

17. RECESS

Moderator Tigner declared the Twenty-ninth General Synod to be in recess until 7:30 PM.

Friday Evening, June 28, 2013

Second Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER

Assistant Moderator Dale Bonds called the Second Plenary Session to order.

2. INTRODUCTION OF HONORED GUESTS

Ms. Bonds welcomed the following former officers, executives of instrumentalities, and former moderators of the United Church of Christ.

- Mr. Marvin Morgan, Moderator of the Twenty-seventh General Synod
- Mr. Merlyn Lawrence, Moderator of the Twenty-sixth General Synod
- Mr. Norman “Jack” Jackson, Moderator of the Twenty-fifth General Synod
- Mr. Nate A. Lewis, Jr., Moderator of the Twenty-fourth General Synod
- Ms. Denise Page Hood, Moderator of the Twenty-second General Synod
- Mr. John Krueger, Moderator of the Fifteenth General Synod
- Ms. Yvonne Delk, former Executive of the Office for Church in Society
- Ms. Loey Powell, former Executive of the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society
- Mr. David Hirano, former Executive of the United Church Board for World Ministries, and his wife Sandra Hirano
- Mr. Arthur Cribbs, former Executive of the Office of Communication

- Ms. Joan Brannick and Mr. John Ordway, former Executive Vice Presidents of The Pension Boards, and Mr. Ordway’s wife Patricia Ordway
- Ms. Carol Joyce, former Secretary of the Church, and her husband Neal Luebke
- Ms. Doris Powell, former Treasurer of the Church
- Ms. Bernice Powell Jackson, former Officer and Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries, and her husband Franklyn Jackson
- Ms. Olivia Masih White and her husband Terry White, Mr. Bennie Whiten and his wife Sue Sporte, and Ms. Cally Rogers-Witte, former officers of the Church and Executive Ministers for Wider Church Ministries
- Mr. Steve Sterner, former Officer and Executive Minister for Local Church Ministries, and his wife Judith Sterner
- Ms. Edith Guffey, former Associate General Minister, and her husband Jerry Guffey
- Mr. Paul Sherry, former President of the United Church of Christ, and his wife Mary Sherry

The above honored guests were given a standing ovation and Assistant Moderator Bonds declared that, with the body’s acclamation, these honored guests are granted voice in the Twenty-ninth General Synod. She then led the body in prayer.

3. RE-NOMINATION AND SPEECH OF JUSTICE AND WITNESS CANDIDATE

Assistant Moderator Bonds called on Ms. Alice Harper-Jones, Chairperson of Justice and Witness Ministries, to introduce Ms. M. Linda Jaramillo, Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries.

Ms. Harper-Jones presented Ms. M. Linda Jaramillo as the candidate for Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries and Officer of the United Church of Christ.

Ms. Jaramillo expressed a deep respect for her colleagues in ministry. Her comments included: Our job is to do and be a continuing testament. All forms of injustice can be overcome. When one part of the body suffers, we all hurt. We must move from hostility to hospitality. Are we willing to fling open our doors and become an immigrant-welcoming congregation? Are we ready to go beyond resolutionizing the church?

Assistant Moderator Bonds thanked Ms. Jaramillo for her comments.

4. MARRIAGE EQUALITY / SCARF PROJECT

Assistant Moderator Bonds called on Ms. Michael Schuenemeyer, Executive for Health and Wholeness Advocacy, Mr. Geoffrey Black, General Minister and President, Ms. Marja Coons-Torn, Penn Central Conference Minister, and Mr. Andy Lang, Executive Director of the United Church of Christ Coalition for LGBT Concerns, to speak to the recent Supreme Court decisions regarding marriage equality with two cases: Windsor vs. U. S. addressing the Defense of Marriage Act and Hollingsworth vs. Perry that speaks to Proposition 8 in California.

Mr. Schuenemeyer stated the Twenty-fifth General Synod affirmed equal marriage rights for couples regardless of gender; declared that the government should not interfere with couples regardless of gender who choose to marry and share fully and equally in the rights, responsibilities and commitment of legally recognized marriage; affirmed equal access to the basic rights, institutional protections and quality of life conferred by the recognition of marriage and urged the church to work against legislation, including constitutional amendments, which denies civil marriage rights to couples based on gender.

He stated that members of the United Church of Christ have continued to provide amazing leadership in the struggle for marriage equality. The General Synod has joined “Friend of the Court” briefs in several marriage equality cases, including the two cases heard by the U. S. Supreme Court in March of this year.

There are now twelve states that have the freedom to marry and the United Church of Christ has been an integral part of this incredible movement for equality and justice.

Mr. Black expressed his pride of the countless leaders in the United Church of Christ who have been part of making marriage equality a reality across the country. He led the General Synod in prayer asking for God’s blessing on everyone who has entered into a covenantal relationship of love and commitment, and for those who are in solidarity for equality and justice.

Mr. Black then introduced Ms. Marja Coons-Torn and Mr. Andy Lang, to explain the Scarf

Project to raise awareness of bullying and violence, with particular emphasis related to sexual orientation or gender identity. Ms. Coons-Torn advised that more than three thousand hand-knitted scarves have been collected and she invited everyone to pick up a scarf in the Exhibit Hall and take the pledge to take action against the bullying of LGBT youth.

Mr. Lang expressed thanks to the men, women and youth across the country who created these beautiful scarves, as well as the staff of the California Nevada Southern Conference who collected and stored them over the past year.

5. INTRODUCTION OF ECUMENICAL GUESTS

Assistant Moderator Bonds called on Ms. Karen Georgia Thompson, Minister for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, to introduce our Ecumenical Delegates and Partners.

Ms. Thompson introduced the following ecumenical guests:

- Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, General Minister and President, from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Rev. Dr. Robert Welsh, President for the Council on Christian Unity and Ecumenical Officer, from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Rev. Robina Winbush, Associate Stated Clerk and Director for Ecumenical and Agency Relationships and President of Churches Uniting in Christ, from the Presbyterian Church (USA)
- Rev. Phyllis Palsma, Interim Pastor for the Paramus Reformed Church, from the Reformed Church in America. Rev. Palsma is also completing her term of service on the United Church of Christ's Executive Council
- Ms. Kathryn Lohre, Director of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs and the President of the National Council of Churches of Christ, from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
- Rev. J. Lee Hill, Senior Pastor of Christian Fellowship Congregational Church in San Diego, CA who served on the Alliance Board of Directors from the Alliance of Baptists
- Rev. Michael Blair, Executive Minister, Communities in Mission Unit, from the United Church of Canada
- Rev. Karen Smart, Program Coordinator for Governance Support, from the United Church of Canada
- Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith, Ecumenical Liaison and Executive Director for the Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis, from the National Baptist Convention
- Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, Bishop for the 20th District and Ecumenical Officer, from the African Methodist Episcopal Church
- Rev. Peter Morales, President, from the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
- Rev. Carlos Malave, Executive Director, from the Christian Churches Together
- Ms. Natasha Klukach, Program Executive for Church and Ecumenical Relations and North American Regional Relations, from the World Council of Churches
- Rev. Dr. Setri Nyomi, General Secretary, from the World Communion of Reformed Churches

13-GS-07 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod grants voice to these ecumenical guests by consensus.

6. INTRODUCTION OF OVERSEAS GUESTS AND FORMATION OF THE HAYSTACK SOCIETY

Assistant Moderator Bonds called on Mr. James Moos, Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries and Co-Executive of Global Ministries, to introduce and welcome our overseas guests and missionaries and the formation of the Haystack Society.

Mr. Moos brought greetings from more than two hundred seventy international partners and one hundred mission personnel, who join thousands of others who built our churches' two hundred-year legacy of global mission, beginning in 1806. Mr. Moos announced the formation of the Haystack Society to honor our historic legacy and a fund to ensure the future of mission. He introduced Rev. Dr. Prince Dibeela, General Secretary of the United Congregational Church in Southern Africa, who introduced a video presenting the haystack event and the initiation of the Haystack Society.

Mr. Moos then introduced the following guests:

From Africa

Ms. Gertrude Amenu and her spouse Francis, from the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ghana

Rev. Dr. Prince Dibeela and his spouse Cheryl, from the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa

Rev. Clement Mputu Y'onganga, Vice President of the Community of the Disciples of Christ in Congo

Rev. Seth Agidi, Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana

Ms. Megan Baxter, Theological Education by Extension College, South Africa

From East Asia and the Pacific

Bishop Reuel Normal O. Marigza, General Secretary of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines

From Europe

Professor Paolo Naso, the Waldensian Church in Italy

From the Middle East

Dr. Mira Rizeq, General Secretary of the YWCA of Palestine

From Southern Asia

Rev. Dr. Henrietta Huttabarat, General Secretary of the Christian Conference of Asia, Indonesia

Mr. Moos moved that these international partner guests be granted voice without vote for the duration of General Synod.

Mr. Moos also welcomed partners who have relationships with Conferences or local churches and asked them to stand and be greeted with applause.

13-GS-08 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod grants voice without vote for the duration of General Synod to these overseas guests by consensus.

Mr. Moos then introduced the following Global Ministries mission personnel:

- Mr. John and Ms. Faye Buttrick, recently appointed as long term volunteers to serve with Kairos Palestine
- Mr. Ken and Ms. Betty Frank, recently retired from three decades of work with the Health and Education Foundation in Turkey
- Mr. Loren McGrail, currently serving with the YWCA of Palestine
- Mr. Jeffrey Mensendiek, who serves with Kwansai Gakuin University and the United Church of Christ in Japan
- Ms. Jeanette Salley, recently appointed to work with the Protestant Reformed Church in Guadeloupe and Martinique
- Mr. Zoltan and Ms. Barbara Szucs, completing their service with the Reformed Church in Hungary
- Mr. Bruce VanVoorhis, serving with the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCA's in Hong Kong

Mr. Moos encouraged everyone to become a Haystack Society member and continue building the global household of faith, with Christ as the cornerstone.

13-GS-09 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod grants voice without vote by consensus for the duration of General Synod to these mission personnel.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Assistant Moderator Bonds called on Mr. W. Mark Clark, Associate General Minister, for announcements.

1. Everyone is invited to join General Synod on social media on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
2. Pick up your scarf and take the pledge against bullying in the Exhibit Hall.
3. Please thank the following sponsors who have helped make this General Synod possible: Our Church's Wider Mission, The United Church of Christ Church Building and Loan Fund, the Retirement Housing Foundation and the United Church of Christ Cornerstone Fund. We will now watch a short video from Our Church's Wider Mission.

7. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION AND RECESS

Assistant Moderator Bonds called on Mr. Quinn Caldwell and Ms. Rita Nakashima Brock for theological reflection and advised that following this reflection, we will move into worship, after which General Synod will be in recess until Saturday morning.

8. WORSHIP

The sermon for the evening worship was given by the Rev. Neichelle Guidry Jones, Associate Pastor to Young Adults at Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, Illinois

Saturday Morning, June 29, 2013 Third Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER

Assistant Moderator Brian Holeman called the Third Plenary Session to order.

2. SPEAKOUTS!

Mr. Holeman recognized the following SpeakOut! participants:

1. Dianne Roberts (MICH) asked that the Pine Ridge Reservation's sixteen-year relationship with the United Church of Christ be remembered.
2. Marja Coons-Torn and Betsy Bruhas (PC) spoke about the Scarf Project representing anti-bullying.
3. Jeannette Brown (CAC) promoted her book on African-American Women Chemists.
4. Cleoplace Mukeba (VT) talked about the crisis in the Congo and issues of women being raped.
5. Shannon Gorres (KO) spoke about multiple partnership persons and sex-positive dialogue.
6. Steven Hamilton (PSE) discussed the need for a new conference minister in the Penn Southeast Conference.
7. Bob Thompson (SOC) invited everyone to attend the Faithful and Welcoming Churches sponsored dinner.
8. Jan Griesinger reminded everyone of the 50th Anniversary March on Washington August 24 for the National Action Network.
9. Thom Haines (WCM) spoke about mountain top mining in Guatemala and the October 17 screening of the film "Gold Fever."

Mr. Holeman thanked the participants and advised that the next SpeakOut! will be Monday morning.

3. COLLEGIUM REPORT

Assistant Moderator Holeman called on the Collegium of Officers for their report.

Mr. Geoffrey Black, General Minister and President, included in his comments that "our journey of testifying to the deeds of Jesus Christ in the more than fifty years since our founding General Synod has been at times glorious and uplifting, and at times painful and revealing. Yet we have persisted in pursuing that oneness which unites us while holding as holy all the diversities which could tear us apart, believing, as we affirm in our Statement of Faith, that God promises to all who trust God forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace. We know that God is still speaking – speaking to us and speaking through us. We will lean together into the future with our BIGS –

our bold and inspirational goals.”

Mr. J. Bennett Guess, Executive Minister for Local Church Ministries, stated that “you are the peace-makers, heart-menders and world-shapers whose witness we are working so hard to share with the world. We use all the media we can muster to proclaim the good news of what you are doing. All of us together make the bold public voice of the United Church of Christ heard in our communities and around the world.”

Mr. W. Mark Clark, Associate General Minister, advised that “we have reconfigured our staff in the national setting into new teams, which will focus on new and renewing church development and assessment, and on faith formation. In collaboration with our Conferences, we will seek partnerships in both fundraising as well as for resource and leadership support to plant new churches, to help congregations effectively assess where they are, and to meet the spiritual needs of our members. We are aggressively raising funds to make this happen.”

Mr. James Moos, Executive Minister for Wider Church Ministries, said “there is a Chinese Proverb that says, ‘Tell me, and I forget. Show me, and I remember. Involve me and I understand.’ This bold, inspirational goal is steeped in a similar belief that we are better disciples of Christ when we are not only telling our faith story, but also showing, involving and engaging one another in the following of Jesus. In partnership with our seminaries, we are looking at ways to extend theological education through online courses, not just for those in discernment and in ministry, but also for all who are interested in such education. We also take our relationship with our global partners very seriously. We learn valuable lessons of faith as they witness to their response to God’s calling to proclaim the gospel to all the world.”

Ms. Linda Jaramillo, Executive Minister for Justice and Witness Ministries, quoted a French politician named Alexandre Ledru-Rollin saying “There go my people. I must find out where they are going so I can lead them.” Ms. Jaramillo continued by saying, “Leadership in the church is much like that. Our work is largely to keep up with you and with what you need in order to effectively change lives and communities. We want to keep looking to our future, and to identifying and supporting excellent leaders who represent the full diversity of who we seek to be as a church in this rapidly changing world. We want to diversify the pool of candidates who are ready and experienced to take on significant leadership roles such as Conference Ministry, national setting ministry and wider church ministry. One way we plan to create this wealth of leaders is through a Stillspeaking Leadership Institute, which is currently being developed. We are beautiful – and precious in God’s heart. Thank you for your gifts of leadership!”

Mr. Black concluded the report by saying “Please let us know your thoughts and offer your suggestions to us. This is part of the cost and joy of our discipleship. Together, we are taking our Bold, Inspirational Goals out into the world.”

Mr. Holeman thanked the Collegium members for their report.

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

Assistant Moderator Holeman called on Ms. Penny Lowes, Chair of the Executive Council, to nominate the Reverend Geoffrey Black for another term as General Minister and President.

Ms. Lowes introduced the Reverend Geoffrey Black as the nominee for General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ.

Mr. Black expressed gratitude for the many ways he has been received and supported in his ministry, especially from those in Conference ministry and his Collegium colleagues.

His comments focused on hoped for change and adaptive change. “These elements of change are related and of major importance to the church universal and more specifically the United Church of Christ. Hoped for change takes place over time and is a forward movement. Adaptive change is what is called for when the context has already changed and there is a need to make a change in your life or in your institution in order to continue to fulfill your mission or purpose. Adaptive change enables us to continue to seek hoped for change and at its heart, the church exists to pursue hoped for change. We must make adaptive change in order to continue to fulfill our purpose. That is to both embody and to realize the realm of God on earth. If elected to a second term, I intend to continue working with all of you to move our church in all of its settings to be a church that is relevant and responsive to God’s call and God’s vision, which is our hoped for change. And that is:

God’s vision for peace and freedom from violence, oppression and all forms of human exploitation

God’s vision for freedom from poverty

God’s vision for equal justice and full inclusion for all of God’s children

God’s vision for the earth and all of creation

God’s vision spiritual and physical health, wholeness

Finally, I want to suggest to you that although we often engage in church as an institution, the reality is the church of Jesus Christ is a living and dynamic reality. The body of Christ is a people, a living body growing and at its best, on a mission to realize hoped for change. Please remember, we are still in this thing together as we think, pray, worship, serve, give and live the beloved community as we seek its fulfillment on earth as it is in heaven.”

Mr. Holeman thanked Mr. Black for his comments.

5. CELEBRATION OF NEW AND RENEWING CONGREGATIONS

Assistant Moderator Holeman called on Mr. J. Bennett Guess, Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries, and Mr. David Schoen, Team Leader of Congregational Vitality and Discipleship, to lead the celebration of new congregations.

Mr. Schoen reported that since the last General Synod, the United Church of Christ has welcomed forty-seven new churches. Mr. Guess introduced members from some of the new, renewing and affiliating churches.

6. CELEBRATION OF CHHSM SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. Holeman called on Mr. Bryan Sickbert, President of the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries, to make a special presentation.

Mr. Sickbert moved the adoption of the statement of commendation from the Executive Council:

13-GS-10 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod adopts the statement of commendation Celebrating the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of CHHSM.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHHSM

WHEREAS, the mission of the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries (CHHSM) of the United Church of Christ is to sustain and advance the work of healing and service as a ministry of the church of Jesus Christ embodied in its member ministries, the UCC and the church universal; and

WHEREAS, while there is a rich history of commitment to and recognition of charitable institutions in the UCC's predecessor bodies dating back to 1846; and

WHEREAS, the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries traces its organizational history to 1938; and is, therefore, celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2013, marking 75 years of faithfully responding to human need in the name of Jesus Christ;

NOW THEREFORE, the Twenty-Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ gratefully celebrates the commitment, servant- leadership and visionary service provided by the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries and its member ministries; and further,

Honors past and present executives, staff and volunteers of CHHSM and CHHSM member ministries throughout the country for compassionately and effectively responding to a broad spectrum of human need on behalf of all members of the United Church of Christ; and further, Commends the work of CHHSM member ministries to the members and congregations of the United Church of Christ and recognizes with gratitude CHHSM's collaborative commitment to health and human service mission in covenant with congregations, Associations, Conferences and the National Setting of the United Church of Christ.

7. CELEBRATION OF THE WILMINGTON 10

Assistant Moderator Holeman called on Ms. Yvonne Delk, former Executive Director of the Office for Church in Society, and Ms. Bernice Powell Jackson, former Executive Director of the Commission for Racial Justice.

Forty years after they were convicted by a jury of firebombing a grocery store in Wilmington, North Carolina, civil rights activists who became known as the "Wilmington 10" were pardoned on December 31, 2012 by outgoing North Carolina Governor Beverly Perdue. Ms. Delk and Ms. Jackson wrote a brief version of the story of the Wilmington 10 and in doing so, they realized that there were lessons to be learned from that episode and that time in the life of the United Church of Christ. One that stands out is the fact that every generation must take the risk and do this justice work for itself. Ms. Jackson presented Mr. Benjamin Chavis, one leader who has not been afraid to take the risk on behalf of justice and liberation.

Mr. Chavis thanked the United Church of Christ, and celebrated that after forty years of struggle, the first woman governor of North Carolina issued a pardon for the Wilmington 10.

8. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Mr. Holeman called on Ms. Rith Nakashima Brock and Mr. Quinn Caldwell for theological reflections.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Holeman called on Mr. W. Mark Clark, Associate General Minister, for announcements.

1. Following this morning's plenary, we have a lot of activity throughout the afternoon – service projects, workshops, Festival on the Marina Green, and an opportunity to meet candidates Black, Guess and Jaramillo.
2. Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon and her daughter Toshi Reagon will be on stage tonight for a concert entitled "This Could Be Heaven."
3. For those who have purchased tickets to the Testimony! Gala Luncheon, please proceed to level two to the Grand Ballroom following this plenary.
4. We realize there is a bit of an issue with the shuttles and we are working with that and hope to improve the service.

10. MARIA HINOJOSA AND RECESS

Assistant Moderator Holeman called on Ms. Linda Jaramillo to introduce the guest speaker, Ms. Maria Hinojosa, journalist, anchor and author. Ms. Hinojosa was the first Latina to be employed by National Public Radio and by CNN. Ms. Hinojosa's life work has been dedicated to making the invisible visible by telling the stories of those whose voices are not heard. She is founder and President of Futuro Media Group, a non-profit organization supporting a new generation of multicultural journalists. Futuro is committed to journalism that matters – balanced, truthful and revealing.

Following Ms. Hinojosa's speech, Mr. Holeman declared the General Synod to be in recess.

11. MS. BERNICE JOHNSON REAGON AND MS. TOSHI REAGON CONCERT

Ms. Bernice Johnson Reagon of Sweet Honey and the Rock and her daughter, Ms. Toshi Reagon, presented a musical concert Saturday evening.

Sunday, June 30, 2013

COMMITTEES OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

General Synod committees were in session in the morning and early afternoon, recommending on the disposition of resolutions brought before Synod.

WORSHIP

The sermon at the evening worship was given by the Rev. Martin B. Copenhauer, Senior Pastor of Village Church United Church of Christ, Wellesley, MA.

HEARINGS

Hearings on the budget, the Nominating Committee process and the Affirmation of Relationship between the United Church of Christ and the Fellowship of Affirming Ministries were in session in the evening.

Monday Morning, July 1, 2013
Fourth Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER

Moderator Libby Tigner called the Fourth Plenary Session to Order.

2. SPEAKOUTS!

Ms. Tigner called on the following SpeakOut! participants:

1. Carl Goodwin Moore (ME) spoke about turning back the tide of climate change. Visit the Mission 4/1 Earth booth in the exhibit hall.
2. Earl Williams (OH) reported Mr. Everett Parker is 101 years old and a prior Chair of the Executive Council. He was a bold public voice holding the media accountable. Join uccmediajustice.org and in the fast against media violence Sept. 15-21.
3. Bethany Joy and Julia BeBrell (MICH) requested delegates take the "Beyond the Scarf" pledge seriously.
4. Celestine Brooks (PSE) stated Lancaster Theological Seminary has transformed her spiritually and prepared her well for ministry.
5. Matt Deal (PWC) reported the Penn West Conference is searching for a conference minister. We are 105 churches that care deeply about our communities and mission.
6. Carl Goodwin-Moore (ME) requested delegates please support victims and restorative justice.
7. Ann Pomeroy (CA NV, S) said the Sacred Dance Guild has been in existence for fifty years. For information check www.sacreddanceguild.org
8. Ken Bickel (IOWA) asked everyone to be a bold public voice, demand justice, love your brothers and sisters. Christians need to speak boldly about gun control.
9. Dawn Garrett-Larson (NH) is writing a book about small church ministry and looking for a publisher. Contact: book.smallchurchministry@gmail.com
10. Thea Mateu (CA NV, S) invited everyone to the young adult ministry event after worship.

Ms. Tigner advised the next SpeakOut! will be this afternoon during Plenary 5. The sign-up for that SpeakOut! will be immediately following this Plenary.

3. MOMENT OF MODERATOR PRIVILEGE

Ms. Tigner took a moment of Moderator privilege stating "As we celebrate the Supreme Court's decision to strike down the Defense of Marriage Act and to vacate Proposition 8, we are not overlooking the tragedy of the dismantling of the Voting Rights Act. Delegates from COREM, the Next Generation Leadership Initiative, as well as members of boards and conference delegations have been working to create an actionable piece of business to bring before this body."

Ms. Tigner then had the delegates do a "clicker practice" with their voting devices.

Edwin Higginbottom (PC) requested that the number of votes, not percentages, be shown on the

background screen. Ms. Tigner replied that because we require percentages to approve actions, we will continue to show the percentage as well as total number of votes cast.

4. NOMINATION AND SPEECH OF CANDIDATE FOR EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES.

Moderator Tigner called on Ms. Carol Williams-Swoope, Chair of Local Church Ministries, who introduced Mr. J. Bennett Guess, candidate for Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries and an officer of the United Church of Christ.

Mr. Guess advised we are creating a new data center and church loan fund which will give us new opportunities and deepen the vitality of our local churches. He has traveled to thirty-two of our thirty-eight conferences and engaged in conversations with thousands of members. He witnessed United Church of Christ members at the front lines of justice issues. The volume of our United Church of Christ is far from being muted or extinguished. God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but God gave us a spirit of power and love.

Ms. Tigner thanked Mr. Guess for his comments and reminded delegates that the elections for all three Collegium candidates will be held later in this Plenary.

5. BUDGET PRESENTATION AND VOTE

Ms. Tigner stated that one of the constitutional responsibilities of the General Synod is to vote on the adoption of the National Basic Support Allocation Base and Allocation Percentages for the next biennium. Before doing that, however, she called on Ms. Kathy Houston, Chief Financial Officer for the United Church of Christ, to provide The Finance Report (Appendix H) and offer some projections about what lies ahead.

Moderator Tigner thanked Ms. Houston and asked if delegates had questions.

John Dorhauer (SW) took a moment of personal privilege to state that last night nineteen firefighters were killed. He invited the delegates and visitors to lift those firefighters and their families up in their prayers.

Q: Kevin Manz (EC) The financial report is clear that there were a couple of recommendations. What changes would be made to administration and what would they cost?

A: With changes in governance and bylaws, Ms. Houston stated she will meet with the Collegium to discuss the impact of changes. Costs have been discussed with our auditors and our costs are generally higher than those for other non-for-profit organizations. As we continue to evolve into the new structure, Ms. Houston feels we will be better able to move closer to that of other non-for-profits.

Q: Meredith Jackson (LCM) How might we move to a more acceptable rate draw on our endowment?

A: Ms. Houston replied that over a ten-year history our draw was been 6.98%. The new Finance and Endowment Committee will have to closely review the draw rates. We will be in a state of flux as the new committee does its work.

Moderator Tigner called on Ms. Jean Avison, Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee of the

Executive Council, to present the actions necessary for the adoption of the National Basic Support Allocation Base and Allocation Percentages for the next biennium.

Ms. Avison moved, on behalf of the Executive Council, that the General Synod adopt a National Basic Support Allocation base of \$6.304 million and \$6.017 million for the budget years 2014 and 2015.

She pointed out that the allocation base voted for 2012 and 2013 was \$7.1 and \$6.8 million respectively per year. She also reminded delegates that the work done hosting and supporting general synods, developing church-wide initiatives, the search and call process for pastors, supporting missionaries, justice work, ongoing work in evangelism and youth ministries, and the Franklinton Center are all supported through our Churches Wider Mission. Leadership of the Covenanted Ministries continues to revision the programmatic life of the national setting and seeks to grow the funds available to the national and wider church setting.

13-GS-11 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod adopts the National Basic Support Allocation base of \$6.304 million and \$6.017 million for the budget years 2014 and 2015.

Ms. Avison then moved, on behalf of the Executive Council, that the General Synod delegate the determination of the percentage allocation for Our Churches Wider Mission National Basic Support for the 2014-2015 biennium to the United Church of Christ Board. She then spoke to the motion.

13-GS-12 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod delegates the determination of the percentage allocation for Our Church Wider Mission National Basic Support for the 2014-2015 biennium to the United Church of Christ Board.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Moderator Tigner stated that Committees are allocated approximately fifteen minutes in which to report to the General Synod. She reminded the delegates of the microphone layout and function.

Bill Sterrett (EC) requested the moderator read the total number of votes cast and Ms. Tigner agreed to do that.

Ms. Tigner thanked the Committee Process Team Ms. Susan Henderson (CAC), Mr. Dennis Frische-Mouri (IK) and Ms. Susan Townsley (CONN) and the Team Leader Mr. David Anderson (PNW). She then asked the Committee Chairs to stand and be recognized and thanked all of them for their hard work and diligence.

7. RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO REPUDIATE THE DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY WHICH AUTHORIZED THE GENOCIDE OF NATIVE PEOPLES AND THE THEFT OF NATIVE LANDS.

Moderator Tigner called on Mr. Brian Burke, Chairperson of Committee 1, for that committee's report. Mr. Burke moved that the Twenty-ninth General Synod adopt the resolution Calling for the United Church of Christ to Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery Which Authorized the Genocide of Native Peoples and the Theft of Native Lands. He then spoke to the motion.

Discussion:

David Felton (SD) advised the South Dakota Conference voted unanimously to support this issue.

Enno Limvere (SD) spoke in favor of the motion.

Richard Steele (WIS) stated he was born in the United States and feels he is also a Native American. We're all immigrants in this country.

Roseanne Dyce Anderson (JWM) asked for a 100% vote from delegates.

Kaitlyn Lemley (KO) spoke in favor of the motion.

Christopher Jenkins (MASS) asked that the committee chairperson elaborate on how this would play out.

James Moos (WCM) spoke in favor of the motion and committed WCM to implementation.

Aletha Kaohi (HI) requested support for the motion.

13-GS-13 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod adopts the resolution Calling for the United Church of Christ to Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery Which Authorized the Genocide of Native Peoples and the Theft of Native Lands.

**CALLING FOR THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO REPUDIATE THE
DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY WHICH AUTHORIZED THE GENOCIDE OF NATIVE
PEOPLES AND THE THEFT OF NATIVE LANDS**

WHEREAS, from the Crusades through the 16th century the Roman Catholic Church promulgated several Papal Bulls which authorized and justified the destruction, killing and appropriating lands of indigenous peoples. These Papal Bulls formulated the theological base for what became the tragic genocide of American Indians; and

WHEREAS, Protestant churches beginning as early as 1609 when English clergy in Jamestown developed a coherent narrative that brought together a legal rationalization for invading America, debasing American Indians and made a Christian commitment to convert Indians – a commitment which they never delivered; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court in 1823 in Johnson vs. McIntosh incorporated into American law the Doctrine by claiming the United States inherited the American conquest from the English; and

WHEREAS, 1845 was the first time the phrase Manifest Destiny was used to affirm the USA was called by Providence to dominate the continent for the free development of America's inevitable growth. Manifest Destiny grew out of, and was based on, the Doctrine of Discovery; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations adopted a resolution entitled United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007 requesting nations to affirm, it took the United States four years before it signed it; and

WHEREAS, the World Council of Churches called upon its member churches to adopt its Statement on the Doctrine of Discovery Impact on Indigenous Peoples, the UCC has not. The Episcopal Church and the Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church have done so.

WHEREAS, there is a growing awareness and concern in the United States about the Doctrine, the United Church of Christ, given its commitment to justice, has not yet participated in a formal manner; and

WHEREAS, not only has the Doctrine never been repudiated, court decisions against Indians have been made within the past several decades based on the Doctrine.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ repudiates the Doctrine of Discovery.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ declares and confesses that the doctrine has been and continues to be a shameful part of United States and our Church's history.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ joins with its ecumenical partners to explore ways to compensate American Indians, Alaskan Natives, and Native Hawaiians for lands and resources that were stolen and are still being stolen and which are now the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests that Justice and Witness Ministries join with the Council for American Indian Ministry and others to prepare educational materials for the churches.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests that the substantive study materials developed by JWM and CAIM be presented to the Thirtieth General Synod with suggestions for how the UCC might undertake various forms of action. The Episcopal Church provides a model for such follow through.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the United States government to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery.

FUNDING

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

IMPLEMENTATION

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

Julia Swayne (CA NV, N) requested the order of resolutions be announced as they are known to the moderator.

8. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING COMPASSIONATE COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM AND THE PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF IMMIGRANTS

Moderator Tigner called on Ms. Barbara Ferguson Kamara, Chairperson of Committee 13, to present that committee's report. Ms. Kamara moved that the Twenty-ninth General Synod approve the resolution Supporting Compassionate Comprehensive Immigration Reform and the Protection of the Human Rights of Immigrants. She then spoke to the resolution.

Discussion:

Felix Villanueva, (CA NV, S) called for approval of the resolution saying immigrants are already productive members of society.

Arthur Cribbs (CA NV, S) said we're violating our own values and ideology if we do not approve this resolution.

David Stuart and Shirley Fleming (ILL) moved to amend Line 1434 by inserting the following: . . . violence; (7) ensure that newly documented immigrants have the opportunity to enroll for health insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act; and (8) ending of . . .

The motion was seconded.

13-GS-14 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to amend Line 1434 by inserting the following: . . . violence; (7) ensure that newly documented immigrants have the opportunity to enroll for health insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act; and (8) ending of . . .

Discussion resumed on the original motion.

Sylvia Jones (EC) reported that representatives from the YWCA across the nation spent the day on Capitol Hill meeting with Representatives and Senators to urge immigration reform.

Ms. Jones urged everyone to vote in favor of the resolution and to contact members of the House of Representatives.

Sheila Angerer (SC) said of course we need immigration reform – it's what America stands for.

Samuel Conde (FLA) works with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. This is an issue that affects thousands of people across America.

Dennis Alger (CPC) appreciated the amendment and encouraged a positive vote. We are aware of the fear in which many of our neighbors live.

Linda Jaramillo (JWM) commended the committee's work and supported the resolution. She appealed to everyone to go home and accept the responsibility to become a welcoming community and contact government representatives.

13-GS-15 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to adopt the resolution Supporting Compassionate Comprehensive Immigration Reform and the Protection of the Human Rights of Immigrants, as amended.

**SUPPORTING COMPASSIONATE COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM
AND THE PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF IMMIGRANTS**

WHEREAS, immigration law in the United States (U. S.) is a federal, not a state, responsibility, and

WHEREAS, America's current immigration system is dysfunctional, harms our economy, and does not reflect our denominational or national values; and

WHEREAS, worker visa programs must comply with U.S. wage, hour, and other labor standards, including portability of visas so that workers can change jobs; and maintain the ability for workers to petition for permanent residency; and

WHEREAS, enforcement of immigration law should affirm our nation's core legal values including due process, transparency, fairness, accountability, and proportionality; and

WHEREAS, immigration reform must occur in a comprehensive, thoughtful manner that both respects our nation's right to control its borders and the human rights of immigrants, and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ and the United States has prospered because of the contributions of hardworking migrants, immigrants, and aspiring citizens; and keeping families together not only is inherent to our faith values, but is also good for the economy because families are a base of support that increase worker productivity and spurs entrepreneurship; and, there is a need to reduce the processing times of three to twenty years that keep families separated from their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has many DREAM Act eligible youth who were brought here as children, know this country as their only home, were educated here, and have shown their contribution to our congregations and communities; and

WHEREAS, immigration enforcement has deported a record 409,849 in 2012 fiscal year including 95,000 parents of U.S. citizens in 2011; and

WHEREAS, citizenship is a symbol of full societal membership and social participation that should be encouraged and supported with just and fair laws and procedures; and

WHEREAS, compassionate comprehensive immigration reform must include a realistic pathway to citizenship for all hardworking, taxpaying, aspiring citizens who live in the U.S. (including young people who have grown up in the United States) if they meet reasonable requirements; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform must update the legal immigration system so that the future flow of immigrant workers more realistically matches our nation's labor needs and is structured to protect the wages and working conditions of U.S. and immigrant workers; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges the 113th Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform as outlined in this resolution that addresses (1) earned legalization with a path to citizenship; (2) updated future flow of immigrants for workers and unification of families; (3) enactment of the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act as part of a comprehensive immigration reform; (4) protection of workers' rights, including agricultural workers; (5) placement of humanitarian values at the center of enforcement policies; (6) protection of refugees and migrant survivors of violence; and (7) ensure that newly documented immigrants have the opportunity to enroll for health insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act; and (8) ending of Operation Streamline, stopping of the construction of the southern border fence, and limiting additional

immigration border patrol agents on the southern border.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be delivered to the President of the United States, U.S. Speaker of the House and President of the Senate. The Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages General Synod delegates to deliver a copy of this resolution to members of their respective (state) General Assembly, Governor of the state, (state) Speaker of the House, and President of the (state) Senate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages congregations to further engage in educational work on immigration from a faith perspective, participate in border delegations and work towards making your congregation an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon United Church of Christ members to take action to help pass compassionate comprehensive immigration reform by (1) getting involved with a local coalition, (2) forming relationships with immigrants, (3) joining advocacy delegations with your local Representative or Senator and (4) mobilizing congregants for vigils, actions, marches, interfaith services and other local or national activities on this issue.

FUNDING

The funding for the implementation of the Resolution (or Other Formal Motion) will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

IMPLEMENTATION

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

9. MUSIC/STRETCH BREAK

Moderator Tigner invited the General Synod musicians to lead the body in some singing and movement to reinvigorate everyone.

10. RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR COMPASSIONATE CARE AND HEALING TO OUR VETERANS

Assistant Moderator Dale Bonds called on Mr. Charles Kuthuru, Chairperson of Committee 9, to present the next item of business.

Mr. Kuthuru moved the adoption of the resolution To Recognize the Need for Compassionate Care and Healing to our Veterans. He ceded his time to Sam Buehrer (OHIO) who spoke to the motion.

Discussion:

Brynn Smallwood Garcia (CONN) spoke in favor of the motion and of the first responders to Sandy Hook Elementary School who are members of her congregation. She also expressed gratitude to everyone who also suffers from PTSD.

Sharon Prestemon (EC) serves on the Board of Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS and indicated

that not only are many of our veterans not in churches, they are not in homes.

William Feld (CAC) moved to strike the word “in” on Line 1315. The amendment was accepted by the Moderator.

A delegate urged approval and said we need to act, not only approve this resolution.

Jim Clausing (OHIO) spoke in favor of the resolution. Mr. Clausing has a son who served in Iraq and has dealt with the needs expressed in the resolution.

Jamytta Bell (SC) is a veteran service officer and pleaded that delegates don’t just vote, but act.

13-GS-16 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to approve the resolution To Recognize the Need for Compassionate Care and Healing to our Veterans, as amended.

**TO RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR COMPASSIONATE CARE AND HEALING
TO OUR VETERANS**

WHEREAS, the recent wars of The Persian Gulf (1990 – 1991), Operation Provide Comfort (1991 – 1996), Somalia Intervention (1992 – 1995), Bosnia (1995 – 2004), NATO Air Campaign Yugoslavia (1999), Afghanistan 2001 – present, and Iraq 2003 – 2011 used regular military forces, activation of Reserves military, and the Federalization of state's National Guard units experiencing multiple deployments our citizen – soldiers have returned to civilian communities that are unaware of the effects of military service.

WHEREAS, the political landscape has shifted since World War II and military objectives and purpose have become increasingly abstract veterans suffer from a crisis of purpose which affects the individual as well as our nation.

WHEREAS, political objects are nebulous and the military is used as political “muscle” on the global stage our service personnel are sometimes left feeling used and betrayed by the society they swore an allegiance to protect and defend.

WHEREAS, these persons are our brothers and sisters, parents, neighbors, students, employees, and cohorts we have an obligation as followers of Jesus to be sensitive to their needs.

WHEREAS, the therapists within the Veteran's Administration are now speaking about the “moral injury” of military service the moral injury is a spiritual and soul issue and needs to be addressed by The Church.

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ extends gracious hospitality and welcome to all people from every walk of life it behooves the United Church of Christ to become sensitive to the effects of military service and accept their responsibility to protect the veteran upon their return home.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ challenges all of the United Church of Christ congregations to express compassionate

care and healing ministry to all our veterans and their families through education and the development of sensitivity to the issues of soul healing and spiritual care.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages “local church” awareness and reaching out to local Veteran's Administration, Veteran's Service Commission, support of Veteran's Courts, through the compassion that is rooted in the teachings and example of Jesus.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages the Office of the Local Church Ministries to partner with the Soul Repair Center of Brite Divinity School in the development of resources for use by our military chaplains, Veteran’s Administrations Chaplains and our local congregations to express compassionate care and a healing ministry to our veterans and their families.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ challenges the members and local churches of the United Church of Christ to serve veterans with healing care beyond established medical and military protocols and seek ways to welcome our veterans home, through worship, fellowship, pastoral care and advocacy to reintegrate them in our communities, and help to bring peace to veterans, their families and the world.

FUNDING

The funding for the implementation of the Resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

IMPLEMENTATION

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

11. RESOLUTION ON ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Assistant Moderator Dale Bonds called on Ms. Brittini Badger, Chairperson of Committee 14 to present the next item of business.

Ms. Badger moved the adoption of the Resolution on Ecumenical Relationship Between the United Church of Christ and the United Church of Canada. She then spoke to the motion.

Discussion:

Ron Nicholas (FLA) urged support and said his home church is an unofficial southern home for Canadians during the winter months.

Bill Thwing (PW) strongly supports the resolution.

Mike Denton (JWM) is very excited about this resolution and urges support.

Jake Joseph (JWM) also supports the resolution.

Paul Clay (CA NV,S) also supports the resolution.

Hyo-Jung Kim (EC) urged support.

13-GS-17 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Ecumenical Relationship between the United Church of Christ and the United Church of Canada.

**RESOLUTION ON ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

WHEREAS, the gospel of Jesus Christ unites the followers of Christ in a single community of faith and compels us to make our unity visible so “that the world may believe...” John 17:21;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ and the United Church of Canada are united and uniting churches with multiple denominational streams which identify them and shape their Christian self-understanding;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Canada and the United Church of Christ have common commitment to the visible unity of the church of Jesus Christ and to the one ecumenical movement;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Canada and the United Church of Christ have common Congregational and Reformed heritage and sit in common witness to mission, worship, theological conversation and commitment to justice;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ and the United Church of Canada have engaged in dialogue and have identified similarities and differences that can commonly strengthen who they are and their witness in North America as united and uniting churches;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the twenty-ninth General Synod United Church of Christ recognize the United Church of Canada as an ecumenical partner;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the United Church of Canada and the United Church of Christ mutually commit to forming the United Church Ecumenical Partnership Committee, an ecumenical partnership committee of ten (10) persons – five from each communion;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the United Church Ecumenical Partnership Committee brings back to the thirtieth General Synod recommendations for further steps and activities to bring the two communions toward full communion and visible unity.

FUNDING

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

IMPLEMENTATION

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

12. RESOLUTION ON RESTRUCTURING OF CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES

Assistant Moderator Bonds called on Mr. Darryl Cruz, Chairperson of Committee 11, to present

the committee's resolution.

Mr. Cruz moved the adoption of the resolution Restructuring of Conference Boundaries and spoke to the motion.

Discussion:

Geoff Brace (JWM) spoke in support of the resolution, stating we are at a critical point in our middle judicatories.

Dan Furman (MICH) spoke against the resolution and disapproved of the word "sustainable" future in Line 1369. He prefers a thriving future.

George Peters (RI) believes there needs to be a conversation among covenant partners involved and this action invites that conversation.

Lisa Gaul (SC) moved to change "sustainable" to "thriving" in Line 1369. The motion was seconded. The Executive Council liaison requested instead of changing sustainable to thriving, that "thriving" be added after sustainable. This was accepted by the Committee Chairperson.

Galen Russell moved to include "and future General Synods if necessary" in Line 1379. The motion was seconded.

The Committee Chairperson rejected the motion on the grounds that this was discussed in committee and not approved.

David Stewart (ILL) agrees with the proposer of the amendment.

Bertrice Wood (OHIO) spoke against the amendment. There are already conversations going on. The committee felt we need something done now.

13-GS-18 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to defeat the amendment to include "and future General Synods if necessary" in Line 1379.

Discussion on the original motion:

Marc Stewart (MONT-NO. WY) spoke to the resolution

Tim Ahrens (OHIO) called the question. The motion was seconded.

13-GS-19 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to call the question on the original motion.

13-GS-20 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod adopts the resolution Restructuring Conference Boundaries, as amended.

RESTRUCTURING CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod invites each of the thirty-eight conferences and their covenant partners (such as associations, local churches and authorized ministers) to engage in a prayerful process of discernment in order to assess what they

may need to assure a sustainable and thriving future for their ongoing missional responsibilities as well as effective ministries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod calls upon the Collegium of Officers to work collaboratively and pastorally with any and all conferences and their covenant partners in a mutual process of discernment in order to develop viable proposals designed to revitalize conferences, share resources among them, and/or reconfigure conference boundaries in ways faithful to our church's calling and which make practical sense; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any such proposals from conferences and a report from the Collegium will be transmitted to the Thirtieth General Synod for further deliberation and approval as necessary

13. ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Assistant Moderator Dale Bonds called on Ms. Carol Williams-Swoope, Chairperson of Local Church Ministries, who moved that the Rev. J. Bennett Guess be called by election by the General Synod of the United Church of Christ to a full four-year term as the Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries and an Officer of the United Church of Christ.

13-GS-21 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod calls the Rev. J. Bennett Guess by election to a full four-year term as the Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries and an Officer of the United Church of Christ.

Ms. Bonds then called on Ms. Alice Harper-Jones, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Justice and Witness Ministries, who moved that the Rev. M. Linda Jaramillo be called by election by the General Synod of the United Church of Christ to a four-year term as Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries and an Officer of the United Church of Christ.

13-GS-22 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod calls the Rev. M. Linda Jaramillo by election to a four-year term as Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries and an Officer of the United Church of Christ.

Ms. Bonds called on Ms. Penny Lowes, Chairperson of the Executive Council, who moved the Rev. Geoffrey Black be called by election by the General Synod of the United Church of Christ to a four-year term as the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ.

13-GS-23 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod calls the Rev. Geoffrey Black by election to a four-year term as the General Minister and President and an Officer of the United Church of Christ.

Assistant Moderator Bonds asked Mr. James Moos and Mr. Mark Clark, the other members of the existing Collegium, to join Mr. Black, Mr. Guess and Ms. Jaramillo on stage. Mr. Clark, Ms. Lowes, Ms. Williams-Swoop and Ms. Harper-Jones led the General Synod in prayer.

14. CELEBRATION OF THE MINISTRY OF W. MARK CLARK

Ms. Bonds led the General Synod in a celebration of the ministry of Mr. W. Mark Clark,

Associate General Minister, stating that as the new national structure moves to a Collegium of four officers, the position of Associate General Minister is eliminated, and the new role of Chief Administrative Officer, a staff position comes into being and that Mr. W. Mark Clark has been hired for the position.

Ms. Bonds stated that General Minister and President, Mr. Geoffrey Black, has observed that “We certainly celebrate that Mark will stay with us in the new role of Chief Administrative Officer. Ms. Bonds commended Mr. Clark for his creative administrative skills, his life-long membership in the United Church of Christ, and the many positions he has held over the years. She then invited Mr. Clark, the Collegium of Officers, and Ms. Penny Lowes, Chairperson of the Executive Council, to the stage. All joined in the litany of release of Mr. Clark as an Officer of the Church and a blessing in his new role.

15. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Ms. Bonds invited Mr. Quinn Caldwell to the stage for a time of reflection.

16. MOMENTS OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Ms. Bonds recognized Ms. Lynda Bigler (LCM) who advised she was not able to read the screens in order to participate in the recent ceremony due to a visual impairment and she was ignored at a microphone prior to the theological reflection. Ms. Bonds apologized to Ms. Bigler, stating she did not see the raised sign at the microphone.

Mr. Patrick Morris ((UCC Military Chaplains) requested that the body pause for prayer for those families of the nineteen firefighters mentioned earlier in the meeting who lost their lives.

17. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Bonds invited Associate General Minister Mr. W. Mark Clark to the stage for announcements.

1. Please see Dick Sparrow to sign up for the next SpeakOut!
2. Communion ware is available for purchase in the Local Arrangements Office.
3. If you’re interested in participating in a one-mile walk regarding deportation, meet on the promenade.
4. Be sure to join us on social media by using hashtag UCCGS29 on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. See page 4 in your program book.
5. Once again, we thank the four platinum sponsors of this year’s General Synod: Our Church’s Wider Mission, the United Church of Christ Church Building and Loan Fund, the Retirement Housing Foundation and the United Church of Christ Cornerstone Fund. A short video was to be shown from the church Building and Loan Fund, but it was inoperable.

18. RECESS

Ms. Bonds declared the Fourth Plenary to be complete and the General Synod in recess.

Monday Afternoon, July 1, 2013
Fifth Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER

Assistant Moderator Brian Holeman called the Fifth Plenary Session to order.

2. SPEAKOUTS!

Mr. Holeman recognized the following SpeakOut! participants:

1. Rebecca Johnson (AUCE) reminded everyone that education is critical for the survival of our church. To assure faith, let's put our money where our mouth is.
2. Dianne Roberts (MICH) thanked the volunteers behind the curtain and the women beside the stage.
3. Tim Ahrens (OHIO) reported he is here to honor Dr. Washington Gladden who passed away 95 years ago. The Episcopal Church recognizes him as a saint of the church. He was a prophet of social gospel.
4. Kent Steward (HI) stated the Waiola Church is celebrating its 190th anniversary. Waiola founded the first high school west of the Rocky Mountains and its profile for senior minister is on its website.
5. Kathryn Murd (PNW) advocated for Young Adult Service Communities. If you are twenty-one to thirty-five and want to go to the edge, there are three sights accepting year-long) applicants in Seattle, Philadelphia and Carlsbad. Go to ucc.org/volunteers.
6. Rona Kinsley (VT) stated the unstable Tae Sands oil pipeline is more than 50 years old and is threatening the New England environment. Go to 350.org for more information.
7. Diana Maddshi (CA NV, N) called on everyone to contact their representatives and the President to urge them not to cut Social Security.
8. Mike Gose and Marlene Helgeno (CAIM) are seeking churches and individuals to join in service and leadership.
9. Dinah Gomez (NEB) invited everyone to service without walls at Darkwood Brew, the on-line interactive worship service Sundays at 5 PM Central Time.
10. Natalie Renner (IK) reminded everyone of the importance of Outdoor Ministries. Camp changed her life and she encouraged youth to go to camp and invite their friends.

Mr. Holeman reminded everyone that the next SpeakOut! will be at the beginning of the next Plenary and sign-ups will be immediately following this Plenary session.

3. RESOLUTION URGING DIVESTMENT FROM FOSSIL FUEL COMPANIES

Mr. Holeman called on Mr. Ralph Brown, Chairperson of Committee 6, to present the business of that committee.

Mr. Brown moved the adoption of the resolution Urging Divestment from Fossil Fuel Companies and spoke to the resolution.

Discussion:

Jim Antal (MASS) stated this resolution is about faithful leadership and urged its passage. Don Hart (UC Funds & EC) welcomed the urgency of this resolution and pledged to honor it. Lacy Spencer and Alexandra Elison (MONT-NO. WY) expressed concerns. Fossil fuel and nuclear energy supply 90% of the earth's fuels. A lot of the population in the Montant-Northern Wyoming area work in the mining industry. Without a plan of job replacement, you're shutting down their entire livelihood. Mark Doty (LCM) was involved in the petroleum industry, but has much sympathy with the resolution. Members of the industry work hard to feed their families. It's a complicated issue and will abstain from voting.

Ken Bickel (IOWA) moved to amend the resolution by changing the Title to "Urging Divestment -- Along with other Strategies -- From Fossil Fuel Companies to Address Climate Change." The motion was seconded.

The motion was received as a friendly amendment by the Committee Chairperson.

Additional Discussion:

Meredith Jackson (LCM) questioned the financial impact for those with money in United Church Funds. Mr. Hart replied the financial impact is unknown at this time, but will be studied and forwarded to investors.

Davida Foy Crabtree (MOMS) reported the Missouri Mid South Conference has had a partnership with people in Columbia, South Africa where oil companies have built pipelines through their ancestral lands. She supports the resolution.

Cheyenne Elliott (IK) agreed with the idea of reducing fossil fuel, but not eliminating it. We still need electricity.

John Deckenback (CAC) stated it's a question of consistency and integrity. Let's put our money where our environmental commitments are. It's a step in the right direction. Let's support the intention of this resolution.

Mark Wampler (IOWA) stated income of the UCC is going down, meaning our product is bad or our product is not selling. We also need to divest from airlines.

David Gaewski (NY) reported after Superstorm Sandy, we in New York strategized on the response to this. Fossil fuel causes most of our natural catastrophes. The acidity of the Atlantic Ocean has increased 30% due to our use of fossil fuels.

Greg Larson (RM) advised many of our church members work in these fields. Urged a negative vote on the resolution. Without addressing the need for renewable energy, it's impractical.

Morgan Bates (PSE) who just turned seventeen, advised this resolution is crucial to her generation and future generations.

Miguel Frias (ILL) stated he's from a church without a lot of money. It's easy to say we have to step away from our conveniences, but we need to think of those small churches that do not have a lot of money because our policies do not include them. Think about the little people.

Charles Desmond (MASS) felt our earth is dying, primarily by fossil fuel companies. We need to do now what God is asking us to do which is to protect what God has given us.

A member of the Executive Council called the question and the motion was seconded.

Kelly Parrish Lucas (EC) requested clarification on Lines 1199 to 1206 regarding “best in class” companies. Jim Antal (MASS) responded that UC Funds and the Pension Boards will accept the responsibility to do research and set criteria as to which companies qualify for “best in class” and that, two years from now, will be eligible for investment. However, it is his personal notion that this is an oxymoron.

Michael Montgomery (ILL) questioned whether this is a Prudential Resolution or a Resolution of Witness. Assistant Moderator Holeman replied that it is a Resolution of Witness.

13-GS-24 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to end discussion on the resolution.

13-GS-25 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to adopt the resolution Urging Divestment Along with other Strategies from Fossil Fuel Companies to Address Climate Change.

URGING DIVESTMENT – ALONG WITH OTHER STRATEGIES – FROM FOSSIL FUEL COMPANIES TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ raises its prophetic voice regarding the urgency of healing the climate of the earth, our home and God’s gift for the future of all life, both human and all other life,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon all Members, Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, Agencies, Associated, Affiliated and Covenanted Ministries (and their successor bodies) to —

- a) Commit to using a spectrum of strategies to reduce the use of fossil fuels, our carbon footprint, and our complicity with the fossil fuel industry
 - make lifestyle changes to reduce the use of fossil fuels in our lives, our homes, our businesses and our churches
 - demand action from legislators and advocate for the creation and enforcement of carbon-reducing laws
 - publicly witness to and create educational programs that highlight the dangers of climate change
 - engage in activities, boycotts, and shareholder actions with companies, up to and including divestment

- b) Make shareholder engagement on climate change an immediate, top priority for the next five years by:
 - demanding transparency regarding climate change legislation lobbying,
 - insisting that companies’ operations and products conform to achieve the goal of scientifically understood safe levels of CO₂ and methane, and
 - requiring companies to examine and disclose their carbon assets that are at risk of being stranded in the event of a carbon tax or some other executive or legislative action.

- c) Seek out fossil-fuel free investment vehicles and call on both United Church Funds and the Pension Boards to create and promote an investment vehicle free of fossil fuel companies for qualified investors within 18 months.
- d) As a way to maintain the trajectory of accomplishments of the 4/1 Earth campaign, report updates on progress made and actions taken in the implementation of this resolution that will be sent to a national UCC database to be established immediately by the United Church of Christ Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon both United Church Funds and the Pension Boards to accomplish the following to the fullest extent allowable by applicable law –

- a) By Synod 2015, complete whatever research is necessary to identify “best in class” fossil fuel companies (if any); to report these findings to Synod in 2015, along with a plan whereby, by June 2018, none of either the Pension Boards nor UCF directly held assets will include holdings of either public equities or corporate bonds in fossil fuel companies except those either the Pension Boards or UCF identifies as “best in class.” This research process should be conducted on a periodic basis and the research metrics used should continually reference the newest climate science as a permanent way to analyze fossil fuel companies. The Pension Boards and UCF should hold in their portfolios only those companies that they deem “best in class.”
- b) Report actions taken as a result of this research to the United Church of Christ Board on an annual basis to be shared with future General Synod delegates. These actions should always be compatible with a “just and sustainable world”, as identified by the Core Purpose of the United Church of Christ.
- c) Provide quarterly updates, available to the public, detailing research undertaken, progress made and actions taken in the implementation of this resolution to the national database created by the United Church of Christ Board. Whenever possible, communicate these actions to the media to hasten the revocation of the social license which the fossil fuel companies depend on to stay in business.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ commits each of the next five General Synods to hold a hearing focusing on climate change; progress made by UCF, the Pension Boards, and other UCC entities to fulfill this resolution; and how the vocation of the church is and must change in the context of climate change.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ to inform those fossil fuel companies of the passage and implementation of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ asks the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ to engage leaders

of other religious traditions and relevant organizations to explore ways that they and their constituents might join the UCC in this action.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ remains profoundly concerned about the disproportionate impact climate change is already having on those living in poverty and in the least developed countries, the elderly and children and those least responsible for the emissions of greenhouse gases, and recognizes the moral mandate for humanity to shift to a sustainable energy plan in a way that is both just and compassionate.

FUNDING

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

IMPLEMENTATION

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

4. ELECTIONS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD, THE MODERATOR AND ASSISTANT MODERATOR AND THE GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE.

Moderator Libby Tigner called on Ms. Penny Lowes, Chairperson of the Executive Council, who moved that the Twenty-ninth General Synod elect the thirty-six at-large nominees, as selected by the Nominating Committee and posted for delegate review since last February, for election to the United Church of Christ Board.

13-GS-26 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to elect the thirty-six at-large nominees, as selected by the Nominating Committee and posted for delegate review since last February, for election to the United Church of Christ Board.

Ms. Lowes then moved the election of Mr. Brian Holeman as Moderator of the Thirtieth General Synod.

13-GS-27 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to elect Mr. Brian Holeman as Moderator of the Thirtieth General Synod.

Ms. Lowes then moved the election of Ms. Sue Artt as Assistant Moderator of the Thirtieth General Synod.

13-GS-28 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to elect Ms. Sue Artt as Assistant Moderator of the Thirtieth General Synod.

Moderator Tigner asked for affirmation of the Ex-Officio members of the United Church of Christ Board. These are sixteen members of the Board who will sit by virtue of the office they now hold. The list and the representative of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was posted for review in May. This required a simple affirmation of members already elected by

Synod, a Conference or Affiliated or Associated Ministry.

13-GS-29 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to affirm the Ex-Officio members of the United Church of Christ Board.

Moderator Tigner then called on Mr. Bernard Wilson, Vice Chair of the Executive Council. Mr. Wilson announced that under provisions of the new structure the Nominating Committee has been reconstituted and those members elected today will serve staggered terms of two, four or six years. On behalf of the Executive Council, Mr. Wilson moved the election of the slate of candidates for election by the Twenty-ninth General Synod to the General Synod Nominating Committee.

13-GS-30 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to elect the slate of candidates for election to the General Synod Nominating Committee.

Ms. Tigner thanked Mr. Wilson and congratulated the members of the Nominating Committee, the members of the United Church of Christ Board and the new Moderator and Assistant Moderator.

5. RESOLUTION ON MAKING UCC CHURCH BUILDINGS MORE CARBON NEUTRAL

Moderator Tigner called on Ms. Sara Brace, Chairperson of Committee 2, to present the next item of business.

Sylvia Ferrell-Jones (EC) requested more time for voting. Three of the last five votes did not go through on her device.

Ms. Sara Brace moved the resolution On Making UCC Church Buildings More Carbon Neutral. She then ceded her time to Ms. Marilyn Pagan-Banks (ILL) to speak to the resolution.

13-GS-31 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to approve the resolution On Making UCC Church Buildings More Carbon Neutral.

ON MAKING UCC CHURCH BUILDINGS MORE CARBON NEUTRAL

WHEREAS, the twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges all segments of the Church to address global warming in their decisions and investments and in their educational and advocacy efforts; and

WHEREAS, the twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on the Church to address the severe nature of this global warming crisis as one of the most urgent threats to humankind and, indeed, all of God's precious planet earth; and

WHEREAS, General Synod is on record regarding the mediation of climate change and in 2009 reaffirmed that position; and

WHEREAS, the building sector consumes nearly half (48.7%) of all energy produced in the

United States and was responsible for nearly half of U.S. carbon emissions in 2009; and¹

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted the “2030 Challenge for City Buildings”² in June 2006, a plan which, if supported at all levels of our nation, is designed to avert dangerous climate change;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ acknowledge that our church buildings are significant contributors to climate change and to encourage congregations to take steps towards carbon neutrality by adopting the following church-based adaptations to the targets presented in Architecture 2030’s 2030 Challenge:³

- All churches are encouraged to conduct an energy audit.
- Buildings undergoing new construction and/or major renovations strive to be carbon neutral (operate with a net-zero use of fossil fuel, greenhouse gas emitting energy) by
 - reducing electricity and natural gas usage
 - generating on-site renewable power, and/or
 - purchasing renewable energy (suggested 20% maximum of total energy usage, in alignment with the standards of the 2030 Challenge).

Existing church buildings not undergoing major renovation at this time be encouraged to take steps⁴ to meet a fossil fuel, greenhouse gas emitting, energy consumption performance standard of at least 60% below the regional average for houses of worship or that building type.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that local congregations be requested to encourage their members to meet the above standards in their own homes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that conferences and congregations be encouraged to continue this work beyond the building sector by initiating or continuing the Earthwise Congregation commitment.

FUNDING

The funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

IMPLEMENTATION

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

6. RESOLUTION ON RESISTING ACTIONS SEEKING TO UNDERMINE THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY

Moderator Tigner called on Ms. Lessie Williams, Chairperson of Committee 10, to present the next item of business.

Ms. Williams moved the adoption of the resolution on Resisting Actions Seeking to Undermine

the Status of Women in Society. She ceded her time to Ms. Marilyn Pagan-Banks (ILL) who spoke to the motion.

Discussion:

Emmery Groomes (SW) thanked all involved with the committee process and stated that words from conservatives regarding rape and abortion swayed his support.

Doyle Luckenbaugh (EC) spoke in favor of women's reproductive freedom and urged everyone to contact their state and federal representatives protesting restrictive legislation.

Susi Kawolics (OHIO) requested clarification on the title of the resolution.

Arthur Cribbs (CA NV, S) moved a friendly amendment to Line 1553 inserting "and urges from UCC" before conferences. The amendment was accepted by the Committee Chairperson.

Additional discussion:

Rebecca Castline (WIS) spoke in affirmation. This is not just a women's issue. We need to let women know that people of all genders of faith support this issue.

Amy Frenze (RI) offered a friendly amendment to change the title to "Resolution to Recognize and Address Gender Inequality and Discrimination."

Martha Jacobs (NY) expressed an issue with the fact that no women were added to the United Church of Christ leadership team. At the last General Synod, it was promised this issue would be looked into. Why didn't women apply for executive positions?

John Kendall (ILL) expressed sadness this is still being talked about and women are still being discriminated against.

David Stewart (ILL) indicated that the last General Synod voted to change the title of a resolution. Are we going to vote on the title change?

Moderator Tigner advised that the Parliamentarian ruled the title change motion out of order. The vote is on the substance of the resolution, not the title.

Adam Isbitsky (MASS) moved to amend Line 1336 to change "between" to "among."

13-GS-32 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes by general consent to amend Line 1336 to change "between" to "among."

13-GS-33 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to adopt the resolution on Resisting Actions Seeking to Undermine the Status of Women in Society.

**RESISTING ACTIONS SEEKING TO UNDERMINE THE
STATUS OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY**

WHEREAS, previous General Synods of the United Church of Christ have affirmed the value and dignity of women in the church and society and called for an end to sexism and the consequences of patriarchy (1969, 1983, 1989, 1991, 1995) and

WHEREAS, recent and ongoing political conversation and legislative action across the country is leading to the loss of many of the significant advances toward full equality for women;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on National Staff of the United Church of Christ, Conferences, Associations, and

Congregations to reaffirm the belief that societal distinctions which create an inferior-superior relationship among genders is contrary to the will of God; to bear witness to that belief by standing vigilant with and actively supporting women; to resist the reemerging cultural forces working to subjugate women.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that recognizing that the political conversations and legislative actions often begin with groups that attribute their attempts to subjugate women to Christian beliefs, the Twenty-ninth Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on the National staff of the United Church of Christ, Conferences, Associations and Congregations to

- publicly address and challenge policies, ideologies, and theologies that promote the inferiority and subjugation of women
- proclaim the biblical vision of oneness and equality in Christ
- encourage and work with other denominations, ecumenical, and interfaith partners to do the same
- empower and resource conference, state and national UCC policy advocates to ensure legislation which assures women equal pay, a full range of health care choices and services, including Title X and Planned Parenthood, and recognizes a woman's right to make decisions about her own reproductive health.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on National Staff of the United Church of Christ, and urges Conferences, Associations, and Congregations to recognize and address gender inequality and discrimination where they exist within the Church itself, in systems and communities in all expressions of the United Church of Christ. We call upon the Church to increase its efforts to model gender equality in all expressions of the United Church of Christ.

FUNDING

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

IMPLEMENTATION

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

Mr. Geoffrey Black, General Minister and President, advised the General Synod that the Collegium of Officers has considered the lack of diversity in the pool of candidates, particularly with regard to women. Our vision plan calls for diversity of leadership as a target in the future. A primary step was the creation of an Executive Associate position which Ms. Loey Powell now holds to assist in developing this. We have taken you seriously.

7. RECOGNITION OF NEW AND RETIRING CONFERENCE MINISTERS

Moderator Tigner called on Mr. Kent Siladi, Chairperson of the Cabinet of Conference Ministers, to recognize the new and retiring Conference Ministers.

On behalf of the Cabinet of Conference Ministers, Mr. Siladi recognized the following new Conference Ministers and those who have retired since the last General Synod.

Retired Conference Ministers:

Tim Downs, Southeast Conference
Karen Smith Sellers, Minnesota Conference
David Moyer, Wisconsin Conference
Wade Schemmel, Northern Plains Conference
Randy Hyvonen, Montana Northern Wyoming Conference
Tom Rehling, Rocky Mountain Conference
Alan McLarty, Penn West Conference

New Conference Ministers:

Marc Stewart, Montana Northern Wyoming Conference
Edith Guffey, Kansas Oklahoma Conference
Edward Davis, Southern Conference
Keith Mills, Northern Plains Conference
Campbell Lovett, Michigan Conference

Conference Ministers who have been elected, but will begin later this year:

Philip Hart, Ohio
Marc Wessels, South Dakota
Shari Prestemon, Minnesota Conference

8. FAITH IN / PETER KAGEYAMA SPEECH

A short video was shown on The Faith In Project.

Ms. Tigner called on Ms. Ann Poston, Director of Communications, who described the Faith In Project – a project that invites all of us to boldly proclaim our faith in a Still-speaking God. She called everyone to live out that faith through mission and outreach. Ms. Poston introduced Mr. Peter Kageyama, an internationally recognized expert on community development and grassroots engagement. Mr. Kageyama is the author of *For the Love of Cities* which explores in detail the value of emotional engagement with our cities and how that connection is created and nurtured.

Mr. Kageyama asked “What do you love or hate about your city?” We need to address the system – build a loveable city that is safe and functional. This requires us to look at the problems in a different way and allows for improvisation. Interact with your environment. We have a tendency to over-think the solution. Sometimes simple solutions are best. Play is important to interpersonal relationships and our cities need more opportunities to play. Happy faces equal drawing people in and spending money. Think big and out of the box.

9. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Moderator Tigner again called on Mr. Quinn Caldwell for theological reflection.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Tigner called on Mr. W. Mark Clark, Associate General Minister, for announcements.

1. If you've lost or found something, go to the General Synod office.
2. Donations for Outdoor Ministries can be made at ucc.org/synod in honor of the

- carbon footprint resolution.
3. Please visit the exhibit hall, which closes tomorrow at noon.
 4. The Church Building and Loan Fund video which did not work earlier will be shown now.

11. RECESS

Ms. Tigner declared the Fifth Plenary to be complete and the General Synod to be in recess.

Monday Evening, July 1, 2013 Sixth Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER

Assistant Moderator Dale Bonds called the Sixth Plenary Session of the Twenty-ninth General Synod to order and opened the floor to SpeakOut! participants.

1. John Schluep (OHIO) issued a call for action for veteran's ministry. Website is warriorsjourneyhome.org.
2. Enno Limuere (SD) spoke about his local church membership.
3. Jennifer Austin (SE) announced that the Southeast Conference is searching for a Designated Conference Minister.
4. Gunnar Cerda (OHIO) urged everyone to contact their state legislators to adopt autism insurance parity.
5. Julie Peebles (SC) requested prayer for people protesting cuts to public education, mental health and unemployment benefits in North Carolina.
6. Alan Johnson (RM) thanked the United Church of Christ for sending him to a mental health conference at the White House. There were only seven faith-based organizations there. October 13 is Access Sunday. Join the movement.
7. Stephen Daniels (PC) stated we need to learn how to invite others into what we have found in the United Church of Christ.
8. Dona Roll (NY) thanked everyone for adopting the resolution for veterans. While in Long Beach, she met a waitress who volunteers at a homeless shelter. Buy a bath towel and give it to New Image, 401 Ocean Blvd., Suite 202.
9. Steve Craft (PW) asked everyone to join Flat Jesus on Facebook. Youth are sending Jesus around the world. Take a picture and post on Facebook. Also advised his conference is searching for a Conference Minister.
10. Sharon Nelson (OHIO) invited youth in grades seven through twelve to the Great Lakes Regional Youth Event July 10-13, 2014

Ms. Bonds indicated the next SpeakOut! will be tomorrow morning during Plenary 7. Sign-ups will immediately follow this Plenary.

2. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

A delegate requested prayer for Mr. Todd Owens and Ms. Elizabeth Stevens who have lesions on their brains.

Assistant Moderator Bonds stated there is no such thing as a friendly amendment. Once an amendment is made, it requires a vote. If there is a grammatical correction to be made to a resolution, consent will be requested. If there is objection, a vote will be required.

3. RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ALL CHURCH OFFERING FOR SUPPORTING THE EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES OF MEMBERS IN DISCERNMENT PREPARING FOR AUTHORIZED MINISTRY OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST.

Ms. Bonds called on Ms. Crystal Silva-McCormick, Chairperson of Committee 5, to present the resolution. Ms. Silva-McCormick moved the adoption of the resolution Calling for an All Church Offering for Supporting the Education Expenses of Members in Discernment Preparing for Authorized Ministry of the United Church of Christ and spoke to the motion.

Eric Olson (CONN) requested the General Synod return to the previous speaker's request for prayer for Mr. Owens and Ms. Stevens. He then led the body in prayer.

Discussion:

Linda Biggler (LCM) requested clarification on the resolution. Are scholarship funds already set up for seminary students included in the resolution? Ans: No, this is not included.

Samuel Condee (FLA) stated there is little funding for many members in discernment. Seminary costs roughly \$45,000, which does not include room and board.

Roddie Dunkerson (NEB) We bring this resolution with the expectation that it will focus on the great gifts of those in ministry.

Carol Stanley (PNW) supports our seminarians, but adding a sixth all church offering is of concern.

Jane Tedder (EC) moved an amendment to Line 1147 – strike the second “and” and replace it with “or.” The motion was seconded.

Roddie Dunkerson (NEB) advised this issue was raised and debated by the committee and rejected. We hope the amendment is defeated.

Geoffrey Black (General Minister & President) spoke in favor of the amendment. The Collegium has discussed this matter in depth. Our concern is the resolution without the “or” language would tie our hands. Other options would help us tremendously in the immediate future.

David Greenhaw (Eden Seminary) spoke against the amendment. The United Church of Christ General Synods have studied how to support seminarians. Since 1957 this church has been trying to do this for members in discernment, not seminarians. What we're asking is that we are given a mechanism to support those members.

Steve Kitan (EC) supports the amendment. There is a lack of funding for seminarians. We should trust our executives to address this issue.

Janet McClain (ILL) stated Committee 5 was aware of the ongoing review of current offerings. We rejected “or” because this is as important as the other offerings.

Emily Heath (VT) is married to a seminarian and funding is very difficult. We participate in a seminary food bank.

John Deckenback (CAC) Chairs of the Conference Ministers Financial Development Committee that is undertaking the study of offering patterns in the United Church of Christ. Please allow us to study without dictating to us. This will be dealt with at the next General Synod.

Twila Rhodes (FLA) asked if the amendment would prohibit the offering or allow for other things to happen. Ans: Ron Patterson (EC) responded that “or” would not prohibit the offering, but would provide other options.

Samuel Condee (FLA) spoke against the amendment because it would stop the offering from being what is asked for.

Kaji Spellman (EC) called the question and the motion was seconded.

13-GS-34 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to end debate on the amendment.

13-GS-35 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to strike the second “and” to replace it with “or” on Line 1147.

Ron Freyer-Nicholas (FLA) requested a re-vote due to confusion of how the amendment was stated. The amendment was restated and a second vote was taken.

13-GS-36 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to strike the second “and” to replace it with “or” on Line 1147.

Assistant Moderator Bonds called the order of the day and advised the discussion on the All Church Offering resolution will resume tomorrow morning.

4. CELEBRATION OF PENSION BOARDS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Assistant Moderator Brian Holeman called on Mr. Michael A. Downs, President and CEO of the Pension Boards, to present a Statement of commendation Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Pension Boards.

Mr. Downs recognized past and present Trustees and former Executive Vice Presidents:

Ms. Joan Brannick and Mr. John Ordway and his wife Patricia

Ms. Marty Baumer, representing all past trustees

Don Barnes and all retired staff as well as present staff

Mr. Holeman introduced the formal Statement of Commendation Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Annuity Fund and Mr. Downs moved the adoption of the commendation.

13-GS-37 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod adopts the Statement of Commendation Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Annuity Fund.

STATEMENT OF COMMENDATION CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INCORPORATION OF THE ANNUITY FUND

WHEREAS, April 23, 2014 will mark the 100th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Annuity

Fund for Congregational Ministers, and

WHEREAS, the Annuity Fund, during its first century, has gained strength and purpose from its foundations in the Evangelical Synod Fund, the Reformed Sustentation Fund, the Ministers' Retirement Annuity Fund and the Retirement Fund for Lay Workers, and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Annuity Fund faithfully continues forward into its second century through the Annuity Plan for the United Church of Christ, administered by the Pension Boards, an Affiliated Ministry of the United Church of Christ;

NOW THEREFORE, the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ expresses gratitude to the generations of Pension Boards Trustees and administrative staff persons who, hearing and following God's leadership, have provided a ministry that brings meaningful financial support and confidence to the clergy and lay employees of the Church, and

Gives thanks to the ministries and local churches that have utilized the Annuity Plan and its predecessor retirement plans to honor the service of their clergy and lay employees, and

Celebrates the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the Annuity Fund and shares in the continuing covenant of support to all working and retired persons who serve the people of the Church.

5. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Assistant Moderator Holeman invited Mr. Quinn Caldwell and Ms. Rita Nakashima Brock to reflect on the evening's business.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Holeman called on Associate General Minister Mr. W. Mark Clark for announcements.

1. Don't forget to visit the exhibit hall before noon tomorrow. God's Vision t-shirts have been reduced to \$10.
2. After the worship service tomorrow, fabric strips will be available to put into jackets, quilts, etc. Please take them home with you.
3. Thank you again to our four platinum sponsors: OCWM, Church Building and Loan Fund, the Retirement Housing Fund and the Cornerstone Fund. On behalf of the Southern California Nevada Conference, we acknowledge the following additional donors: Chicago Theological Seminary, Pilgrim Place, Samoan Ministries Table and United Church Funds. We'll now watch a short video from the Cornerstone Fund.

7. RECESS

Mr. Holeman declared the Sixth Plenary Session to be complete and the General Synod to be in recess at the end of worship this evening.

8. WORSHIP

Meditation at the evening worship service was presented by Pastor Julian DeShazier, Senior Minister of University Church, Chicago, Illinois.

Tuesday Morning, July 2, 2013
Seventh Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER

Moderator Libby Tigner called the Seventh Plenary Session of the Twenty-ninth General Synod to order.

2. SPEAKOUTS!

Ms. Tigner called on the following SpeakOut! participants:

1. Bob Marrone (MASS) talked about thinking visually and liturgically in worship.
2. Twila Rhodes (FLA) expressed her feelings of finding it hard to be classified as youth at age twenty-nine.
3. Brenda Brown (RM) reminded everyone that the Rocky Mountain Conference is searching for a Conference Minister.
4. Andy Lang (OHIO) expressed appreciation that so many people took scarves and signed the no bullying pledge. He urged support from local churches.
5. Lorin Cope (MOMS) talked about Neighborhood Homes and the Nov. 1-3 celebration of 100 years of service to children and families.
6. Regina Low talked about the Mission 4/1 earth project, planting trees in Peru and preserving the rain forest.

Moderator Tigner thanked the participants and advised the final SpeakOut! would be during this afternoon's Plenary. Sign-up for that SpeakOut! immediately following this session.

Moderator Tigner advised there are ninety minutes this morning and ninety minutes this afternoon to complete the business before Synod and there are eleven pieces of business yet to be considered. Anything Synod does not complete will be dealt with by the United Church of Christ Board in October.

Ms. Tigner then reminded delegates which microphone is used for what piece of business.

3. RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ALL CHURCH OFFERING FOR SUPPORTING THE EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES OF MEMBERS IN DISCERNMENT PREPARING FOR AUTHORIZED MINISTRY OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ms. Tigner called on Ms. Crystal Silva-McCormick, Chairperson of Committee 5, to resume discussion on the resolution Calling for All Church Offering for Supporting the Educational Expenses of Members in Discernment Preparing for Authorized Ministry of the United Church of Christ.

Meredith Jackson (CA NV, N) offered the following amendment on Line 1151:
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ recommends that the Collegium of Officers of the United Church of Christ explore the feasibility of offering low-interest loans to United Church of Christ members in discernment with a report delivered to the Thirtieth General Synod. The motion was seconded.

Discussion:

Megan Culbertson (EC) spoke in favor of the amendment and her anticipated debt following her seminary education.

Rich Pleva (IOWA) opposed the amendment. The problem isn't access to loans, it's the debt, which this would not address.

Meredith Jackson (CA NV,N) expressed the need for a multi-pronged approach and is asking for a feasibility study on low-interest loans. This only asks for a report.

David Greenhaw (Eden Seminary) is deeply discouraged with the resolution and the amendment. The amendment starts to turn the resolution into finding a solution to a very complex problem.

Deborah Dean-Ware (MICH) took a moment of personal privilege. There are delegates staying in far-away hotels who have not yet arrived at this morning's session.

Paul Clay (CA NV,S) called the question on the amendment. The motion was seconded.

13-GS-38 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to cease discussion on the amendment.

13-GS-39 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to approve the amendment to Line 1151: BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ recommends that the Collegium of Officers of the United Church of Christ explore the feasibility of offering low-interest loans to United Church of Christ members in discernment with a report delivered to the Thirtieth General Synod.

Further discussion on the main motion:

Rich Pleva (IOWA) opposes the resolution with sadness and some anger. As originally framed, the resolution committed the church to ongoing action with theological education. The offering would not have fixed the problem, but it would have been a step in the right direction. Now we are only going to kick the can further down the road.

Jean Tyler (WISC) offered the following amendment to Line 1149:

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the current scholarships of the United Church of Christ be included as beneficiaries of the new all church offering. The motion was seconded.

Linda Bigler spoke to the amendment.

Discussion on the amendment:

Roddy Dunkerson (NEB) opposes the amendment because it continues the process of trying to solve a problem in a very focused way. It's a train wreck.

Judy Fiocco (MOMS) stated it's better than nothing, but urged a "no" vote on the amendment.

Kaji Spellman (EC) requested clarification. Would there be any limit to addressing the debt limit? Does it look at those of us who have already incurred debt?

Ans: There is nothing in the resolution addressing this issue.

Kim Homans (CONN) commented that the plenary session was not opened with prayer. Could we do that now? The Moderator indicated it would be taken under advisement.

Felix Villanueva (CA NV,S) expressed concern that we are not addressing the systemic issue. The resolution doesn't do anything to actually address the problem.

Brad Tadlock (MINN) called the question. The motion was seconded.

13-GS-40 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to close debate on the amendment.

13-GS-41 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes not to approve the amendment to Line 1149.

Erik Koepnick (WISC) offered the following amendment to Line 1151:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests that the Collegium of Officers of the United Church of Christ and the United Church Board, in covenant and cooperation with the Council of Conference Ministers and closely related seminaries, implement a Seminarian Fund Initiative to generate one million dollars per year for members in discernment seminarian scholarships.

The motion was seconded and Mr. Koepnick spoke to his motion.

Discussion on the amendment:

Andrew Warner (WISC) expressed the need to make this resolution explicit. Previous resolutions have requested action on this issue, but nothing has been accomplished. If we don't address seminary debt, only the wealthy will become pastors.

Miguel Frias (ILL) requested clarification. The amendment proposed says seminary about three times. Does this only address seminarians and not lay leaders?

Jorge Bautista (CA NV, N) stated that his seminary education will end with a debt of over \$100,000. He will take the risk for ministry because he truly feels called by God.

Brenda Brown (RM) feels the intent of the resolution is to put forward a commitment for theological education, not to micromanage the Collegium. Please reject the amendment and trust the Collegium to take this conversation seriously.

Mr. Herb Oliver (ME) called the question and the motion was seconded.

13-GS-42 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to end debate on the amendment.

Alan Miller (PNE) requested the Moderator review this morning's votes since some of the delegations just arrived. Moderator Tigner agreed.

13-GS-43 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes not to approve the amendment to Line 1151.

Bill Imes (LCM) called the question on the original motion, as amended.

13-GS-44 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to close debate on the resolution Calling for All Church Offering for Supporting the Educational Expenses of Members in Discernment Preparing for Authorized Ministry of the United Church of Christ, as amended.

13-GS-45 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to approve the resolution Calling for All Church Offering for Supporting the Educational Expenses of Members in Discernment Preparing for Authorized Ministry of the United Church of Christ, as amended.

**CALLING FOR ALL CHURCH OFFERING FOR SUPPORTING THE
EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES OF MEMBERS IN DISCERNMENT PREPARING FOR
AUTHORIZED MINISTRY OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

WHEREAS, God provides for God's church by calling and gifting persons for ministry in a variety of ways, including pastoral leadership for the church itself;

WHEREAS, the church participates in this providence of God by equipping and authorizing the ministries of some of its called and gifted members through theological education and ordination or commissioning;

WHEREAS, the well-being of the church of Jesus Christ, and particularly of each local church, is enhanced by calling faithful, educated and competent pastors, teachers and other leaders, and is jeopardized by the unavailability of such leadership;

WHEREAS, the church has historically provided for its leadership needs through institutions of theological-pastoral education;

WHEREAS, General Synod III phased out national, direct support to seminaries and called upon Conferences and local churches to assume this responsibility; and General Synod X urged each local church to support the seven closely related (now the seven seminaries of the United Church of Christ) seminary or seminaries in its region at a level equivalent to two percent of its operating budget, but few local churches have done so;

WHEREAS, the cost of educating persons for ministerial leadership has gradually shifted from the church itself to the persons themselves, and, inclusive of living expenses, has increased to 4,000 per year and more to many seminarians;

WHEREAS, many of the current generation of seminary graduates have borrowed large sums of money—often \$30,000 to \$50,000 in addition to any undergraduate student loans still being carried—to complete their theological education and one seminary's average student loan for the year 1996-97 alone was \$10,200;

WHEREAS, indebted seminary graduates must seek starting salaries sufficient to enable debt repayment on top of costs of living, while the salaries offered by many local churches are marginal at best and inadequate to do so, and these local churches are increasingly hard-pressed to finance even marginally-paid leadership;

WHEREAS, these trends point toward a dearth of church leadership, with only wealthy persons being able to afford to answer God's call to full-time leadership and only wealthy churches being able to call them;

WHEREAS, the fund-raising efforts of the seminaries of the United Church of Christ and of the Make A Difference Campaign, although providing some increase in scholarship resources, have not been sufficient to stave off these trends;

WHEREAS, all the previous whereas clauses were taken directly from the action of the Twenty-

first General Synod “Prevention and Reduction of Seminarians’ Educational Debt” (97GS40) and have not been sufficiently addressed;

WHEREAS, the multiple paths of ministry provide for greater diversity of educational preparation but do not eliminate the need for financial support for members in discernment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests the Collegium of Officers of the United Church of Christ to develop a plan and an implementation schedule for an annual all- church offering or other possible funding initiatives to provide tuition assistance for theological education for members in discernment with associations of the United Church of Christ.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ recommends that the Collegium of Officers of the United Church of Christ explore the feasibility of offering low-interest loans to United Church of Christ members in discernment with a report delivered to the Thirtieth General Synod.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Collegium be requested to present an actionable plan as quickly as possible and no later than the Thirtieth General Synod in 2015.

FUNDING

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

IMPLEMENTATION

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

In compliance with the Standing Rules the following Minority Report was voted in Plenary 8.

MINORITY REPORT ON THE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN ALL CHURCH OFFERING FOR SUPPORTING THE EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES OF MEMBERS IN DISCERNMENT PREPARING FOR AUTHORIZED MINISTRY OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Many who opposed the resolution from Committee 5 did so because we desired a stronger response to the problem of seminarian debt, including a special offering. We call on all expressions of the United Church of Christ to faithfully engage this issue.

4. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Norman Jackson (former Moderator) requested the United Church of Christ find resources for the development of American Indian pastors.

5. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF OUTDOOR MINISTRIES OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Moderator Tigner called on Ms. Penny Lowes, Chairperson of the Executive Council, to

introduce the resolution In Support of Outdoor Ministries of the United Church of Christ. On behalf of the Executive Council, Ms. Lowes moved adoption of the resolution In Support of Outdoor Ministries of the United Church of Christ and yielded her time to Ms. Ann Hughes (CONN) to speak to the resolution.

Scott Reeder (NY) reminded the moderator to please read the total number of votes for the resolutions.

Discussion:

Rebecca Kesting (WISC) lifted up the benefits of outdoor ministries.

Julia Lebrell (MICH) spoke in support of the resolution.

13-GS-46 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synods votes to adopt the resolution In Support of Outdoor Ministries of the United Church of Christ.

IN SUPPORT OF OUTDOOR MINISTRIES OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WHEREAS, we affirm the crucial support in the past from our national UCC and from many Conferences in both proclaiming and celebrating the vital and visible outdoor ministry to our youth, our churches and the wider church, and

WHEREAS, we recognize the power of Outdoor Ministry sites in promoting wider church/conference financial appeals, including capital campaigns and Our Church's Wider Mission; and further we affirm the crucial support in the past from the national UCC setting and from many conferences, and

WHEREAS, we honor the foresight of founding mothers and fathers of the faith to purchase, develop and invest in Outdoor Ministry camp and retreat sites for the UCC's faith journeys and to grow and raise up leadership in every generation, and

WHEREAS, we celebrate further investments in the infrastructure and improvements to our Outdoor Ministry sites, and

WHEREAS, the UCC, in recognition of the significant number of ordained ministers who claim their Outdoor Ministry experience as foundational to their hearing and heeding of the Call (for example, over 200 clergy credit their experience at Silver Lake Conference Center with hearing the Call), and

WHEREAS, for over 50 years, our outdoor ministries have been developing leaders who live their faith in every walk of life and consider their experiences there as major touchstones in their lives as they make ethical and professional decisions, and

WHEREAS, we further name and recognize the correlation between the alarming closing of Outdoor Ministry sites (from over 65 in 1995 to 35 current member sites) and the lost opportunity for raising up young seminarians, and faith leaders of the Church and Conferences, and for future generations of youth to experience this unique ministry of Jesus, and

WHEREAS, since OMA's inception, we've lost Blakes Grove (IA), Atkinson Center, VT; Deer Hill Conference Center NY; Camp Laurent, NY; Camp Fernbrook PA; Pilgrim Haven, MI; Pleasant Valley Outdoor Center IL; Lake, Camp Western Hills MO; Dillon, RMC; Pilgrim Park, ND; Deering Conference Center NH (BHM); Pilgrim Haven, MI; Warner Farm, MA; Ingraham House, CT; Rockcraft Lodge, ME; Dillon Hi Country, Rocky Mountain Central Conference and Pilgrim's Playground, AZ, and more recently, Lake Byrd, Florida; Camp Fernbrook PA SE, Lani Kamaha'o, Oahu Association, HI; Bows Lake Camp and Conference Center, MI Conference, and many others,

In recognition that Camps have closed and been sold by our UCC Conferences and Associations across the country; and in recognition of current sites in distress even now, (Mensch Mill Conference and Retreat Center, PSE) and in light of the disturbing trend of closings of faith-based camps across the country,

AND WHEREAS, it would not be inappropriate to describe the state of Outdoor Ministry in the UCC as the 'Canary in the Coalmine' for our denominational lifecycle,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-Ninth General Synod of the UCC gathered in Long Beach, CA declares its advocacy and support of the Outdoor Ministries Association (OMA), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-Ninth General Synod requests that the conferences, associations and other settings of the wider church, prayerfully discerning the long term consequences to the youth and future leaders of the church when considering the ramifications of closing a camp or center, seek the counsel of the OMA, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Twenty-Ninth General Synod, requests that the conferences, associations and other settings of the wider church provide timely notification to OMA in the event of impending Outdoor Ministry site or program closing so OMA may have the opportunity to provide resources, support and consultation to the distressed body and to programs at risk.

FUNDING

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

IMPLEMENTATION

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

6. PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE COLLEGIUM ON GUN VIOLENCE CONCERNING DEFEAT OF SB 649

Moderator Tigner called on Ms. Penny Lowes for additional items of business brought by the Executive Council. Ms. Lowes introduced the Pastoral Letter from the Collegium on Gun Violence concerning the defeat of SB 649 and urged affirmation.

Ron Patterson (FLA) urged affirmation and stated that the tragedy in Connecticut touched everyone.

13-GS-47 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes, without objection, to affirm the Pastoral Letter from the Collegium on Gun Violence Concerning Defeat of SB 649.

TEXT OF THE PASTORAL LETTER
RELEASED BY THE COLLEGIUM ON APRIL 17, 2013

As the names of thousands of women, men, and children lost to gun violence echo across the grounds of the U.S. Capitol today, we are deeply disappointed by the failure of the U.S Senate to move forward with sensible, responsible legislation to address the scourge of gun violence by expanding background checks on commercial gun sales. Despite today's Senate vote against the Manchin-Toomey amendment to the Senate gun violence bill, we stand resolute and unwavering in our commitment to continue the work of ending gun violence in our society.

We simply cannot accept gun violence as the norm in our nation. It is nothing less than a moral imperative that our public policy reflects a commitment to lessening the toll that gun violence takes in communities throughout our country. While we recognize that no one piece of legislation in and of itself address the complex and multilayered context of gun violence, such common sense gun violence legislation can save lives, and we must take every action we can to keep our children, families and communities safe.

As people of faith, we know all too well the terrible toll that gun violence takes in our communities, year after year, day after day. The wounded, family members and friends of victims are members of our congregations and our local communities. We hold them in our arms, sit with them in hospital emergency rooms, share the tears and the ache of loss, offer prayers of accompaniment, and gather in candlelight vigils.

It is deeply troubling that our elected officials have rejected a measure that has the support of over 90% of the American public, gun owners among them. We are heartened by the hopeful signs of bipartisan dialogue and partnership that have been evident in this debate, and we encourage lawmakers to summon the political courage to continue such efforts.

The faith community has come together many times in the aftermath of gun tragedies over the years to urge legislators to pass laws that would further prevent gun violence, and we will not falter in this critical work. We will continue to advocate for sensible, responsible gun violence prevention that strengthens background checks on gun purchases, addresses gun trafficking, bans military-style assault weapons and high capacity ammunition clips.

Since the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School last December, over 3,000 women, men and children have been lost to gun violence. Words from the Gospel prod us, "Would that we knew the things that make for peace."

The UCC Collegium of Officers:
The Rev. Geoffrey A. Black, General Minister and President

The Rev. J. Bennett Guess, Executive Minister, Local Church Ministries
The Rev. James A. Moos, Executive Minister, Wider Church Ministries
The Rev. M. Linda Jaramillo, Executive Minister, Justice and Witness Ministries
W. Mark Clark, Associate General Minister

While the Senate was voting, names of people who have been killed by gun violence were read on the National Mall. One week earlier a makeshift grave with more than 3,300 markers, representing each person shot since Sandy Hook, lined the lawn outside the Capitol as a reminder of gun violence victims whose lives were lost.

7. AFFIRMATION OF RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF AFFIRMING MINISTRIES

Moderator Tigner called on Ms. Penny Lowes to present the next item of business on behalf of the Executive Council. Ms. Lowes moved the Affirmation of Relationship Between the United Church of Christ and the Fellowship of Affirming Ministries. Ms. Lowes then yielded her time to United Church of Christ Ecumenical Officer Ms. Karen Georgia Thompson, who spoke to the motion.

13-GS-48 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to affirm the relationship between the United Church of Christ and the Fellowship of Affirming Ministries.

AFFIRMATION OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF AFFIRMING MINISTRIES

WHEREAS, The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries has been a faithful witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries reflects a broad theological perspective that embraces aspects of the Pentecostal, Holiness and Charismatic traditions; and

WHEREAS there are United Church of Christ congregations, authorized ministers and laity who are active participants in The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries; and

WHEREAS, there are participants in The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries who exhibit a bold Christian witness but are not a part of the United Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS, The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries provides strong leadership and bold witness in urban ministries; and

WHEREAS, The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries is an advocate and witness for justice globally and continues to provide leadership with its HIV/AIDS ministry; and

WHEREAS, The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries is a full participant with ministries within the United Church of Christ such as the UCC Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns; and

WHEREAS, The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries promotes intentional inclusivity;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the United Church of Christ in all its settings commit itself to a relationship of deepening friendship, continuing dialogue, and joint public witness with The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage the United Church of Christ's Covenanted Ministries, Associated and Affiliated Ministries, Conferences and Associations, including Committees on Ministry, to be intentional in learning about The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries and engaging with congregations, clergy, and leadership of The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage dialogue between the United Church of Christ and The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries to discern where the ministry of both might be enhanced by further cooperation and collaboration; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage the seminaries and other settings of the church to familiarize themselves with The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries and disseminate information about The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries in their respective

institutions in order to deepen understanding of the faithful witness of The Fellowship of Ministries as a partner working in and with the United Church of Christ; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage further conversation on matters related to ministerial and congregational standing, sacramental life, theology, polity and ecclesiology throughout the life of the church; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage all settings of the United Church of Christ to exercise intention in learning about the witness of The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries and its part in the Holiness, Pentecostal and Charismatic traditions and how that witness informs its participation within the United Church of Christ; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage all settings of the United Church of Christ to invite participation by The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries in national, regional and local events; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage the development of resources and other educational events and tools to foster deeper learning and understanding of The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries and its role and relationship with the United Church of Christ; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage leaders in the United Church of Christ to seek to make common public witness with leaders of The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries on issues of national and international concern and collaborate wherever possible on works of public witness and justice-making; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ and The Presiding Bishop of The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries appoint members to create and sustain an on-going working group to facilitate and encourage the continued growth and development of this relationship between the United Church of Christ and The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries.

8. RECOGNITION OF MISSION 4/1 EARTH

Moderator Tigner called on Ms. Sarah Lund, a Florida Conference Regional Minister; Mr. Kenneth Makuakane, Program Associate to the Hawaii Conference; Ms. Vivian Lucas, Executive Director of the Franklinton Center at Bricks; and Ms. Meighan Prichard, Mission 4/1 Earth Campaign Coordinator and Interim Pastor at Plymouth Congregational Church in Seattle, Washington to share information about Mission 4/1 Earth.

Ms. Lund, Mr. Makuakane, Ms. Lucas and Ms. Prichard introduced environmental speaker Mr. David Orr. Mr. Orr questioned how future generations will be sustained. Carbon remains in the atmosphere for a long time and can affect us one thousand years from now. This is a long-term problem. A legal climate policy is needed. Our challenge is powering as much as possible with sunlight.

Moderator Tigner thanked Mr. Orr for his comments.

9. CELEBRATION OF EXISTING STRUCTURE AND BOARDS / INSTALLATION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Tigner called on Ms. Penny Lowes, Chairperson of the Executive Council. Ms. Lowes called for members of the existing Ministry Boards and Executive Council to gather and welcome members of the new United Church of Christ Board. A time of farewell and installation of new board members was conducted.

10. POINTS OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Jim Antal (MASS) thanked delegates for the vote on the Divestment Resolution.

Joshua Simon (WIS) requested a Minority Resolution be presented at the current or next business session in response to the All Church Offering Resolution vote. Assistant Moderator Brian Holeman advised that a minority resolution requires a majority vote of those voting in the negative on the original resolution. Time will be given to the conferences to proceed with determining which of their delegates were eligible to vote on this motion.

Adam Isbitsky (MASS) states we have been reminded to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. Could we raise the temperature in the room to use less fossil fuel?

Ron Trimmer (IS) requested, with Dr. Orr's permission, that his power point presentation be put on the United Church of Christ website.

Davida Foy Crabtree (IS) would appreciate a written copy of Dr. Orr's speech to study.

**11. THE UNITED SAMOAN MINISTRIES OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
REQUEST TO BE RECOGNIZED AS A HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED
GROUP AND MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL FOR RACIAL & ETHNIC MINISTRIES
RESOLUTION**

Assistant Moderator Holeman called on Mr. Bob Bachelder, Chairperson of Committee 8, who moved the adoption of The United Samoan Ministries of the United Church of Christ Request to be Recognized as a Historically Underrepresented Group and Member of the Council for Racial & Ethnic Ministries resolution. He then spoke to the motion and recommended approval.

Discussion:

Jessica Cole (CA NV, S) stated it's obvious how enthusiastic and involved the Samoan youth are in the United Church of Christ. It's important to recognize and honor the rich culture of Samoa.

Deborah Dean Ware (MICH) stated she is sad to oppose this resolution. As she read the resolution and sat in on the committee meeting, she would like to trust that this resolution represents most of the Samoan churches. However, she does not believe it does. Is this a resolution that will promote unity especially as it relates to the PAAM as well as the COREM?

Felix Villanueva (CA NV, S) feels the resolution represents three of the five groups. The Samoan community understands what covenant means. The Samoan church

in his conference is the largest growing community in the United Church of Christ. He urged support of the resolution.

Charles Buck (HI) stated the Samoan churches are a major portion of the United Church of Christ membership. He has some reservations about the resolution however. We're talking about some churches that are affiliated with other denominations. He thinks we need to take some time to understand the situation. He supports the concept, but not this particular resolution.

Sally Buffington (CA NV, S) urged support of the resolution and stated the Samoan people have a deep faith and much to say.

Julia Swain (CA NV, N) stated she would like to understand this issue more deeply. She does have concerns about the resolution as it currently stands. There is a need for continuing conversation and urged a negative vote. She also urged the Samoan community to bring this issue back to General Synod Thirty.

Alison Morales (CA NV, S) said this has not happened quickly. The Conference has worked for years to grow with our Samoan brothers and sisters. Not everyone is on the same page, but the Samoan community has asked to be recognized. They are still growing and have unique gifts. We can learn from them. She urged approval of the resolution.

Marilyn Pagan Banks (EC) opposes the resolution. She loves the Samoan community, but to separate them would diminish their role. COREM represents caucuses of unified peoples.

Assistant Moderator Brian Holeman stopped debate and called for a vote.

13-GS-49 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes not to cease debate on the resolution.

Additional discussion:

Michiko Reyes (OGM) strongly supports our Samoan brothers and sisters. This is God's vision for us. Let's celebrate the diversity in our denomination.

Christopher Jenkins (MASS) objects on general principles. This is another effort to segment us. We say that they may all be one, but to add another group segments us further.

Madison Shockley (CA NV, S) is thrilled and excited about interacting with Samoan brothers and sisters. They need to be recognized. Hopes the resolution is affirmed.

A visitor (CA NV, S) stated the Samoan community has been trying to find a place to belong.

There are 183,000 Samoans in the country.

Madaline Allsup (RM) doesn't want to vote until we hear from more Samoan voices.

Julia Swain (CA NV, N) moved to table this motion until the next General Synod.

Assistant Moderator Holeman advised that a motion to postpone indefinitely is in order. A new resolution would be required. The motion to postpone indefinitely was seconded and Ms. Swain spoke to the motion.

Paul Clay (CA NV, S) is against postponing this issue. There will be discussion about this issue no matter how we vote.

Charles Buck (HI) supports the motion to postpone indefinitely. We need more conversation.

Alison Morales (CA NV, S) urged delegates not to postpone indefinitely. This would send a hurtful message to our Samoan brothers and sisters. They have asked for recognition.

Mike Underhill (OHIO) stated many Samoans were present at the committee meeting hearing and are in favor of this resolution. We need to move ahead. He encouraged a "no" vote on the motion to postpone.

David Anderson (ME) called the question and it was seconded.

13-GS-50 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to end debate on the motion to postpone indefinitely.

13-GS-51 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes not to postpone action indefinitely on the resolution.

The question was called on the main motion.

13-GS-52 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to close debate on the main motion.

13-GS-53 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to approve the resolution The United Samoan Ministries of the United Church of Christ Request to be Recognized as a Historically Underrepresented Group and Member of the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries.

THE UNITED SAMOAN MINISTRIES OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
REQUEST TO BE RECOGNIZED AS A HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED
GROUP AND MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL FOR RACIAL AND
ETHNIC MINISTRIES

WHEREAS, the Nineteenth General Synod adopted the "Statement of Christian Conviction of the Proposed Pronouncement Calling the United Church of Christ to be a Multiracial and Multicultural Church," and

WHEREAS, the Samoan churches have been related to COREM through PAAM from its inception, and

WHEREAS, PAAM's 16 ethnicities have always been hospitable and inclusive of their Samoan partners, nevertheless, Samoans feel they have sufficiently unique needs and experiences to have a separate voice in COREM, and

WHEREAS, Southern California PAAM has voted to support this request.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ recognizes that the five streams of Samoan ministries have been historically underrepresented in the United Church of Christ.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod supports the creation of the United Samoan Ministries as an Historically Underrepresented Group of the United Church of Christ.

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Executive Council (or its successor body) consider a change in bylaws that would grant the United Samoan Ministries a seat at the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries (COREM) table.

FUNDING

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

IMPLEMENTATION

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

James Moos, Executive Minister for Wider Church Ministries, stated the United Church of Christ is committed to engaging our global partners so all voices are heard, continuing "We are committed to engaging the Samoan community in the implementation stage of this resolution."

A moment of silent prayer was requested following the vote on this resolution.

Art Cribbs (EC) stated he doesn't believe we have to have a unified voice to request recognition. We need to be cautious about this issue.

Ben Guess (LCM) received a message from Desmond Tutu congratulating the United Church of Christ for its action on the resolution regarding climate change.

12. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Mr. Holeman called on Ms. Rita Nakashima Brock and Mr. Quinn Caldwell for theological reflection.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Holeman called on Mr. W. Mark Clark, Associate General Minister, for announcements.

1. The last chance for Speakouts! will be this afternoon.
2. Luggage storage is available in the Local Arrangements office.
3. It is unsafe to go behind the curtain. The only thing back there is the opportunity to get electrocuted.
4. If you rented a scooter, it needs to be returned by 8 p.m. tonight or by 7:30 a.m. tomorrow.
5. Voting devices need to be returned at the conclusion of the voting plenary tonight. Please return them to your conference coordinator.
6. A final thank you to our platinum sponsors: Our Church's Wider Mission, The United Church of Christ church Building and Loan Fund, the Retirement Housing

Foundation and the United Church of Christ Cornerstone Fund. We will now see a short video from the Retirement Housing Foundation.

14. RECESS

Assistant Moderator Brian Holeman declared the Seventh Plenary to be complete and the Twenty-ninth General Synod to be in recess until 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday Afternoon, July 2, 2013

Eighth Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER

Assistant Moderator Brian Holeman called the Eighth Plenary of the Twenty-ninth General Synod to order at 2:30 p.m.

2. SPEAKOUTS!

Mr. Holeman called upon the following SpeakOut! participants:

1. Harold Beer (MICH) spoke about bicycling to General Synod Thirty in Cleveland. Please join in the challenge.
2. David Beebe (MOMS) requested a moment of silence in honor of Nelson Mandela and then offered a prayer.
3. Ronald Freyer-Nicholas (FLA) urged clergy to not act as agents of the state by refusing to sign marriage licenses until such time as the thirty-seven states that discriminate, eliminate their discrimination.

4. Tyler Smith (SOC) and friends invited persons to consider their application for new leadership at Lancaster Theological Seminary.
5. Cathy Burbury and Nila Fitzgerald (WIS) invited delegates to join them in the recognition of David Moyer, retired Wisconsin Conference Minister.
6. Diane Johnson (CA NV, N) invited qualified persons to apply for the “Change-maker” Scholarships available at Pacific School of Religion. Fifteen scholarships are available for students of color. Applications are due July 15, 2013.
7. Brigit Stevens (MINN) expressed appreciation to the Local Arrangements Committee for providing superb child care.
8. Louie Blue Coat (CAIM) extended an invitation to groups to partner with CAIM in keeping the stories of Native Americans alive. He also acknowledged Mr. Norm Jackson’s leadership role as the first Native American Moderator of the South Dakota conference.
9. Kelli Parrish Lucas (CA NV, S) spoke on behalf of the UCC Disability Ministry’s program “Widening The Welcome.” She invited delegates to use the resources available through the Mental Health Network on line at 222.uccdm.org.
10. Libby Tigner (CA NV, S) expressed thanks and appreciation to all the national staff who are the unsung heroes who work at 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH.

Mr. Holeman thanked the participants and Mr. Dick Sparrow for his work at the SpeakOut! Coordinator.

3. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. Holeman acknowledged Ms. Twila Rhodes (FLA) who celebrated the fact that forty-three persons met for the organizational meeting of the Council for Young Adult Ministries over lunch.

4. MINORITY REPORT ON THE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN ALL CHURCH OFFERING FOR SUPPORTING THE EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES OF MEMBERS IN DISCERNMENT PREPARING FOR AUTHORIZED MINISTRY OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST.

Mr. Holeman reported the vote in affirmation of Committee 5’s resolution passed with a sixty-five percent vote. According to the By-laws and Standing Rules, a minority resolution is allowed.

The Minority Resolution is the exclusive subject of those who voted against the resolution. Debate is reserved to those who are eligible to vote. Passage will require a majority of those who voted “no.” If the minority resolution passes, it will be attached to the main resolution.

Mr. Joshua Simon (WIS) moved the adoption of the following Minority Resolution:

Many who opposed the resolution from Committee 5 did so because they desired a stronger response to the problem of seminarian debt, including a special offering. We call on all expressions of the United Church of Christ to faithfully engage this issue.

Mr. Simon then spoke to the resolution.

Discussion:

Mr. Miguel Friaz (ILL) expressed opposition to the Minority Resolution indicating there were other ways to leadership, not necessarily through seminary.

Ms. Alison Morales (CA NV,S) shared that serving on the search committee of a small church allowed her to encounter a number of clergy candidates who cannot afford to accept a call to a small church because they have to make their decision based on finances.

Ms. Lynda Bigler (LCM) indicated the previous amendments to the original resolution were not necessary. One does not need to have an MDiv degree in order to be a minister anymore.

Ms. Carole Barner (MOMS) shared that not all have the capacity to attend seminary. When mission is highlighted, the money will follow. Please pray for the Collegium and for all members in discernment to make theological education a priority in all forms.

Mr. Adrian Maxey (KO) called the question and the motion was seconded.

13-GS-54 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to close debate.

13-GS-55 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod adopts the minority resolution:

**MINORITY REPORT ON THE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN ALL CHURCH
OFFERING FOR SUPPORTING THE EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES OF MEMBERS
IN DISCERNMENT PREPARING FOR AUTHORIZED MINISTRY OF THE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Many who opposed the resolution from Committee 5 did so because we desired a stronger response to the problem of seminarian debt, including a special offering. We call on all expressions of the United Church of Christ to faithfully engage this issue.

5. RESOLUTION AGAINST BULLYING AND DISCRIMINATION

Assistant Moderator Holeman called upon Ms. Kathy Rahorst, Chairperson of Committee 3, to present the recommended actions from that committee.

Ms. Rahorst moved that the Twenty-ninth General Synod adopt the Resolution Against Bullying and Discrimination.

Discussion:

Mr. Charles Wildman (MASS) expressed appreciation to the Central Atlantic Conference for originating the resolution. He would like to see a broader discussion of bullying in terms of the connection between churches and lay leaders where pastors have been driven out.

Ms. Kelli Parrish Lucas (JWM) spoke from a personal perspective as a victim in the workplace and even in seminary. Prayerfully consider what it means for us as a church here.

Ms. Colleen Samson (SOC) reported that much attention has been given to the bullying of children. This behavior is not acceptable anywhere, especially in our churches. We say everyone is welcome, but persist in behaviors that are not welcoming. It must stop in all forms.

Mr. Tim Gormley (ME) moved to amend that the items listed in Lines 1070 to 1072 be listed in

alphabetical order. The motion was seconded.

A motion was made to close debate on the amendment.

13-GS-56 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod voted to close debate on the amendment.

13-GS-57 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to amend the resolution by listing the items in Lines 1070 to 1072 in alphabetical order.

Ms. Holly Adams (CONN) requested the word “age” be added at Line 1070. With no objections, the word was included.

Ms. Dee Lundberg (JWM) moved to amend by adding the word “clergy” after “stakeholders” in Line 1066. The motion was seconded.

13-GS-58 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to amend by adding the word “clergy” after “stakeholders” in Line 1066.

Mr. Ian Bryant Smith (CONN) called the question and the motion was seconded.

13-GS-59 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to close debate.

13-GS-60 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod adopts the Resolution Against Bullying and Discrimination, as amended.

RESOLUTION AGAINST BULLYING AND DISCRIMINATION

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ supports the right of students to attend schools that are safe and free from violence, harassment, bullying, and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ encourages and expects all churches of the denomination to provide and enforce church policies to ensure the safety of all children and youth participating in church activities; and

WHEREAS, providing safe learning environments in all settings, be it churches, schools, sports complexes, etc., that ensure both the physical and emotional safety of students, and create the conditions necessary to foster success in all endeavors where children and youth are involved; and

WHEREAS, bullying is one of the more common and vicious ways by which such success is imperiled;

WHEREAS, bullying is any behavior that happens when someone is subjected to negative actions from one or more people and has a hard time defending him or herself. Moreover, bullying takes various forms: teasing, taunting or verbal abuse, punching, shoving and physical acts, spreading rumors, ganging up on others, or excluding someone from a group; and

WHEREAS, cyber-bullying occurs when a person uses the Internet, mobile phones, or other electronic devices to bully, the impact can be more long-lasting. Some examples of cyber-bullying are: sending mean or threatening texts, e-mail, or instant messages; posting damaging pictures or hurtful messages online; tricking someone into revealing personal information and sending it to others; and creating websites to make fun of someone; and

WHEREAS, children ache to be considered a viable and vital part of their community and yearn to be treated with dignity; and

WHEREAS, some significantly effective practices are being developed around the country, increased collaboration among schools, churches, community service organizations, and civic clubs needs to be encouraged and those various entities need to be equipped to develop strategies to enhance their effectiveness in reducing bullying; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ supports communities that develop, implement and monitor policies and programs that address the prevention, intervention and elimination of violence, harassment, bullying, and discrimination.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages all Conferences of the United Church of Christ to work with a broad spectrum of local community stakeholders, clergy, coaches, instructors, parents, staff, students and teachers, and to develop, implement, and monitor policies and programs that foster and support a positive learning climate free from violence, harassment, bullying, and discrimination based on, but not limited to, age, race, ethnicity, language, national identity, political or theological perspectives, appearance, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, economic status or class.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call for further education for all people in all settings of our church about the definition, causes and effects of bullying, so that we foster climates of greater safety, and so that we grow in our capacity to love our neighbors as ourselves in word and deed.

BE IT ALSO FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges all settings to invest in, promote, and support comprehensive, coordinated, and collaborative strategies to prevent violence, harassment, bullying, and discrimination in places of learning so that all students have the opportunity to attend school, engage in the classroom, achieve academic success, and participate in other school activities.

FUNDING

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

IMPLEMENTATION

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

6. RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL STAFF

Mr. Holeman called the order of the day so the national staff could be recognized.

Assistant Moderator Ms. Dale Bonds invited all national staff members to join her on the stage. She then invited everyone to formally express their appreciation to the staff, including those who work with the Pension Boards and the United Church Funds. The delegates and visitors responded with a standing ovation.

7. SUSPENSION OF THE ORDER OF THE DAY

Mr. Adrian Maxey (KO) requested that the Order of the Day be suspended until the resolutions are completed.

Ms. Marilyn Pagan-Banks (EC) and Mr. Dwayne Royster (EC) requested to speak to the decision of the Supreme Court regarding Voter Rights.

Section 4 and 4b of the 1965 Voter Rights Act has just been struck down by the Supreme Court. The Court stated the rationale of the provision was needed at that time, but not now. Texas is creating some of the most stringent voter identification laws in our nation. Some of the most marginalized voters in Texas are being excluded. This represents an unjust policy and reverts to laws of the Jim Crow era. There were those who died so that the Voting Rights Act in 1965 would be passed. Historically our denomination has stood as leaders calling for God's vision and justice. It was requested by the Council of Racial Ethnic Ministries that we:

1. Call upon the Collegium to issue a press release naming the sinister nature of the vote
2. Request Justice and Witness Ministries to call upon Congress
3. Request that Justice and Witness Ministries partner with national faith-based movements, including the NAACP and the Lawyers Committee on Civil Rights to resist this decision.

Delegates were asked to stand or raise their hands as an expression of solidarity.

Ms. Pagan-Banks reminded everyone of Micah 6: 8 – What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

13-GS-61 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod affirms by acclamation the request from the Council of Racial Ethnic Ministries.

8. RESOLUTION ADVOCATING FOR FUNDING TO CONSTRUCT QUALITY AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Assistant Moderator Bonds called on Ms. Sharon Davis (ILL), Chairperson of Committee 7, to present the actions from that committee.

Ms. Davis moved that the Twenty-ninth General Synod adopt the resolution Advocating for Funding to construct Quality Affordable Housing.

13-GS-62 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod adopts the resolution Advocating for Funding to Construct Quality Affordable Housing.

**ADVOCATING FOR FUNDING TO CONSTRUCT
QUALITY AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

WHEREAS, the senior population in the United States will double by 2030; and

WHEREAS, senior homelessness is projected to grow 33% by 2020 and 50% by 2050; and

WHEREAS, Section 202 provides quality affordable housing to just over 300,000 extremely low-income seniors throughout the US; and

WHEREAS, not one dollar was provided for new developments in 2012 and the 2013 funding is being debated; and

WHEREAS, there are over ten persons on waiting lists nationally for every housing unit which becomes available; and

WHEREAS, there is currently a gap of 5 ½ million units of quality, affordable housing for families; and

WHEREAS, the low-income housing tax credits help to address that gap; and

WHEREAS, the low-income housing tax credit program may come up for negotiation; and

WHEREAS, quality affordable housing for seniors, families and persons living with disabilities is very beneficial to our nation, creates significant savings in other parts of our federal and state budgets, and addresses the Biblical mandate to provide for “the least of these;”

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon all United Church of Christ conferences, congregations, members and friends, along with the Covenanted and Associated Ministries of the church’s National Setting, to express to the federal Administration and to members of the United States Congress support for:

- restoration of ongoing and robust funding for new construction of quality affordable housing under HUD Section 202 and Section 811; and,
- for the continuation and strengthening of the low-income housing tax credit program.

FUNDING

The funding for the implementation of the Resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

IMPLEMENTATION

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

9. RESOLUTION ADVOCATING FOR TAX REFORM AS CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP AND PUBLIC DUTY

Ms. Davis moved the adoption of the resolution Advocating for Tax Reform as Christian Stewardship and Public Duty.

Ms. Davis reported the funding paragraph and implementation text has been switched at Lines 1256 – 1261. She requested delegates place appropriate headings on the respective paragraphs.

13-GS-62 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod adopts the resolution Advocating for Tax Reform as Christian Stewardship and Public Duty.

ADVOCATING FOR TAX REFORM AS CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP AND PUBLIC DUTY

WHEREAS, in 2005, the Twenty-fifth General Synod approved the resolution “For the Common Good,” <http://www.ucc.org/justice/public-education/pdfs/Resolution-for-the-Common-Good.pdf> affirming that “paying taxes for government services is a civic responsibility of individuals and businesses”; “the tax code should be progressive, with the heaviest burden on those with the greatest financial means”; and reaffirming “the obligation of citizens to share through taxes the financial responsibility for public services that benefit all citizens, especially those who are vulnerable”;

WHEREAS, in 2005, the Twenty-fifth General Synod also approved the resolution, “To Advance the Cause of the Most Disadvantaged in the Budgetary and Appropriations Process,” <http://www.ucc.org/synod/resolutions/TO-ADVANCE-THE-CAUSE-OF-THE-MOST-DISADVANTAGED-IN-THE-BUDGETARY-AND-APPROPRIATION-PROCESS.pdf> urging the “General Minister and President and ... Justice and Witness Ministries to: ... exert their full influence in the public forum to support the restoration of more progressive taxes and to oppose cuts in programs that hurt the disadvantaged”;

WHEREAS, in 2003, the Twenty-fourth General Synod approved the resolution, “A Theological Response to Corporate Greed,” <http://www.ucc.org/synod/resolutions/A-THEOLOGICAL-RESPONSE-TO-CORPORATE-GREED.pdf> calling the UCC to “[s]upport legislation limiting the ability of companies to use offshore subsidiaries to shelter tax payments or to avoid transparency of information needed to monitor corporate behavior”;

WHEREAS, in 1975, the Tenth General Synod approved a “Statement on Racial and Economic Justice” calling the UCC to “address the need for just tax reform which recognizes the problem of inadequate income distribution”;

WHEREAS, in 1969, the Seventh General Synod approved the pronouncement, “Sharing the Cost of Government Fairly,” affirming that “[t]axes should fall on taxpayers in accordance with their ability to pay” and calling for a number of tax reforms including the elimination of the “present preferential treatment afforded most capital gains ... [which] should be taxed at the same rates as any other income.”

WHEREAS, the United States is an extremely wealthy nation;

WHEREAS, in 2011, 46.2 million people (15.0%) in the United States lived in poverty including 16.1 million children (21.9%) and, of these, 44% lived on less than half the poverty-level income;

WHEREAS, as the national income, per person, doubled over the past 38 years, income inequality rose: average income for the bottom 90% of households declined, average annual income for the next 9% rose by less than 50% (less than \$50,000), but annual income among the top 1/100th of 1% of households rose by an average of \$20 million;

WHEREAS, income inequality is weakening society and destroying the social fabric;

WHEREAS, shortcomings of the tax system highlighted in the 1969 pronouncement “Sharing the Cost of Government Fairly,” persist:

- the tax system does not meet the test of equity,
- the tax base does not meet the test of adequacy, and
- the inequities of the federal law become inequalities in state taxation.

WHEREAS, churches and nonprofit organizations are unable to meet the needs and provide the opportunities needed by all God’s people in order to live out God’s vision for lives of fullness;

WHEREAS, in a nation of over 300 million people and a world of over six billion, government action is needed to provide for the common good and adequate tax revenues are needed to fund these activities;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has previously called for a tax system that is:

- progressive, insuring that higher-income households and corporations pay a greater share of income in taxes than lower-income ones;
- fair and without loopholes, havens and other arrangements that can be used to legally shield income from taxation;
- neutral, that is, does not create incentives for particular behaviors except when those behaviors are explicitly intended as a goal of public policy;
- adequate to raise sufficient funds to meet social needs and promote the welfare of all; and
- redistributive in order to reduce income inequality and enhance social cohesion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls all settings of the United Church of Christ to advocate, educate, work, and pray for:

- a financial transaction tax to reduce financial speculation;
- taxes on capital gains and “carried interest” (income earned by hedge fund managers that is currently taxed at the rate of capital gains) that match those levied on wages and salaries;
- a strong estate tax to reduce the transfer of massive wealth across generations;
- reform of the corporate income tax to 1) boost revenue, 2) close loopholes and stop the use of tax havens, and 3) end incentives that encourage corporations to move jobs offshore;

- a tax system that is progressive, fair, neutral, adequate, and redistributive; and,
- We call upon national staff to explore effectiveness and implications of carbon taxes.

FUNDING

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

IMPLEMENTATION

The funding for the implementation of the Resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

10. RESOLUTION FOR A CALL TO RESPOND TO VIOLENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN HONDURAS RESULTING FROM ILLEGAL DRUGS TRAFFICKING IN THE UNITED STATES

Ms. Bonds called upon Ms. Hannah Snyder-Samuels, Chairperson of Committee 12, to present the recommended actions from that committee.

Ms. Snyder-Samuels moved that the Twenty-ninth General Synod adopt the resolution for A Call to Respond to Violence and Human Rights Violations in Honduras Resulting from Illegal Drugs Trafficking in the United States.

Discussion:

Ms. Marcia Charles (EC) spoke as one of the primary writers of the resolution. She has taken work teams to Honduras, where people have no shoes and no food. Schools are fenced to keep children safe. She urged delegates to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Honduras who have not been forgotten by God.

Mr. James Gottwald (PNE) expressed concern with the resolution. Having worked for fifteen years in Guatemala, he has seen gang violence, but his concern is that the resolution focuses on drug trafficking and not education.

Ms. Susie Craig (ME) spoke in support of the resolution saying that we enjoy freedom of speech while our Honduran brothers and sisters do not. When they do speak, they put themselves in jeopardy.

Mr. Drew McClaren (WCM) moved to amend Line 1417, adding “and drug policy.” The motion was seconded and Mr. McClaren spoke to his amendment.

Mr. Tyler Connoley (WCM) stated we need to look at more than foreign policy. We need to address the war on drugs.

Caroline Dean (CAC) called the question and the motion was seconded.

13-GS-63 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to close debate on the amendment.

13-GS-64 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to adopt the amendment to add “and drug policy” to Line 1417.

William Peltz (CONN) asked what this amendment means as far as interaction with Hondurans. Lloyd Snyder (CA NV, N) worked on the streets in California as a probation officer and has seen extreme use of drugs and their effects. He has been to Honduras and Guatemala. We can't blame them, but must blame the consumers north of the border. We must stand with them and accept that the buyers are driving this trade.

Samuel Conde (FLA) called the question on the original motion and his motion was seconded.

13-GS-65 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to close debate on the resolution.

13-GS-66 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to adopt the resolution for A Call to Respond to Violence and Human Rights Violations in Honduras Resulting from Illegal Drugs Trafficking in the United States.

**A CALL TO RESPOND TO VIOLENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN
HONDURAS RESULTING FROM ILLEGAL DRUG TRAFFICKING AND
DRUG POLICY IN THE UNITED STATES**

WHEREAS, Honduras has experienced a rise in gang violence - it now has the highest homicide rate per capita in the world with 6,200 killings, or 82.1 murders per 100,000 inhabitants in 2010 alone (UN report, 10/2011); and

WHEREAS, this gang violence is directly connected to the trafficking of illegal drugs that are eventually sold here in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the pastors and churches and people of faith in Honduras are unable to speak out against the gangs and the illegal drug trade without the risk of retaliation that threatens their personal safety; and

WHEREAS, we in this country have the freedom to speak out against the drug-related violence that threatens the quality of life of the people in Honduras; and

WHEREAS, we have the responsibility to discourage complacency by raising the awareness of the struggles that others face;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod, gathering in Long Beach, California, calls upon this gathering, the United Church of Christ, its congregations, and wider church settings to raise awareness and engage in educational activities on how the sale and consumption of illegal drugs in this country result in violence and exacerbates human rights violations that threaten not only the quality of life, but life itself, for our sisters and brothers in Honduras; and

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that since pastors in Honduras cannot speak out against the gangs and the violence without risk to their personal safety, the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges pastors in churches throughout the United Church of Christ to speak out from their pulpits to give voice to the Hondurans' plight; and

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon Wider Church Ministries and Justice and Witness Ministries to serve as a resource of information and an active support network, and to provide primary and secondary levels of intervention for advocacy regarding the on-going struggle of our Honduran brothers and sisters; and

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon our ecumenical partners to advocate for peace and justice and human rights in Honduras; and

LET IT BE RESOLVED, the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages the churches of the United Church of Christ, in a spirit of solidarity, to hold the people of Honduras and our global partners in prayer; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages the United Church of Christ in its various settings to call on our nation's governmental leaders to reassess and recreate our U.S. foreign policy and drug policy to address this situation of human rights violations, illegal drug trafficking, and violence that impacts the quality of life in Honduras.

FUNDING

The funding for the implementation of the Resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

IMPLEMENTATION

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

11. RESOLUTION ON MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL COAL MINING IN APPALACHIA

Assistant Moderator Bonds called on Ms. Carolyn Keilig, Chairperson of Committee 4, to present the recommended actions from that committee.

Ms. Keilig moved that the Twenty-ninth General Synod adopt the resolution on Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining in Appalachia.

Discussion:

Mr. Samuel Conte (FLA) shared his personal experience of being from the area. His grandmother is buried on the side of a mountain and he has witnessed mountaintop mining.

13-GS-67 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod votes to adopt the resolution on Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining in Appalachia.

MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL COAL MINING IN APPALACHIA

WHEREAS, mountaintop removal coal mining destroys God's creation by blowing up

mountains and burying streams throughout Appalachia; and

WHEREAS, mountaintop removal coal mining harms Appalachian communities; and

WHEREAS, mountaintop removal coal mining causes the displacement of entire Appalachian communities and their culture; and

WHEREAS, as people of faith, we look to the scriptures for guidance for the choices we make in our lives; and

WHEREAS, we understand scriptures compel us to act on our faith grounded in wonder, reverence, love, and respect for all of God's creation; and

WHEREAS, we are called to spiritual and lifestyle transformation based on justice and reverence for all of God's creatures and creation...

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ express its opposition to mountaintop removal coal mining and its support for clean, renewable sources of energy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests Justice and Witness Ministries to share these concerns about mountaintop removal coal mining by presenting a copy of this resolution to all appropriate federal and state agencies, congressional committees and elected officials;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges the legislative and executive branches of the federal government to pass legislation and enforce environmental safeguards to end the devastating practice of mountaintop removal coal mining;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon Justice and Witness Ministries, to provide associations, conferences, and congregations with information and timely direction for needed action that can help end mountaintop removal coal mining;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages United Church of Christ congregations and all other settings of the church to identify their sources of electricity and, if sourced from mountaintop removal coal mining, encourages them to change to renewable sources of energy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages United Church of Christ congregations to educate themselves and their communities about the effects of mountaintop removal coal mining and economic options available to Appalachian communities, by intentionally engaging in advocacy and action against mountaintop removal coal mining and for continued care of creation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ advocates for renewable energy and sustainable sources of income to replace mountaintop

removal coal mining in Appalachia in order to create jobs and boost local economies and encourages United Church of Christ congregations to do likewise.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ asks the leadership of the United Church of Christ to continue efforts to end mountaintop removal coal mining and engage leaders of other religious traditions and relevant organizations to implement efforts to stop mountaintop removal coal mining.

FUNDING

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

IMPLEMENTATION

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

12. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. Marvin Morgan (Past Moderator) acknowledged the applause and recognition of national staff, however, he reflected that there is an absence of black male clergy. Dr. Charles Cobb was quoted as reminding us there is a tendency to do the right thing when pushed, but as soon as we stop pushing and crying out, the retrenchment begins.

13. INVITATION TO THE THIRTIETH GENERAL SYNOD

Ms. Bonds invited Mr. Phil Hart, incoming Conference Minister of the Ohio Conference, for an invitation to the Thirtieth General Synod in 2015.

Mr. Hart expressed appreciation for the hospitality of our hosts, the California Nevada Southern Conference. He invited the United Church of Christ to Cleveland, Ohio in 2015, the birthplace of both Rock ‘n Roll and Superman, as well as the birthplace of the United Church of Christ in 1957.

14. THANKS AND RECOGNITION OF THE LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Ms. Bonds called on Associate General Minister Mr. W. Mark Clark for a word of thanks to our Local Arrangements Committee and volunteers from the California Nevada Southern Conference. Four hundred fifty-three volunteers participated and every single congregation in the conference was visited and asked to support this General Synod.

The delegates responded with a standing ovation. Mr. Clark also expressed appreciation to the Youth Stewards who were still on the floor as well as the co-chairs of the Local Arrangements Committee, Mr. Paul Kittlaus and Ms. Janet Vandevender.

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR

Ms. Bonds indicated Registrar for the Twenty-ninth General Synod reports 2,933 registrants for the meeting.

Mr. Clark offered the following additional announcements:

1. Scooters need to be returned to the Local Arrangement Office.
2. Voting devices need to be returned to the appropriate coordinators.
3. Videos presented as General Synod will be on the UCC website.
4. Mr. Clark expressed thanks and appreciation to the delegates for the amazing experience as administrator. The delegates responded with warm applause.

16. INSTALLATION OF NEW MODERATOR AND ASSISTANT MODERATOR

Moderator Libby Tigner presented the Moderator-elect and Assistant Moderator-elect to the delegates. A service of installation was conducted for Mr. Brian Holeman and Ms. Sue Artt to their respective positions.

17. FINAL THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Ms. Tigner invited Ms. Rita Nakashima Brock and Mr. Quinn Caldwell for their reflections on this General Synod experience, and also thanked them for all they have shared in our time together.

The delegates expressed their appreciation to Ms. Brock and Mr. Caldwell with a standing ovation.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Tigner, on behalf of the moderators, expressed thanks and appreciation for everyone's participation and commitment to our denomination and the Church of Jesus Christ. She then called on Ms. Penny Lowes, Chairperson of the Executive Council, for the final motion. Ms. Lowes invited the delegates to take a moment to think of friendship and all the "new" that is coming forward. She then invited a round of applause for the moderators, Ms. Tigner, Ms. Bonds and Mr. Holeman. The delegates responded with a standing ovation.

Ms. Lowes noted that with the imminent closing gavel of the final business session of the Twenty-ninth General Synod the Amended Constitution and Bylaws, enabling the new governance structure go in force and the new structure is in place.

Ms. Lowes moved the adjournment of the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ at the conclusion of this evening's worship service.

13-GS-68 VOTED: The Twenty-ninth General Synod voted to adjourn at the conclusion of this evening's worship service.

The Moderator, Ms. Libby Tigner gaveled the final business session of the Twenty-ninth General Synod to a close.

19. WORSHIP

Speaker at the evening worship was Rev. Jo Hudson, former Senior Pastor of Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ in Dallas, Texas.

End of General Synod Minutes (UCCB-13-10-02d)

UCCB-13-10-02e—In accordance with Standing Rule 17 the United Church of Christ Board establishes the Special Committee on Development for the 2013-2015 biennium;

UCCB-13-10-02f—In response to a request by the Administrator of the Thirtieth General Synod the United Church of Christ Board establishes the Special Committee on General Synod Program and Planning for the 2013-2015 biennium;

UCCB-13-10-02g—In compliance with Bylaws paragraph 242 d) the consent of appointments to the Investment and Endowment Committee of the United Church of Christ Board, those appointments being:

Edward R. Bedrosian, European-American lay male, 60+, member of Wellesley Congregational UCC in Wellesley, Massachusetts, Massachusetts Conference. Mr. Bedrosian is the retired Vice President and Treasurer of the Polaroid Corporation and the Co-Founder and CEO of Merganser Capital Management, LP, which manages six billion dollars in institutional assets for corporations, foundations, hospitals, universities, religious organizations and state governments. He holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology, a S.M. in Civil Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a MBA from Harvard University. He is a retired Commander-United States Naval Reserve. Upon his election Mr. Bedrosian is eligible for re-nomination and reelection to a second two-year term in 2015,

Mark R. Parthemer, European-American lay male, 50-52, member of Jensen Beach Community Church UCC in Jensen Beach, Florida, Florida Conference. Mr. Parthemer is the Managing Director and Senior Fiduciary Counsel for Bessemer Trust, a wealth management firm for high net-worth individuals. He chairs several fiduciary law committees of the American Bar Association. Mr. Parthemer serves on the Florida Bankers Association Trust Division Executive Council. A member of the Florida and Pennsylvania Bar Associations, he has garnered Lifetime Achievement honors for over 15 years as one of The Best Lawyers in America. Mr. Parthemer received his JD from the Dickinson School of Law at Penn State University, following BA and BS degrees from Franklin and Marshall College. He is the former Chair of the UCC's Wider Church Ministries Finance & Investment Committee. Upon his election Mr. Parthemer is eligible for re-nomination and reelection to a second two-year term in 2015,

Yvette-Michelle Wynn, African-American lay female, 40-49, member of Community Church of the Pelhams UCC, Pelham, New York, New York Conference. Ms. Wynn is a Vice President and private banker for Morgan Stanley. She previously worked as a financial planner for American Express and as a regional sales manager for the Bank of New York. She graduated from Pace University with a BBA in Finance and received her MA in Economics from Fordham University. She is currently pursuing her CFP. She is a member of the Westchester Estate Planning Council. Ms. Wynn serves as the Moderator of her church. Upon her election Ms. Wynn is eligible for re-nomination and reelection to a second two-year term in 2015.

UCCB-13-10-02h—In compliance Standing Rule 14 grant voice without vote to non-Director members of the Investment and Endowment Committee, Edward Bedrosian, Mark Parthemer and Yvette-Michelle Wynn and non-Director members of the Special Committee on Development, Carolyn Davis, Richard Harter, John Kropf and Douglas McClelland.

UCCB-13-10-02i—The approval of the Minutes of the June 2013 meetings of the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors. The Justice and Witness Ministry Board Minutes continue for the next seven pages;

**Justice and Witness Ministries
Board of Directors' Meeting
and the
United Church of Christ's
General Synod 29
Renaissance Hotel
Long Beach, CA
June 28 - July 2, 2013**

Board Members Present: Aqueelah As-Salaam, Pamela June Banks-Anderson, Donald Barnes, Geoffrey Black, Geoffrey Brace, Nick Carter, Michael Cich-Jones, Kenneth Comer, Deborah Davis, Michael Denton, Rosanne Dyce-Anderson, DeSorrow Golden, Roxanne Gould, Alice Harper-Jones, Ruth Harvey, Lauri Hasler, Linda Jaramillo, Dee Lundberg, Chris Lyman Waldron, Mary Nelson Abbott, Kelly Parrish Lucas, Norma Patterson, Leslie Penrose, Daniel Romero, Amelie Sell, Lynne Smouse Lopez, Anthony Sullivan, William Thwing, Jacquelyne Tyler, Fredd Ward, Andrew Warner, Diane Welhaven, Jane Willan, Carolyn Williamson, Mitchell Young

Board Members Present via Conference Call: Pamela Canzater Cheney, Jake Joseph, Phyllis Mitchell, John Myers, Jeannie Thompson

Board Members Not Present: Leian Cimarra, Gordon Crouch, Timothy Downs, Beth O'Malley, Kiely Todd-Roska

Staff Members Present: Bentley de Bardelaben, Linda Long, Vivian Lucas, Sandy Sorensen

Staff Members Not Present: Michael Schuenemeyer (in attendance at Wider Church Ministries Board Meeting)

Guests: Donald Clark, W. Mark Clark, Heather Kimmel

June 29, 2013

Alice Harper-Jones, Chair of the JWM Board of Directors, called the meeting to order at 7:40 a.m.

Alice introduced Linda Jaramillo, Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries. Linda introduced Donald Clark, Legal Counsel for Justice and Witness Ministries. Donald introduced

Heather Kimmel who was recently hired as the new United Church of Christ Associate Legal Counsel. Heather will work with Donald regarding legal matters of the UCC and her office will be at the Church House, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH.

Linda gave background on the purpose of the meeting and noted the recent webinars and teleconferences, which reviewed legal documents of the Covenanted Ministries to amend their Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation.

JWM's Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation contained revisions and redlined material as addressed by JWM's Legal Counsel. The two documents were forwarded, with a resolution accompanying each, to the JWM Board of Directors noting the actions to be taken. The four items were emailed to each board member on June 18, 2013.

A meeting was called on the morning of June 29, 2013 to take action on the above noted resolutions per the following.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the following resolutions were duly adopted by the affirmative vote of not less than 2/3rds of all voting members of the Justice and Witness Ministries (A Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ), an Ohio public benefit corporation, present at a meeting duly called and held on June 29, 2013, the votes cast in favor of these resolutions being at least equal to the quorum and all members casting votes being entitled to vote thereon:

2013-6-29-JWM-1

VOTED: To adopt the Amended Bylaws of Justice and Witness Ministries (A Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ) to supersede and replace the existing Bylaws and the Secretary of Justice and Witness Ministries shall enter such Bylaws into the Minute Book of Justice and Witness Ministries.

Moved – Geoffrey Brace
Seconded – Anthony Sullivan

Approved
Unanimous

2013-6-29-JWM-2

VOTED: To adopt the Amended Articles of Incorporation of Justice and Witness Ministries (A Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ) to supersede and replace the existing Articles of Incorporation and any amendments thereto; and

The Officers of Justice and Witness Ministries (A Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ) are hereby authorized and directed to prepare or cause to be prepared an appropriate certificate of amendment and to execute such certificate as required and cause the same to be filed in the office of the Ohio Secretary of State, and to take such further action, execute and deliver such other

documents, and obtain all such other governmental approvals, as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

Moved – Geoffrey Brace
Seconded – PamelaJune Banks-Anderson
Nay – Phyllis Mitchell

Approved

Upon recording of the votes of the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors, the meeting adjourned at 7:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted
by Linda Long
Secretary of the Corporation

**Justice and Witness Ministries
Board of Directors
Delegate Orientation Meeting
and the
United Church of Christ
General Synod 29
Long Beach, CA
June 28 - July 2, 2013**

Board Members Present: Aqueelah As-Salaam, PamelaJune Banks-Anderson, Geoffrey Brace, Michael Cich-Jones, Leian Cimarra, Kenneth Comer, Deborah Davis, Michael Denton, Rosanne Dyce-Anderson, DeSorrow Golden, Roxanne Gould, Alice Harper-Jones, Lauri Hasler, Jake Joseph, Dee Lundberg, Chris Lyman Waldron, Mary Nelson Abbott, Kelly Parrish Lucas, Norma Patterson, Leslie Penrose, Daniel Romero, Amelie Sell, Lynne Smouse Lopez, Anthony Sullivan, William Thwing, Jacquelyne Tyler, Fredd Ward, Andrew Warner, Diane Welhaven, Jane Willan, Carolyn Williamson, Mitchell Young

Board Members Not Present: Ruth Harvey, Jeannie Thompson

Staff Members Present: Kelly Burd, Eunice Carrasco-Hill, Mari Castellanos, Donyale Copeland, Bentley de Bardelaben, Jim Deming, Linda Jaramillo, Linda Long, Elizabeth Leung, Helga Mingione, Mike Neuroth, Sala Nolan, Yvonne Oliver, Vivian Lucas, Jessie Palatucci, Meighan Pritchard, Edie Rasell, Jan Resseger, Michael Schuenemeyer, Sandy Sorensen

Staff Members Not Present: Carlos Correa

June 28, 2013

Alice Harper-Jones, Chair of the Board of Directors, called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

Opening devotions were led by Vivian Lucas, Director of the Franklinton Center at Bricks.

Edie Rasell, Minister for Economic Justice, gave a report on the resolution Taxes, Christian Stewardship, and Public Duty. She noted that she would suggest to the committee reviewing this resolution to add carbon tax. She also noted that the Young Adults would hold a protest in support of the hotel workers at the Hyatt and the Hilton Hotels as they try to negotiate a fair contract. The board members were asked to join in support.

Business Items

The board members received, via email, the audit report from McGladrey LLP for review. The report was for a review of years ending December 31, 2011 and 2012 for the Executive Council, the Covenanted Ministries of the United Church of Christ and Affiliated Ministries. The report noted an increase in investments of \$18.3M due to market conditions and, in addition, cash increased overall by \$2.5M. The JWM Finance Committee Chair Lynne Smouse Lopez and Vice Chair Geoffrey Brace were in consultation with Kathy Houston, Chief Financial Officer, on the findings of the report. Lynne Smouse Lopez reported.

2013-6-28-JWM-1

VOTED: To receive the preliminary Audit Report for years ending December 31, 2011 and 2012, respectively.

Moved - Lynne Smouse Lopez
Seconded - Kenneth Comer

1 - Abstention (Kelli Parish Lucas)
Approved

2013-6-28-JWM-2

VOTED: To authorize the JWM Board Chair to approve the final documents for payoff of the Franklinton Center at Bricks loan to the United Church of Christ Cornerstone Fund.

Approved by consensus

Linda gave background on the request. She noted that the board voted to retire the obligation on the loan in the amount of \$1,039,000 and the legal documents would be prepared and brought back to the board for final approval. The vote was approved at the board meeting of March 8, 2013. Because the legal documents are still in preparation, the request to authorize was placed before the board for approval. It was requested that the legal documents be forwarded to the Board of Directors upon request.

Consideration of Minutes

2013-6-28-JWM-3

VOTED: To approve the minutes of March 7 - 9, 2013.

Moved - Lynne Smouse Lopez

Seconded - Jacquelyne Tyler

Approved

General Synod Overview

Linda reviewed the General Synod agenda and informed the members that each delegate would receive a voting device and there would be training during the first plenary session. If a device was not received, they should contact Linda Long.

Delegate Responsibility

The members were informed that their responsibility to the General Synod is to be on the floor during the plenary sessions. While on the floor, Geoffrey Brace, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee, would be available to answer any questions that anyone may have.

In addition, each delegate is randomly assigned to a Committee to review a resolution. Delegates are required to attend the Committee Meeting. An Intensive is held to give background on the resolution, which will be presented for a vote during the plenary sessions. JWM Staff resource persons were also named.

Standing Rules

The Parliamentary Procedures were emailed to the members to update them on the process to carry out the business of the General Synod.

Staff Support

In order to have access to a board member, delegate, or an Officer of the Church, a Floor Pass is distributed to each ministry and conference. Linda Long will have a pass to connect with Linda Jaramillo and a designated staff person will have a pass to access a board member.

Special Meeting

The members were reminded of the scheduled board meeting and conference call on Saturday morning at 7:30 a.m. The meeting was held to vote on the JWM legal documents, Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. Each of the Covenanted Ministries were scheduled to meet and to vote on their documents.

Resolutions

Staff gave a presentation of resolutions being presented. Taxes, Christian Stewardship, and Public Duty; Mountain Top Removal; Honduran Violence; and Immigration Reform.

Re-Nomination of UCC Officers

Three Officers of the Church were re-nominated. The Rev. Geoffrey Black for General Minister and President, the Rev. M. Linda Jaramillo, Executive Minister for Justice and Witness Ministries, and the Rev. Ben Guess, Executive Minister for Local Church Ministries. Linda's re-nomination speech was scheduled during the plenary session the evening of Friday, June 28. A session to meet the candidates was also scheduled for Saturday, June 29.

Celebration and Installation of Board Members

Linda informed the members of the Ceremony of Release planned for the retiring board members with an Installation of the incoming United Church of Christ Board Members. The event was scheduled for Tuesday, July 2 with a practice being held on Sunday evening.

Announcements

Board members were asked to purchase tickets to JWM's reception scheduled for Friday evening, June 28.

Mike Schuenemeyer noted a rally being held in front of the Convention Center on Marriage Equality.

Mari Castellanos noted a rally followed by a march on Immigration, which was to be held on Monday at noon.

Closing

Closing prayers were led by Alice Harper-Jones.

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

by Linda Long

Secretary of the Corporation

End of Justice and Witness Ministry Minutes (UCCB-13-10-02i)

UCCB-13-10-02j—The approval of the Minutes of the June 2013 meeting of the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors. The Local Church Ministry Board Minutes continue for the next five pages;

MINUTES
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
June 29, 2013
7:00 A.M. Pacific Time
Westin Hotel, Long Beach, California

The June 29, 2013 meeting of the Board of Directors of Local Church Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ) was held at the Westin Hotel in Long Beach, California.

Members Present

Sue Artt, Lynda Bigler, Robbie Carlson, Karen Curtis-Weakley, Susannah Davis, Mark Doty, Harold Drury, Nancy Erickson, Jean Golden, Jeffrey Groene, Ben Guess, Jane Haubert, William Imes, Meredith Jackson, Renee Jackson, Trinaka Jamison-Finger, Douglas Lander, Nancy Lawrence, Janet Leung, Wilma Manchester, Adrian Maxey, Steven Mayers, Akendo Onamwar, Warren Orikasa, Reiss Potterveld, Inez Reid, Sheila Rubdi, John Selders, Kent Siladi, Carol Stanley, Anthony Stoik, Lisa Strueh, Tammy Toepke-Floyd, Elizabeth Walker, Jan Wargo, Susan Watterson, Carol Williams-Swoope, Frederick Young

Robb Brown and George Weavill, Jr. via telephone

Members Absent

Deana Barth, Geoffrey Black, Geneva Butz, Alan Hilberg, Timothy Marquez, Nancy Wellman

LCM Board Committee Meetings

A meeting of the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors Daniel Hand Annual Review Committee was held electronically prior to June 29, 2013. A meeting of the Audit Coordinating Committee which is comprised of the chairs of the Covenanted Ministry and Executive Council Budget & Finance and/or Audit Committees also took place before June 29, 2013. All members of the LCM Board Audit Committee were invited to attend.

Call to Order

The LCM Board Meeting was called to order by Carol Williams-Swoope at 7:00 a.m.

Opening Prayer

Robbie Carlson offered the opening prayer.

Establishment of Quorum

Carol Williams-Swoope called the roll. Jan Gomoll, Secretary of the Corporation, reported that 40 of 46 LCM Board members were in attendance for the Board of Directors Meeting. A majority of the Board of Directors was present, establishing the existence of a quorum.

Approval of the Minutes

LCM-BOD-06/13-1

VOTED: To approve the Minutes of the March 8, 2013 meeting of the Board of Directors of Local Church Ministries.

MOVED: Carol Williams-Swoope

MOTION CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Rules of Order, Granting of Voice Without Vote

LCM-BOD-06/13-2

VOTED: To adopt the agenda as the agenda for the June 29, 2013 meeting of the Board of Directors of Local Church Ministries; and to adopt Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised 10th Edition, as the standing rules for the meeting; and to grant voice without vote to W. Mark Clark, Associate General Minister, United Church of Christ.

MOTION CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

Report of the Executive Committee

Carol Williams-Swoope reported that LCM received a funding request, via the Daniel Hand Review Committee, from Fisk University, one of the *Six Sisters* founded by the American Missionary Association, and the first historically black college or university to attain accreditation by a regional body. Because Fisk University is in its final year of accreditation with probationary status, it requested from the Daniel Hand Review Committee and the LCM Board of Directors an emergency grant of \$836,358 for extraordinary need before June 1, 2013.

Several meetings ensued. On April 5, 2013 Dr. James Williams, Fisk University President, Edwina Harris Hamby, Fisk University Vice President of Institutional Advancement and representatives from the LCM Board, staff and Daniel Hand Review Committee met by telephone conference call to discuss the issues contributing to Fisk's accreditation problems. Additional information regarding the school's financials, enrollment and faculty numbers, alumnae appeals, etc. was requested and received.

On April 26, 2013 The Daniel Hand Review Committee met and voted to recommend that the LCM Board of Directors make a grant to Fisk University in the amount of \$300,000. On May 23, 2013 the LCM Board Executive Committee, acting as the Board, met to consider the recommendation and voted the following action.

LCM-EXCOM-05/13-D - 1

Whereas a special conference call was convened on April 26, 2013 to continue discussion of Fisk University's request for \$836,358 from the Daniel Hand Fund to help the university keep its accreditation and,

Whereas it was noted that a previous information session (via conference call) was held on April 5, 2013 with Dr. James Williams, Fisk President and Edwina Harris Hamby, VP of Institutional Advancement and representatives from the LCM Board, staff and Daniel Hand Committee to discuss the issues contributing to Fisk's accreditation problems and,

Whereas additional information regarding the school’s financials, enrollment and faculty numbers, alumnae appeals, etc. was requested and received, and

Whereas the committee was reminded of the Board’s April 2007 vote to “set-aside” 10% of the 5% draw from the Daniel Hand Fund for extraordinary requests and that funds can be used after a period of three years or until \$500,000 was accumulated and,

Whereas the available “set-aside” accumulated funds currently total \$322,901 and, Whereas the Daniel Hand Committee acknowledges its limitations in meeting Fisk’s actual grant request for \$836,358 but affirms the need to provide assistance based on the UCC’s long standing relationship and educational partnership with Fisk through the D.H. funds and other ongoing support and,

Whereas the Daniel Hand Committee passed the following motions:

- (1) To respond favorably to Fisk University’s request for financial assistance to meet accreditation requirements (M. Ellis; K. Curtis-Weakley).
- (2) That assistance not exceed funds available in the Daniel Hand set-aside (currently totaling \$322,901). (K. Curtis Weakley; M. Ellis).
- (3) That LCM make a grant in the amount of \$300,000 to Fisk University (M. Ellis; K. Curtis-Weakley).
- (4) In providing this assistance Fisk University be encouraged to report to LCM its long-term plans for institutional sustainability.

Be it therefore resolved that the Daniel Hand Annual Review Committee recommends that Local Church Ministries make a grant of \$300,000 from the Daniel Hand “set-aside” funds to assist Fisk University in meeting its accreditation requirements. And further that the “set aside” funds not be used for a period of three years or until there is \$500,000 in available funds

MOVED: By the Daniel Hand Fund Annual Review Committee

SECONDED: None needed; motion was made by the Daniel Hand Fund Annual Review Committee

MOTION CARRIED

Audit Committee

The Audit Coordinating Committee which is comprised of the chairs of the Covenanted Ministry and Executive Council Budget and Finance and/or Audit Committees met on Thursday, June 20 to review and discuss the 2012 audited financial statements and SAS 114 letter with McGladrey LLP. The members of the audit committees of each of the Boards of the Covenanted Ministries were invited to participate in the conference call. Based upon the review and discussion, the following vote was presented to each of the Boards:

LCM-BOD-06/13-3

VOTED: To receive The Executive Council and the Covenanted Ministries of the United Church of Christ and Certain Affiliated Entities December 31, 2012 Financial Report and SAS 114 letter.

MOVED: Reiss Potterveld, for the Audit Committee

SECONDED: None needed; motion was made by the Audit Committee

MOTION CARRIED

Unified Governance

Resolution to Adopt Amended LCM Articles of Incorporation

LCM-BOD-06/13-4

VOTED: Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the following resolutions were duly adopted by the affirmative vote of not less than 2/3rds of all voting members of Local Church Ministries (A Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ), an Ohio public benefit corporation (“LCM”), present at a meeting duly called and held on June 29, 2013, the votes cast in favor of these resolutions being at least equal to the quorum and all members casting votes being entitled to vote thereon:

RESOLVED, that the Amended Articles of Incorporation attached hereto are hereby adopted to supersede and replace the existing Articles of Incorporation of LCM and any amendments thereto; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the officers of LCM are hereby authorized and directed to prepare or cause to be prepared an appropriate certificate of amendment and to execute such certificate as required and cause the same to be filed in the office of the Ohio Secretary of State, and to take such further action, execute and deliver such other documents, and obtain all such other governmental approvals, as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

MOVED: Jean Golden

SECONDED: Carol Stanley

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution To Adopt Amended LCM Bylaws

LCM-BOD-06/13-5

VOTED: Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the following resolution was duly adopted by the affirmative vote of not less than 2/3rds of all voting members of Local Church Ministries (A Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ), an Ohio public benefit corporation (“LCM”), present at a meeting duly called and held on June 29, 2013, the votes cast in favor of this resolution being at least equal to the quorum and all members casting votes being entitled to vote thereon:

RESOLVED, that the Bylaws attached hereto are hereby adopted to supersede and replace the existing Bylaws of LCM and the Secretary of LCM shall enter such Bylaws into the Minute Book of LCM.

MOVED: Carol Stanley

SECONDED: Karen Curtis-Weakley

MOTION CARRIED

Closing Prayer

Robbie Carlson offered the closing prayer.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 a.m.

Note: All reports, votes, statements (when provided) and resolutions to which these Minutes refer are on file in the office of the Secretary of the Corporation. These Minutes reflect only actions or brief discussion summaries. Verbatim discussions are not recorded.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jan Gomoll

Executive for Administrative Planning and Coordination and
Secretary of the Corporation

End of Local Church Ministry Minutes (UCCB-13-10-02j)

UCCB-13-10-02k—The approval of the Minutes of the June 2013 meeting of the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors. The Wider Church Ministry Board Minutes continue for the next four pages;

WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES (WCM) MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

**Renaissance - Long Beach, California
June 29, 2013**

Opening Plenary

Bing Tso, Chairperson, Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors, called the plenary to order at 7:36 a.m., extended words of welcome. Board members, Dorothy Keller and Noah Jensen Tabor along with Legal Counsel, Richard Osterberg joined by conference call.

06/13/WCM/01

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

It was **VOTED** to adopt the circulated agenda.

The Chairperson called for consideration of the minutes of the March 8, 2013 meeting of the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors.

06/13/WCM/02

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

It was **VOTED** to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the March 8, 2013 meeting of the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors.

06/13/WCM/03

AFFIRMATION OF THE AUDIT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

It was **VOTED** to affirm the Combined Financial Report and Audit of the United Church of Christ for the year ending December 31, 2012.

06/13/WCM/04

AFFIRMATION – AMENDED ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION OF WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES

It was **VOTED** to affirm the Amended Articles of Organization of Wider Church Ministries.

06/13/WCM/05

AFFIRMATION – BYLAWS OF THE WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES

It was **VOTED** to affirm the Bylaws of the Wider Church Ministries.

06/13/WCM/06

AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE THE ARTICLES OF AMENDMENT

It was **VOTED** to authorize the Officers of Wider Church Ministries to execute the appropriate Articles of Amendment.

**RESOLUTIONS BY MEMBERS AS DIRECTORS TO ADOPT
AMENDED ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION
AND
AMENDED BYLAWS
OF
WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES (A COVENANTED MINISTRY OF THE UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST)**

After consultation with the Collegium of Officers of the United Church of Christ and the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ, and after presentation to the General Synod of

the United Church of Christ at two regular meetings of said General Synod, the following resolutions were presented:

Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the following resolutions were duly adopted by the affirmative vote of not less than 2/3rds of all voting Members as Directors of Wider Church Ministries (A Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ), a Massachusetts charitable, religious and missionary enterprise corporation, present at a meeting duly called and held on June 29, 2013, the votes cast in favor of these resolutions being at least equal to the quorum and all members casting votes being entitled to vote thereon:

RESOLVED, that the Amended Articles of Organization of Wider Church Ministries (A Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ) attached hereto are hereby adopted to supersede and replace the existing Articles of Organization and any amendments thereto; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bylaws of Wider Church Ministries (A Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ) attached hereto are hereby adopted to supersede and replace the existing Bylaws and any amendments thereto; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the officers of Wider Church Ministries (A Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ) are hereby authorized and directed to prepare or cause to be prepared appropriate Articles of Amendment and to execute such Articles as required and cause the same to be filed in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and to take such further action, execute and deliver such other documents, and obtain all such other governmental approvals, as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Melina Higbee
Executive Assistant/Corporate Secretary

Directors Present

Merv Bangert
Joyce Bathke
Richard Behringer
Marcia Bentley
Geoffrey Black
Louis Blue Coat
Faith Burgess
Charles Carpenter
William Clarke
Tyler Connoley
Barbara Kershner Daniel
Thomas Haines
Oletha Haller
Mary Frances Hazeltine
Joy Lacanienta
David Long-Higgins
Corliss Marsh
Oliver Martin III
Kimberly McKerley
Drew McLaren
Carol Merriman
Karen Moeschberger
James Moos
Julie Peeples
Dietmar Plajer
Sharon Prestemon
Suzanne Robinson
Katie Roedner
Ariel Royer
Foai Tanuvasa
Liza Torres
Bing Tso
Jeanne Tyler
Melva Victorino
Mei Wang

Directors Participating by Conference Call

Virginia Fadden

Noah Jensen Tabor
Dorothy Keller
June Rovero

Staff

Mary Schaller Blaufuss
Florence Coppola
Derek Duncan
Melina Higbee
Linda Lawrence
Peter Makari
Susan Sanders
Michael Schuenemeyer

Related Staff via Conference Call

Richard Osterberg, Legal Counsel

End of Wider Church Ministry Minutes (UCCB-13-10-02k)

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD**

**TUESDAY, JULY 2, 2013
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SEVENTH PLENARY
OF THE TWENTY-NINTH GENERAL SYNOD
ROOM 203 C LONG BEACH CONVENTION CENTER**

WELCOME

Mr. Geoffrey Black, General Minister and President, welcomed the members of the United Church of Christ Board (UCCB) to the organizational meeting of the Corporation.

INVOCATION

Ms. M. Linda Jaramillo, Executive Minister of Justice Witness Ministries, opened the meeting with prayer.

DINNER

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Black, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation, presiding, called the meeting to order, the time being 5:11 PDT, Tuesday, July 2, 2013.

Based on information provided by the Registrar, Ms. Denise Shimell, Mr. Black declared a quorum present.

Members present: Ms. Maritza Angulo de Gonzalez, Ms. Sue Artt, Ms. Pat Barnes-McConnell, Ms. Joyce Bathke, Ms. Caroline Belsom, Ms. Lynda Bigler, Mr. Black, Mr. Frank Bolden, Ms. Dale Bonds, Mr. Geoffrey Brace, Ms. Faith Burgess, Mr. Robbie Carlson, Mr. Tom Croner, Ms. Sheldon Culver, Mr. Edward Davis, Mr. Mike Denton, Mr. Michael Downs, Mr. Kevin Finley, Mr. Robert Frieberg, Mr. David Gaewski, Ms. Kira Geary, Ms. Roxanne Gould, Mr. J. Bennett Guess, Mr. Donald Hart, Ms. Emily Heath, Mr. Brian Holeman, Ms. Jaramillo, Mr. Noah Jensen Tabor, Mr. Nesa Joseph, Ms. Julia LeBrell, Ms. Dee Lundberg, Ms. Thea Mateu, Mr. James Moos, Mr. Kevin Omi, Mr. Ronald Patterson, Mr. Kevin Peterson, Mr. Rich Pleva, Mr. Ernesto Reyes, Mr. Dwayne Royster, Mr. Gary Schulte, Ms. Carol Shipley, Mr. Nevan Stobelt-McCann, Mr. William Tanner, Ms. Jeanne Tyler, Mr. Dean Wakuzawa, Ms. Elizabeth Walker, Mr. Bernard Wilson and Ms. Kimberly Wood. Members excused: Mr. William Edwards, Mr. Gilberto Garcia-Rodriguez, Ms. Christina Phillips and Mr. Bryan Sickbert. Staff to the Board of Directors present: Mr. Donald C. Clark, Mr. W. Mark Clark, Mr. Lee Foley, Mr. Donaldson Hill, Ms. Kathy Houston, Mr. Chris Noffke, Ms. Shimell and Ms. Kimberly Whitney. Other Staff present: Ms. Anita Bradshaw and Ms. Jan Gomoll.

HISTORY

Mr. Jim Moos, Executive Minister for Wider Church Ministries and the former Chair of the predecessor body, the Executive Council of the General Synod, shared a brief history of the journey of the Church in arriving at this point. Mr. Moos highlighted the work of the governance taskforces and the resolutions that General Synod had adopted to provide direction for the creation of the new structure, noting the eight year journey was at times arduous and acrimonious.

GOVERNANCE AGENDA REVIEW

Mr. Donald Clark, General Counsel for the United Church of Christ, outlined the agenda necessary for the appropriate legal transition to the new structure, and Mr. Black asked for and received a motion and a second, and;

It was VOTED
13-07-UCCB-01 to adopt the printed agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE CORPORATE BYLAWS

Mr. Donald Clark reminded the membership that the UCCB is a corporation and as such establishes its own Bylaws to further govern its work. He said the adoption of the Bylaws requires a two-thirds majority for adoption. Mr. Clark noted all the documents he would present

had been made available to the membership well in advance of the meeting, for review by the membership.

Mr. Black asked for and received a motion and a second, and;

It was VOTED

13-07-UCCB-02 to approve the Corporate Bylaws.

APPROVAL OF THE STANDING RULES

Mr. Donald Clark told the membership that the proposed Standing Rules had been drafted by the Executive Council's Governance Implementation Taskforce and that he had personally reviewed them and attended the taskforce meeting where they had been finalized and recommended for adoption by the UCCB.

Mr. Black asked for and received a motion and a second, and;

It was VOTED

13-07-UCCB-03 to adopt the Standing Rules.

APPROVAL OF MERGER AGREEMENT

Mr. Donald Clark told the membership that the Agreement of Merger combined two corporations, the Office of General Ministries and the Executive Council, into a new corporation: the United Church of Christ Board. He said the two predecessor bodies had agreed to the merger, as one of their last acts, in the past few days and the membership of the UCCB must now vote its approval to finalize the new governance structure of the United Church of Christ.

Mr. Black read the Agreement of Merger;

Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the following resolution was duly adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the voting members, who are also the directors, of United Church of Christ Board, an Ohio public benefit corporation, present at a meeting duly called and held on July 2, 2013, the votes cast in favor of this resolution being at least equal to the quorum and all members casting votes being entitled to vote thereon:

RESOLVED, that the merger of The Executive Council of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ, an Ohio public benefit corporation, and Office of General Ministries (A Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ), an Ohio public benefit corporation, into United Church of Christ Board, an Ohio public benefit corporation, pursuant to and in accordance with the Agreement of Merger attached hereto, be, and the same hereby is, approved and adopted;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson and the Secretary of the United Church of Christ Board be, and they are hereby, authorized and directed to execute and deliver the aforesaid Agreement of Merger, with such changes as are acceptable to the foregoing officers, on behalf of the United Church of Christ Board, and to prepare or cause to be prepared an appropriate certificate of merger and to execute such certificate as required and cause the same to be filed in the office of the Ohio Secretary of State; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the officers of the United Church of Christ Board be, and each of them is hereby, authorized and directed to take all such further action, execute and deliver all such other documents, and obtain all such other governmental approvals, as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

It was noted that Ms. Wood had replaced Ms. Sharon Prestemon as a Director on the documents filed with the Ohio Secretary of State and that at the conclusion of the meeting, the Office of General Ministries and the Executive Council would cease to exist and the new governance structure would be in place and in force.

Mr. Black asked for and received a motion and a second, and;

It was VOTED
13-07-UCCB-04 to approve the Merger Agreement.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF THE CHAIR OF THE UCCB

Mr. Black then invited nominations for Chairperson of the United Church of Christ Board.

Mr. Holeman, the just-installed Moderator of the Thirtieth General Synod rose and nominated Mr. Wilson, citing his years of advocacy, in various capacities, on behalf of the effort to restructure the governance structure.

Ms. Burgess rose and nominating Ms. Tyler, citing her years of service at the national setting and her advocacy on behalf of the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries.

Mr. Foley escorted Mr. Wilson and Ms. Tyler from the room.

Mr. Black called the vote, and;

It was VOTED
13-07-UCCB-05 to elect Mr. Bernard Wilson Chair of the United Church of Christ Board.

Mr. Wilson and Ms. Tyler reentered the meeting.

Mr. Wilson, presiding, assumed the podium.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF THE VICE CHAIR OF THE UCCB

Mr. Wilson invited nominations for Vice Chair of the United Church of Christ Board.

Ms. Artt, the just-installed Assistant Moderator of the Thirtieth General Synod rose and nominated Ms. Bonds, citing her years of service, in various capacities, to the United Church of Christ, including service as Chair of the General Synod Credentials Committee, Assistant Moderator of the General Synod and membership on its Executive Council.

Ms. Burgess rose and nominated Mr. Reyes, citing his service as the Vice-moderator of the Pacific Islander Asian American Ministries and work on behalf of the California Nevada-Southern Conference.

Mr. Foley escorted Ms. Bonds and Mr. Reyes from the room.

Following some lengthy discussion as to compliance with Bylaw requirements concerning the three-biennium leadership diversity cycle Mr. Wilson called the vote, and;

It was VOTED

13-07-UCCB-06 to elect Ms. Dale Bonds Vice-chair of the United Church of Christ Board.

Ms. Bonds and Mr. Reyes reentered the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE SIX-MONTH BUDGET

Mr. Wilson invited the membership to consider the proposed UCCB Administrative Budget for the remainder of the 2013 calendar/budget year.

Ms. Houston, the Chief Financial Officer, reported there are substantial changes anticipated in the budget as staffing re-alignments are being finalized. In addition, the percentages of finances allocated to the various ministries will need further conversation. The budget reflected combining the former Executive Council and Office of General Ministry's budgets. The Wider Church Ministry, Justice and Witness Ministry, and Local Church Ministry's budgets were previously approved.

Several members indicated concern regarding high draw rates on invested funds.

Mr. Wilson indicated that in the next month conversations will be held with key leaders concerning, but not limited to, proposals for the following: review of budget-making policies, market value averaging, draw rates that are sustainable and achieving realistic budgets. Mr. Wilson said he would be working with key staff and members of the Collegium to develop a 2014 budget incorporating these initiatives, as well as a program for raising new sources of revenue.

Mr. Wilson asked for and received a motion and a second, and;

It was VOTED

13-07-UCCB-07 to adopt the proposed six month budget* as presented.

NOTICE OF THE OCTOBER 9-12, 2013 MEETING OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD

Mr. Wilson advised the membership of the next meeting of the United Church of Christ Board, to be held Wednesday October 9, 2013 to Saturday October 12, 2013 in Cleveland.

BENEDICTION

Mr. Guess, Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries, offered a benediction.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Wilson, presiding, declared the meeting adjourned, the time being 7:09 PM, PDT, Tuesday,

July 2, 2013.

Respectfully submitted;

Chris Noffke-Recording Secretary
Lee Foley-Assistant Secretary to the Corporation
The United Church of Christ Board

August, 28, 2013

*On file in the Office of the Chief Financial Officer

End of UCCB Minutes (UCCB-13-10-021)

END OF CONSENT AGENDA