

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH GENERAL SYNOD
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

JULY 11 - 15, 2003

GOD IS STILL SPEAKING

Editors

Mary Ann Murray
Nancy Cope

Recorders

Michell Farrow
Charlotte Lillquist
Vicki McGaw
Christopher P. Noffke
Allison Reker
Monica Smith

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Directory of Officers and Committees of the Twenty-fourth General Synod

Conference Symbols used in These Minutes

FRIDAY, JULY 11, 2003

Lunch (Sponsored Meals) 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

Hearings - 1:00 pm

OPENING PLENARY 1 - 2:30 pm

1. General Synod Call to Order and Opening Celebration
2. Introduction of General Synod Leadership
3. Report of the Credentials Committee
4. Quorum Declared
5. Announcement of Tellers
6. Adoption of the General Synod Agenda
7. Adoption of the Standing Rules
8. Voice to Persons Resourcing the General Synod on Specific Issues/Concerns
9. Designation of Groups Granted Voice without Vote
10. Greetings from the Minnesota Conference
11. Initial Report of the Executive Council
12. Report of the General Synod Nominating Committee
13. Nominations from the Floor for Boards
14. Introduction of New Business (by Title Only)
15. Introduction of Honored Guests and Celebration of the Ministries of
Harold Wilke and Sheldon Mackey
16. Address by John Thomas
17. Announcements and Recess

SATURDAY, JULY 12, 2003

PLENARY 2 - 8:30 am

1. Call to Order
2. Bible Study
3. Speak Out!
4. Introduction of General Synod Staff Leadership
5. Introduction of Ecumenical Delegates and Partners
6. Introduction of Overseas Guests
7. Partnership Affirmation
8. Continuation of the Report of the Executive Council, Committee of Reference Report
9. Report on Riots in Benton Harbor, Michigan
10. Celebration of the Removal of the American Military from Viequez, Puerto Rico
11. Resolution: Affirmation of *Kirchengemeinschaft* with the Union of
Evangelical Churches (UEK) in Germany
12. Community Building
13. Address by José Malayang
14. New Church Presentation
15. Recognition of New and Retiring Conference Ministers
16. Address by Dale Bishop
17. Question & Answers Re: Frequency of General Synod

18. Announcements

SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2003

PLENARY 3 - 8:30 am

1. Morning Devotions
2. Call to Order
3. Speak Out!
4. Introduction of General Synod Committee Reports
5. Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws to Allow for Nominations from the Floor for the Officers of the United Church of Christ
6. Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws Clarifying the Number of Terms Conference Ministers Serve on the Executive Council
7. Full Communion Between the United Church of Christ and the Church of South India
8. Dialogue with Alliance of Baptists: A Partnership in Mission and Ministry Moment of Personal Privilege
9. Pronouncement: A Faithful Response Calling for a More Just, Humane Direction for Economic Globalization and Plan for Action
10. A Call for Church-wide Support of Oikocredit USA
11. To Support Colombian Churches and Leaders Under Attack
12. Global Nonviolent Peaceforce
13. Advocating Peace and Reconciliation in the Korean Peninsula
14. Address by Bernice Powell Jackson
15. Community Building
16. Awards Prayer of Thanksgiving
17. The United Church of Christ and the Boy Scouts of America
18. U.S. Policy in the Middle East
19. An Alternative Voice to Christian Zionism
20. In Honor of Senator Paul Wellstone
21. Introduction of Candidate for Wider Church Ministries
22. Announcements
23. Recess

SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2003

PLENARY 4 - 7:30 pm

1. Call to Order
2. Speak Out!
3. Presentation of Candidate for Associate General Minister
4. Candidate Speech for Associate General Minister
5. The United Church of Christ and the Boy Scouts of America (continued)
6. In Honor of Senator Paul Wellstone (continued)
7. American Indian Boarding Schools
8. Announcements
9. Recognition of the Ministry of Dale Bishop

MONDAY, JULY 14, 2003

PLENARY 5 - 8:30 am

1. Call to Order
2. Bible Study

3. Announcements
4. Speak Out!
5. Elections
6. Final Report of the Executive Council
7. Community Building
8. General Synod Committee Report on the Proposed Amendment to Change the Frequency of the Meetings of the General Synod
9. Announcements
10. Continuation of the Report of the Executive Council - Direct Resolution - The United Church of Christ - Thirty Years of Faithful Accompaniment with Farm Workers
11. Recess
Celebration of the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Pilgrimage to Cochella

MONDAY, JULY 14, 2003

PLENARY 6 - 7:35 pm

1. Call to Order
2. Speak Out!
3. Address by Edith Guffey
4. Organ, Tissue and Blood Donation
5. Protecting the Vulnerable, The Unborn, The Subjects of Medical Research, The Disabled, Those Chronically and Terminally Ill
6. Announcements
7. Recess

TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2003

PLENARY 7 - 8:30 am

1. Call to Order
2. Bible Study
3. Speak Out!
4. Announcement of Election Results
5. Reaffirming the United Church of Christ's Denouncement of Violence Against Lesbian and Gay People and Calling for the Inclusion of Transgender People within that Antiviolence Statement
6. Affirming the Participation and Ministry of Transgender People within the United Church of Christ and Supporting their Civil and Human Rights
7. Pronouncement: Our Common Calling: Providing the Resources for the Education of Future Ordained Ministers in the United Church of Christ
8. Young Adult Ministries in the United Church of Christ
9. Support of Calhoun County, Alabama, and Citizens of Communities Living Near Chemical Weapons Stockpiles
10. Transforming the Church House
11. Community Building
12. Seeking the Mind of Christ on Issues of Peace and Justice in Public Policy
13. Integrity in Diversity
14. Calling the United Church of Christ to be an Anti-Racist Church
15. Confronting Racism and Militarism in U.S. Drug Policy
16. Calling on the United Church of Christ to Renew the Battle Against Racism in All Its Guises
17. Announcements

TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2003

PLENARY 8 - 2:30 pm

1. Call to Order
2. Speak Out!
3. Recognition of Staff of the National Offices
4. Point of Personal Privilege
5. A Theological Response to Corporate Greed
6. To Explore the Implications of Dietary Choices and Animal Agriculture
7. Disaster Relief and Undocumented Persons
8. Affirming the Essential Role of Commissioned Ministry as an Authorized Ministry of the United Church of Christ
9. Calling for Discussion of the Worship Life of the United Church of Christ and for Worship Resources and Program Initiatives
10. Point of Personal Privilege
11. Announcement of Toll-free Number for the Church House
12. Recognition of Local Arrangements Committee
13. Point of Personal Privilege
14. Invitation to the Twenty-fifth General Synod in Atlanta, Georgia
15. Final Report of the Credentials Committee
16. Announcements
17. Installation of Moderators for the Twenty-fifth General Synod
18. Commissioning of Delegates & General Synod Wrap-up Video
19. Adjournment Following Closing Worship Service

Recess 5:00 pm

Closing Worship 7:30 pm

Adjournment of the Twenty-fourth General Synod – 9:30 pm

APPENDIX A. STANDING RULES of the TWENTY-FOURTH GENERAL SYNOD

APPENDIX B. RESOLUTIONS NOT PASSED

APPENDIX C. OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF COUNCILS AND BOARDS ELECTED AT
THE TWENTY-FOURTH GENERAL SYNOD

APPENDIX D. DELEGATES

**DIRECTORY OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES OF THE
TWENTY-FOURTH GENERAL SYNOD**

MODERATORS OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

Moderator: Mr. Nathaniel A. Lewis Jr. (Cal NV, S)

Assistant Moderators: The Rev. Chris Smith (MINN) and Ms. Carol Wassmuth (IOWA)

The Collegium - Officers of the United Church of Christ

Mr. Dale L. Bishop, Executive Minister, Wider Church Ministries

Ms. Edith A. Guffey, Associate General Minister, Office of General Ministries

Ms. Bernice Powell Jackson, Executive Minister, Justice and Witness Ministries

The Rev. José A. Malayang, Executive Minister, Local Church Ministries

The Rev. John H. Thomas, General Minister and President, Office of General Ministries

Parliamentarians

Stage Parliamentarian: Ms. Annie Wynn Neal (CAC)

Floor Parliamentarian: Mr. Robert Frieberg (SD)

Worship Planning Committee

The Rev. Eric E. Elnes (SW) Chairperson

Ms. Josie Eswagen (CA NV, N)

The Rev. Marlene Whiterabbit Helgemo (MINN)

Ms. Leslie A. Hoffman (PNE)

The Rev. Curran Reichart (MASS)

The Rev. José A. Rosa (ILL)

The Rev. Wayne L. Wilson (NY)

Mr. Arthur Clyde, staff

Community Builders

Ms. Valerie Tuttle

Mr. William Pindar

The Executive Council as the Business Committee

Chairperson: Ms. Olgha Sierra Sandman (ILL)

Vice chairperson: The Rev. Robert A. Lee (VT)

Class of 2003

Ms. Beth Anastasia (CAC)

Ms. Jennifer L. Craig (MASS)

The Rev. James E. Foucher (UBC)

Mr. Hector Franco (CYYAM)

The Rev. Sandra S. Hulse (UCF)

The Rev. Norman W. Jackson (CAIM)

The Rev. Corey L. Larson (IOWA)

The Rev. Kekapa P.K. Lee (HI)

The Rev. Robert A. Lee (VT)

The Rev. Richard W. McBride (CHE)

The Rev. Jennifer Crane Moss (SE)

The Rev. Elizabeth C. Nordbeck (CTE)

Ms. Zaida Maldonado Pérez (HC)
Ms. Enid Pinkney (FLA)
Mr. Raymond Reid (SOC)
Ms. Arlene Sadler (PW)
Ms. Olgha Sierra Sandman (ILL)
The Rev. Brian Sickbert (CHHSM)
Mr. Jack Silas (CA NV, S)
The Rev. Harold C. Smith (PB)
The Rev. Iese Tuuao (PAAM)
Ms. Nancy White Horse (Youth at Large)

Class of 2005

The Rev. Elizabeth Aguilar (CHM)
The Rev. M. Winston Baldwin Jr. (NEB)
The Rev. Carol A. Barth-Schauss (IK)
The Rev. Krista Lynn Betz (MOMS)
Mr. J. David Bishop (PC)
Ms. Bernie Bliss (RM)
Mr. William E. Draper (IS)
Mr. Marshall Eckblad II (WIS)
Mr. Aaron A. Gould (ME)
The Rev. Charles S. Hastings Jr. (SC)
The Rev. Alexander Jamison Sr. (MRSEJ)
Ms. Lauri Janke (SD)
Mr. Brian Lapis (CONN)
Mr. Raymond F. Peirce (RI)
Ms. Marilyn K. Serfass (PSE)
Ms. Barbara Satin (COALITION)
Ms. Reba Walker (COREM)

Class of 2007

Ms. Peggy J. Bronson (UCCDM)
The Rev. Eduardo Capillar (NOPL)
Ms. Laura E. Donaldson (NY)
Ms. Megan Hoelle (CPC)
Mr. Jeremy J. Hylan (MICH)
Mr. Peter Lin (PNW)
The Rev. Sharon MacArthur (CA NV, N)
Ms. Kathy Plumb (MINN)
The Rev. Béla Poznan (CA.SY)
Mr. Robert Sandman (OHIO)
The Rev. Lori Souder (SW)
Ms. Carol Spangenburg (PNE)
Mr. Ray Young (MONT)

Representatives from the Boards of Directors of the Covenanted Ministries

Ms. Rose Lee (JWM)
Mr. Phil Porter (LCM)
The Rev. Marilyn Stavenger (WCM)

Conference Ministers

The Rev. John R. Deckenback (Middle Atlantic)
The Rev. Timothy C. Downs (Southern)
The Rev. Gene Miller (West Central)
The Rev. Gene Ross (Western)
The Rev. Kent J. Ulery (Great Lakes)

Ex Officio without Vote

Mr. Michael A. Downs (PB)
Mr. Donald G. Hart (UCF)

Nominating Committee of the General Synod

Class of 2003

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

Class of 2005

The Rev. Betsy E. Brauw (PC)
The Rev. Doris L. Dunn (UCCDM)
Ms. Margaret Ellis (SOC)
Mr. David R. Mann (COREM)
The Rev. Tyrone L. Reinhardt (PAAM)
The Rev. Kent J. Siladi (CONN)
Ms. Katie Tabler (IK)

Class of 2007

Ms. Linda Bixby (MASS)
The Rev. Mary J. Fairley (MRSEJ)
Mr. Andrew Goedeken (CYYAM)
The Rev. Susan A. Henderson (NH)
The Rev. Keith Mills (NOPL)
The Rev. Julia Tipton Rendon (IOWA)

Credentials Committee

Class of 2003

The Rev. Jack Kemp (MINN) Co-Chairperson
The Rev. Jonathan Pia (OHIO) Co-Chairperson
Ms. Denise Eslinger (CONN)
Ms. Barba Merriwether (CAC)
Mr. Kevin Tucker (FLA)

Class of 2005

Mr. Marcos Aragon (SW)
Ms. Caroline Morley Jann (IK)
Ms. Trina Williams ((CA NV, S)
Mr. Eric Fistler (ILL)

Ms. Patricia Errand (SD)
Mr. Joe Thomas (CA.NV, N)
Ms. Elisama Velazquez (PR)

Tellers

Ms. Lisa Alston (SE)
The Rev. Elisabeth Baer (IK)
The Rev. Barron Barley (PC)
Ms. Elizabeth Brown (ILL)
Mr. Dan Caplan (WCM)
Ms. Micaela Colman (PacNW)
Ms. Carolyn Edwards (NEB)
Mr. Charles Frieberg (SD)
The Rev. Frank Groggett (FLA)
Mr. Karl Hayes (SOC)
The Rev. Jeff Long (IOWA)
Mr. Joseph Kavitski (PNE)
Ms. Javelle Luna (CA NV, S)
Ms. Taneta McCaw (CONN)
Ms. Hazel Moore (WCM)
Mr. Chander Rajaratnam (PSE)
Ms. Rachel Reckling (CAC)
Mr. Edwardo Rivera Jr. (OHIO)
The Rev. Wayne Sautter (PW)
Mr. Nicholas Schroeck (MICH)
Mr. David Seaman (SD)
Ms. Heather Young (KO)

CONFERENCE SYMBOLS USED IN THESE MINUTES

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

California Nevada Northern	CA NV, N
California Nevada, Southern	CA NV, S
Calvin Synod	CA.SY
Central Atlantic	CAC
Connecticut	CONN
Florida	FLA
Illinois	ILL
Illinois South	IS
Indiana-Kentucky	IK
Iowa	IOWA
Kansas-Oklahoma	KO
Maine	ME
Massachusetts	MASS
Michigan	MICH
Minnesota	MINN
Missouri	MOMS
Montana-Northern Wyoming	MONT
Nebraska	NE
New Hampshire	NH
New York	NY
Northern Plains	NOPL
Ohio	OHIO
Pacific Northwest	PacNW
Penn Central	PC
Penn Northeast	PNE
Pennsylvania Southeast	PSE
Penn West	PW
Puerto Rico	PR
Rhode Island	RI
Rocky Mountain	RM
South Central	SC
South Dakota	SD
Southeast	SE
Southern	SOC
Southwest	SW
Vermont	VT
Wisconsin	WIS

**MINUTES
TWENTY-FOURTH GENERAL SYNOD**

God is Still Speaking

MINNEAPOLIS CONVENTION CENTER

**MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA
JULY 11 - JULY 15, 2003**

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 11, 2003

First Plenary Session

**1. GENERAL SYNOD CALL TO ORDER
AND OPENING CELEBRATION**

Moderator Nate Lewis (CA NV,S) called the Twenty-fourth General Synod to order at 2:50 p.m. He then led the delegates and visitors in prayer. During community building, Assistant Moderators Chris Smith (MINN) and Carol Wassmuth (IOWA) were introduced. At the conclusion of community building and the Collegium members responding to the question “How is God speaking in your ministry?” the formal business meeting convened.

**2. INTRODUCTION OF GENERAL SYNOD
LEADERSHIP**

Moderator Lewis introduced the General Synod leadership, Annie Wynne Neal (SE) and Robert Frieberg (SD) as General Synod Twenty-four Parliamentarians and Mary Ann Murray as General Synod Twenty-four Registrar.

Mr. Lewis instructed delegates on the role of the Stage and Floor Parliamentarians and gave a brief overview of parliamentary procedure.

Mr. Frieberg described his duties as the Floor Parliamentarian and reviewed items in the *Delegate Handbook*. Ms. Neal described her role as Stage Parliamentarian.

Mr. Lewis identified the members of the Agenda Committee and explained their role. He asked the delegates’ help in completing the business of the General Synod by Tuesday evening and reminded the delegates that any work left unaddressed would be referred to the Executive Council after General Synod concluded.

**3. REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS
COMMITTEE**

Mr. Lewis introduced Rev. Jack Kemp (MINN), Co-Chairperson of the Credentials Committee. Rev. Kemp reported that there were 803 voting Delegates, 70 Associate Delegates and Honored Guests, 65 members of the Business Committee, 977 Visitors, and 27 General Synod staff, for a total of 1,942 persons present at General Synod.

Before adoption of the report of the Credentials Committee, Moderator Lewis recognized Marvin Morgan (WCM) who reminded the delegates that adequate information was needed regarding percentages of attendance by delegates as outlined in Bylaw 186. The list fails to adequately reflect this and should be clarified before a vote is called. Mr. Lewis advised that the matter would be addressed by the appropriate body.

Rev. Kemp moved that the Twenty-fourth General Synod adopt the report of the Credentials Committee.

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

4. QUORUM DECLARED

Moderator Lewis declared a quorum to be present and the Twenty-fourth General Synod was in session.

5. ANNOUNCEMENT OF TELLERS

Mr. Lewis directed the attention of the delegates to the Executive Council report containing the list of delegates who have agreed to be Tellers at

General Synod Twenty-four. He asked the tellers to stand to be recognized.

LAYWOMEN

Lisa Alston
Micaela Colman
Carolyn Edwards
Lilia Enriquez
Javelle Luna
Taneta McCaw
Elizabeth Brown
Hazel Moore
Mary Pope
Rachel Reckling
Melisa Toepke-Peterson
Heather Young

LAYMEN

Dan Caplan
Jeremy Davis
Charles Frieberg
Karl Hayes
Joseph Kavitski
Chander Rajaratnam
Edwardo Rivera, Jr.
Nicholas Schroeck
David Seaman

CLERGY

Baron B. Barley
Elizabeth Bear
Frank Groggett
Jeff Long
Wayne Sautter

6. ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD AGENDA

Mr. Lewis reminded delegates that according to Bylaw 226, the Executive Council acts as the Business Committee and Committee of Reference of the General Synod during its sessions. In this role, the Executive Council prepares the agenda and schedule of all meetings of the General Synod and recommends changes to the schedule as needed. He also noted that in order to complete the business of the Twenty-fourth General Synod, it is essential to remain on schedule. The Moderator instructed the delegates to be as concise and brief as possible in their comments so that business could move along.

Moderator Lewis called on Ms. Olga Sierra Sandman, (ILL) Chairperson of the Executive Council, to move the adoption of the agenda.

Ms. Sandman thanked Robert Lee (VT) who is Vice-Chair of the Executive Council, for his collegiality as he worked with her this last biennium. Rev. Lee stood to be recognized.

Ms. Sandman directed the delegates to the agenda on page 10 of the *Program, Worship and Business Book*, which had been revised and provided on each table. She noted the challenge to complete business within time constraints. On behalf of the Business Committee, she then moved the adoption of the Agenda for the Twenty-fourth General Synod.

03-GS-2 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the Agenda as revised and authorizes the Business Committee to make any necessary adjustments.

7. ADOPTION OF THE STANDING RULES

On behalf of the Business Committee, Ms. Sandman moved the General Synod adopt the Standing Rules of the Twenty-fourth General Synod contained in the *General Synod Handbook*.

03-GS-3 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the Standing Rules contained in the *General Synod Handbook*.

8. VOICE TO PERSONS RESOURCING THE GENERAL SYNOD ON SPECIFIC ISSUES/CONCERNS

Ms. Sandman noted at times during the General Synod, there would be persons who do not have voice who would be asked to make reports, speak to certain issues as resource persons or introduce nominees. With the suggestion of the Parliamentarians, these persons will be identified up front and voice will be granted as a group to expedite the business of General Synod.

03-GS-4 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod grants voice without vote to those persons approved by the Business Committee as designated resource persons for the presentation of reports, resolutions and pronouncements.

9. DESIGNATION OF GROUPS GRANTED VOICE WITHOUT VOTE

Ms. Sandman directed delegates to Standing Rule 10 of the Twenty-fourth General Synod contained in the *General Synod Handbook*, stating that the Executive Council recommends to the General Synod the groups whose representatives shall be granted voice without

voice while the General Synod is in session. She then moved that voice-without-vote status be granted to the groups and their stated representatives listed in the Report of the Executive Council, Part 1, July 10, 2003.

03-GS-5 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod grants voice without vote to the following groups and their stated representatives listed in the Report of the Executive Council, Part 1, July 10, 2003:

Association of United Church of Christ
Intentional Interim Ministers
 Marjorie Mac Neill, Susan Lincoln
Association of United Church Educators
 Susan Gaffney, Ruth Hainsworth
Biblical Witness Fellowship
 David Runnion-Bareford, William
 Boyland
Christians for Justice Action
 Mal Bertram, Amelie Sell
Focus Renewal Ministries
 Janet Smithson, Vernon Stoop
Network for Environmental & Economic
Responsibility
 Don Clark, Nancy Wright
United Church of Christ Chaplains in Health
Care
 Sally Brown, Alan Kramer-Moyer
United Church of Christ Expression of Marriage
Encounter
 Sunny Saylor
United Church of Christ Military Chaplains
Association
 Janis B. Dashner, Lilton J. Marks, Sr.
United Church of Christ Musicians Association
 John Stansell
United Church of Christ Office Support Staff
Network
 Patricia Pierce, Peggy Wright
United Church of Christ Parents of Lesbian,
Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Children
 Gordon Sherman, Bob Strommen
United Church of Christ Parish Nurse Network
 Sheryl Cross, Mary Kinseth
United Friends for Life
 John B. Brown
Urban Ministries Network
 Ann Marie Coleman, John Selders

10. GREETINGS FROM THE MINNESOTA CONFERENCE

Minnesota Interim Conference Minister, Rev. Clyde J. Steckel, welcomed everyone to Minnesota, land of lakes, rivers, boreal and hardwood forests, prairies, waterfalls and rocky cliffs. He invited delegates and visitors to “Look around; take a dip; take a hike; climb a cliff. You’ll feel better.” He invited everyone to “come back in January and February for a really warm welcome.”

Assistant Moderator Chris Smith took a moment to thank the Local Arrangements Committee and all the Minnesota Conference members who worked to make General Synod Twenty-four an enjoyable and memorable event in the life of the church.

11. INITIAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Rev. Smith spoke of the work of the Executive Council over the past two years, noting the written reports beginning on page 91 of the *Program, Worship and Business Book*.

Assistant Moderator Smith called on Ms. Olga Sierra Sandman, Chairperson of the Executive Council, and Rev. Robert Lee, Vice-Chairperson, to give their portion of the report.

At the conclusion of the reports, Ms. Sandman then placed before the delegates the nominees to the General Synod Nominating Committee, Class of 2009, including the names of persons who will serve on the Nominating Committee from groups. The Assistant Moderator called for nominations from the floor. No nominations were made and Rev. Smith declared the nominations closed and instructed Ms. Sandman to proceed.

Ms. Sandman announced persons representing historically under-represented groups. These names came directly from the groups. There are no nominations from the floor for these positions.

Rev. Smith explained that the names of those representing the historically under-represented groups will appear on the ballot for election as

well as the names of persons whose names came from the conferences. Ballots will be distributed at the time of elections on Monday morning.

12. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Assistant Moderator noted the Nominating Committee's hard work to fill positions of persons to serve on the Boards of Directors of the Covenanted Ministries. She then called on Ms. Sachi Fujita, Chair of the General Synod Nominating Committee, to present the report of the Nominating Committee.

The Assistant Moderator announced the report of the General Synod Nominating Committee was received.

13. NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR FOR BOARDS

Following review of Standing Rules 28-30 on Page 26 of the *General Synod Handbook*, the Assistant Moderator called for nominations from the floor. There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were declared closed.

14. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BUSINESS (BY TITLE ONLY)

Assistant Moderator Smith explained the procedure for introducing new business, according Standing Rules (12.C.2a and C.3.a.3). This would be the only time in the agenda to introduce New Business and New Business should be introduced by title only. Items introduced would be referred to the Business Committee for its recommendation during the plenary on Saturday morning.

Four items of New Business were offered:

Resolution: "Calling for a Boycott of World Bank Bonds," offered by Diana Burdett (RI), Bert Marshall (MASS) and John Nelson (MASS);

Resolution: "The Nation's Crisis: The Church's Mandate," offered by John A. Nelson (MASS), Thomas Clough (MASS) and Edward Horner (OHIO);

Resolution: "Disaster Relief and Undocumented Persons," offered by Roger Kube (MOMS), Heather Young (KO) and Larry Young (KO);

Resolution: "Emergency Resolution of Support for the Citizens of Calhoun County," offered by Pamela June Anderson (LCM, MRSEJ), Diana Burdett (RI) and Yvette Flunder (JWM)

15. INTRODUCTION OF HONORED GUESTS AND CELEBRATION OF THE MINISTRIES OF HAROLD WILKE AND SHELDON MACKEY

Assistant Moderator Carol Wassmuth called on Ms. Olgha Sierra Sandman, who noted the Standing Rules state that previous Officers, Executives and Moderators may be designated as Honored Guests and granted voice without vote. Ms. Sandman then moved those present in these categories be granted voice without vote.

03-GS-6 VOTE: The Twenty-fourth General Synod grants voice without vote to the following Honored Guests:

Former Officers:

Joseph and Harriette Evans
Avery and Peg Post
Paul and Mary Sherry
Carol Joyce and Neal Leubke
Charles and Catherine Lockyear

Past Moderators:

Nancy Taylor
Denise Page Hood
Kenneth Stewart
John Krueger

Instrumentality Executives:

Thomas and Sandy Dipko
Marilyn Breitling
Mary Susan Gast and Roger Straw
Yvonne Delk
Arthur Cribbs
Joan Brannick
Scott and Jean Libbey

Ms. Sandman invited José Malayang to present memorial tributes to two of our church's leaders, Rev. Harold H. Wilke and Rev. Sheldon E. Mackey, who had died since the Twenty-third General Synod.

16. ADDRESS BY JOHN THOMAS

Assistant Moderator Wassmuth announced that the Program and Planning Committee made the decision that General Synod would have the opportunity to hear from each of the Collegium members. During the next five days, each of the members of the Collegium will address the General Synod. She invited Rev. John Thomas, General Minister and President, to the podium as the first Collegium member to deliver his address.

Rev. Thomas spoke about our readiness to demonstrate amazing generosity in support of a church embodying resistance and daring in our generation. He asked all to imagine a love for Jesus so profound, so daring, a generosity so amazing, that the world may sense the wind of the Spirit in its sails, guiding living schooners toward God's promised future, toward God's promised home.

17. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RECESS

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

Ms. Guffey responded to the earlier question regarding the make-up of General Synod delegates and noted that the Credentials Committee had reviewed the percentages as required in Bylaw 186.

Assistant Moderator Wassmuth declared the first plenary of the Twenty-fourth General Synod to be complete and in recess at 5:15 p.m.

Worship began at 8:00 p.m. July 11 with Rev. Yvette Flunder (JWM), pastor at City of Refuge Community Church, San Francisco delivering the sermon. The theme was "Be Ready."

SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 12, 2003 Second Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER

Assistant Moderator Carol Wassmuth called the second plenary of the Twenty-fourth General Synod to order at 8:30 a.m.

2. BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Carolyn Pressler, Harry C. Piper Professor of Biblical Interpretation at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, Minneapolis, led the Bible Study. The multimedia worship team of the Union Congregational Church of Waupum, Wisconsin, and their pastor, Rev. Michael Bausch, assisted Bible Study leaders in selecting clips that enhanced the message. The theme for the day was "Risk Transformation."

3. SPEAK OUT!

Assistant Moderator Wassmuth welcomed the Speak Out! participants.

1. David Greenhaw (MOMS), President of Eden Seminary, asked General Synod to thank God for the work of David Harkins of Eden Seminary at this time of his retirement.
2. Elizabeth Aquilar (MASS) spoke regarding evaluation of the restructure of the National Offices. A report is planned for 2004.
3. Kent Siladi (CONN) announced a United Church of Christ polity forum sponsored by United Theological Seminary to be held at 7:30 p.m.
4. Jeynette Brown (CAC), urged General Synod participants to support public education as a civil right for all persons.
5. Chaplain Lilton Marks (SE) urged the church to encourage the leaders of the United States of America to use means other than violence to solve world conflict.
6. Margaret-Ann Ellis (OHIO) urged General Synod participants to act now to assure USA policies regarding cost of products and tariffs do not cause hunger in other parts of the world.
7. Bill Rishel (WIS) announced the docking of the Freedom Schooner, La Amistad, in Sheboygan, Wisconsin and invited everyone to stop in Sheboygan

after General Synod to help celebrate the freedom message of La Amistad.

8. Gail Joralemon (SW) spoke regarding seminary debt.

4. INTRODUCTION OF GENERAL SYNOD STAFF LEADERSHIP

Assistant Moderator Wassmuth introduced Floor Coordinators Susan Dickerman (MASS) and Dale Hempen (MASS) and asked for a round of applause for all those who have been crucial in helping attend to the many details in planning and working at Synod.

Exhibits

Cliff Aerie, Valerie Smith & Ken Daniels

Service Projects

Kathleen C. Ackley

AV Coordinators

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

Recorders

Michell Farrow, Charlotte Lillquist, Vicki McGaw, Christopher Noffke, Allison Reker, Monica Smith and coordinator Nancy Cope

Registrar Staff

Laurinda Hafner and Destiny Shellhammer, Denise Malinowski

Stage Manager

Dorothy Lester

Facilities Coordinator

Carol Zygmunt

Worship Committee Staff

Arthur Clyde

Committee Process Staff

Lorin Cope, staff; Talitha Arnold, Wanda Harris Watkins and Dennis Friche-Mouri

Speak Outs!

Dick Sparrow

Agenda Coordinator

Sheila Kelly

Computer Coordinator

Glenda James-Morin

Office Staff

Christina Chapple, primary staff

Youth Program

June Boutwell and Ken Brown

Resource Production

Madrid Tramble

Hospitality

Hans Holznagel

Committee of Reference Support

Lorin Cope and David Anderson

Spanish Translation

Candita Mattos

5. INTRODUCTION OF ECUMENICAL DELEGATES AND PARTNERS

The Assistant Moderator called upon Rev. Lydia Veliko, Minister for Ecumenical Relations, and Rev. John Thomas, President and General Minister, to introduce Ecumenical Delegates and Partners attending the General Synod.

Ecumenical Delegates:

Mrs. Sally Paulsell, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

The Rev. Stan Hasteley, Alliance of Baptists

Representatives from the Formula of Agreement partner churches, with whom the United Church of Christ has been in full communion since 1997:

The Rev. Robert Kelley, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Ms. Florence Johnson, Presbyterian Church (USA)

The Rev. David Baak, Reformed Church in America

Ecumenical Guests:

Ms. Anne Marshall, staff to the United Methodist Church's General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns in abstentia, will join Synod later

The Rev. Bertrice Wood, Director, Churches Uniting in Christ

Rev. Patti Haakim, National Association of Congregational Churches

6. INTRODUCTION OF OVERSEAS GUESTS

Mr. Dale Bishop, Executive Minister for Wider Church Ministries, introduced the Overseas Guests.

From East Asia and the Pacific:

The Rev. Shengjie Cao, President and Acting General Secretary of the China Christian Council

Mr. Gu Mengfei, Assistant to the General Secretary China Christian Council

From Southern Asia:

Dr. Pauline Sathiamurthy, General Secretary of the Church of South India

Dr. Zakaria Ngelow, Principal of the Eastern Indonesia Theological Seminary in Makassar, Indonesia

From Europe and the Middle East:

The Rev. Dr. Megrdoch Karagoezian, President of the Union of Armenial Evangelical Churches in the Near East

Dr. Reinhard Richter, Evangelical Church of the Union in Germany

From Africa:

The Rev. Adelaide Catanha, pastor of the Evangelical Congregational Church in Angola and teacher at the Emanuel Theological Seminary in Huambo

Mr. Bishop moved that voice-without-vote status be granted to these overseas guests.

03-GS-07 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod grants voice without vote to these overseas guests.

7. PARTNERSHIP AFFIRMATION

Assistant Moderator Wassmuth asked Mr. Bishop to lead the delegates and visitors in special recognition of two of the United Church of Christ global mission partners. Mr. Bishop called on Dr. Pauline Sathiamurthy, the General Secretary of the Church of South India. She was accompanied by the Rev. James Vijayakumar, Area Executive for Southern Asia.

Dr. Sathiamurthy brought greetings, thanking the United Church of Christ for the invitation to attend General Synod and for helping to make it possible for her to be present. She spoke of the positive work done in India, especially in solidarity with United Church of Christ missionaries as our churches strive to uplift the marginalized people of India.

Mr. Bishop welcomed the Rev. Shengjie Cao, President and Acting General Secretary of the

China Christian Council, who was accompanied by Xiaoling Zhu, Area Executive for East Asia and the Pacific.

Rev. Cao told the General Synod delegates and visitors he was honored to be able to attend and speak at General Synod. He hoped the United Church of Christ would continue to make more contributions to the world. He found the theme of General Synod to be encouraging, noting that God's work is enduring and everlasting, but always new. Keeping pace with the times is a theme in the Chinese Christian Churches. He thanked the United Church of Christ for being willing to understand China's Christianity.

Moderator Nate Lewis announced Bob Sandman's (OHIO) hospitalization prior to the beginning of the General Synod. Prayers were requested. Mr. Sandman is a member of the Executive Council.

8. CONTINUATION OF THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT

Moderator Nate Lewis introduced Rev. Kekapa Lee, Chair of the Committee of Reference. Rev. Lee directed delegates to turn to The Hispanic Ministries Implementation Team Report and the Implementation of the Proposal for Action, "A United Church of Christ Ministry with Pacific Islanders and Asian Americans," report to the Twenty-fourth General Synod on Pages 126 and 127 of the *Program, Worship and Business Book*. Mr. Lee, on behalf of the Business Committee, moved to receive the reports of the Hispanic Ministries Implementation Team and the Pacific Islanders and Asian Americans Implementation Committee and thanked them for the important work they are doing on behalf of the entire church. The Business Committee also recommends the extension of the Hispanic Ministries Implementation Team through the 2003-2005 biennium and the extension of the Pacific Islanders and Asian Americans Implementation Committee until 2007 be referred to the Executive Council for consideration and action. Rev. Lee then spoke briefly to the motion.

03-GS-08 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod receives the reports of the Hispanic Ministries Implementation Team and the Pacific Islanders and Asian Americans Implementation Committee and thanks them for the important work they are doing on behalf of the entire church. The General Synod recommends the extension of the Hispanic Ministries Implementation Team through the 2003-2005 biennium and the extension of the Pacific Islanders and Asian Americans Implementation Committee until 2007 be referred to the Executive Council for consideration and action.

Rev. Lee explained the purpose of the Committee of Reference and moved the adoption of the Report of the Committee as presented. He reviewed four items and recommended the following:

Resolution: "Calling for a Boycott of World Bank Bonds" does not meet the Standing Rules requirements regarding timeliness and will be returned to the delegates who submitted it.

Resolution: "The Nation's Crisis: The Church's Mandate" does not meet the Standing Rules requirements regarding timeliness and format and will be returned to the delegates who submitted it.

Resolution: "Disaster Relief and Undocumented Persons" will be referred to a committee of the General Synod.

Resolution: "Emergency Resolution of Support for the Citizens of Calhoun County will be referred to a committee of the General Synod.

03-GS-09 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod accepts the Committee of Reference Report.

The Committee of Reference was thanked for its hard work.

9. REPORT ON RIOTS IN BENTON HARBOR, MICHIGAN

Moderator Nate Lewis introduced Rev. Russ Baker, pastor of First Congregational Church, Benton Harbor. Rev. Baker spoke regarding the

riots which occurred several weeks ago in Benton Harbor. He called on the General Synod "to join his church in ending the victimization and abuse in cities like Benton Harbor and to assist in transforming the soul of this neglected community."

10. CELEBRATION OF THE REMOVAL OF THE AMERICAN MILITARY FROM VIEQUEZ, PUERTO RICO

As a church historically committed to justice, the culmination of the work of many that has resulted in the removal of the American Military from the Island of Vieques was cause for celebration. Rev. Luis Rosario, Conference Minister of Puerto Rico, led the General Synod in that celebration.

11. RESOLUTION: AFFIRMATION OF KIRCHENGEMEINSCHAFT WITH THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES (UEK) IN GERMANY

Moderator Nate Lewis called upon Rev. Brian Cope of the Executive Council. Rev. Cope referred delegates to the resolution as printed. He then moved adoption of the resolution and yielded the remaining time to Rev. Russell Mitman, Conference Minister of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference, who spoke to the resolution noting how the relationship has touched many lives. The Evangelical Churches of the Union (EKU) has recently reorganized into the Union of Evangelical Churches (UEK).

A delegate from Wisconsin affirmed this relationship, but voiced a concern that more representation from the local churches is needed.

03-GS-10 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution "Affirmation of *Kirchengemeinschaft* with the Union of Evangelical Churches (UEK) in Germany."

AFFIRMATION OF KIRCHENGEMEINSCHAFT WITH THE UNION OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES (UEK) IN GERMANY

WHEREAS the Evangelical Church of the Union (EKU) in 2002 celebrated one hundred eighty-five years of witness and ministry; and

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ and the Evangelical Church of the Union have enjoyed more than two decades of a relationship of *Kirchengemeinschaft*, affirmed by the ECU in 1980 and by the United Church of Christ in 1981 (Thirteenth General Synod), a common expression of the message of reconciliation specially inherent in united and uniting churches; and

WHEREAS the members of the Evangelical Church of the Union voted at its penultimate Synod in June 2002 both to disband the ECU as an institution and to join fully in the newly-formed wider ecumenical German union of churches, the Union of Evangelical Churches; and

WHEREAS the current international situation begs for the affirmation of life-giving partnerships – relationships that build bridges rather than create barriers to human community;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the General Synod of the United Church of Christ celebrates its existing relationships with the churches of the former Evangelical Church of the Union and affirm the continuation of those relationships as the Union of Evangelical Churches comes into being; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ welcomes the opportunity to engage in full communion with an expanded community of churches; and

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ expresses its firm commitment to the healing message of Christ, drawing attention to the lesson of history that people – especially through the Church – from “enemy” countries can overcome hatred and engage in building deep human relations.

Rev. Mitman called on Rev. Reinhard Richter to speak to the General Synod. He brought greetings from the UEK in Germany and stated that four hundred thousand Christians in Germany have now celebrated the formation of the Union of Evangelical Churches. He noted the importance of this in a society which he felt

was moving away from using the Gospels. Rev. Richter thanked the General Synod for allowing him to participate.

12. COMMUNITY BUILDING

Moderator Nate Lewis called upon Bill Pindar and Valerie Tutson who led delegates and visitors in a time of community building.

13. ADDRESS BY JOSE MALAYANG

Assistant Moderator Chris Smith welcomed Rev. José Malayang, Executive Minister for Local Church Ministries. Rev. Malayang addressed the General Synod on the theme of resourcing and supporting the work of the local church and its pastors and lay persons in proclaiming the gospel to the entire world. Rev. Malayang referred to past pronouncements of the United Church of Christ regarding open and affirming, multicultural/multiracial, and new/renewing churches and noted it is “Not right, not yet!”

14. NEW CHURCH PRESENTATION

Assistant Moderator Smith introduced Rev. David Schoen, Minister and Team Leader of the Evangelism Team in Local Church Ministries. Rev. Schoen briefly described several of the new churches and led the General Synod in a recognition and celebration of the seventy-four new congregations to the United Church of Christ since the Twenty-third General Synod.

15. RECOGNITION OF NEW AND RETIRING CONFERENCE MINISTERS

Assistant Moderator Chris Smith introduced Rev. Russell Mitman, Conference Minister of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference. Rev. Mitman introduced Conference Ministers who had begun their ministry as a conference minister since the last General Synod, and those Conference Ministers who had retired since the last General Synod.

Conference Ministers who began ministry since the last General Synod:

The Rev. Wade Schemmel,

Northern Plains Conference

The Rev. Stephanie Haines,

Pacific Northwest Conference

The Rev. Alan Miller,
Penn Northeast Conference

The Rev. Alan McLarty,
Penn West Conference

The Rev. Steve Camp,
Southern Conference

The Rev. David Moyer,
Wisconsin Conference

The Rev. David Schwab will become
Conference Minister of the Ohio
Conference, September 15

Interim Conference Ministers:

The Rev. Donald Severson,
Hawaii Conference

The Rev. Christine Boardman,
Illinois South Conference

The Rev. Jack Seville,
Penn Central Conference

The Rev. Carl Beyer,
Rhode Island Conference

The Rev. Clyde J. Steckel,
Minnesota Conference

Retired Conference Ministers:

The Rev. Ralph Quellhorst,
Ohio Conference

The Rev. George Worcester,
Nebraska Conference,
will retire October 1

The Rev. Lyle Weible,
Penn Central Conference,
will retire September 1

The Rev. John Krueger,
Kansas-Oklahoma Conference,
will retire October 15

16. ADDRESS BY DALE BISHOP

Assistant Moderator Chris Smith introduced Mr. Dale Bishop, Executive Minister for Wider Church Ministries. Mr. Bishop shared his reflections on leadership and noted the need for gifted leadership is critical in the United Church of Christ as well as in the society at large. He challenged the church to accept responsibility for the development and sustenance of leaders which he called a critical issue.

17. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS RE: FREQUENCY OF GENERAL SYNOD

Assistant Moderator Chris Smith called upon Ms. Olga Sierra Sandman, Chair of the Executive Council, who guided the discussion.

Ms. Sandman introduced the General Synod Form, Function and Frequency Committee: Eric C. Smith, and Olivia Masih White, co-chairpersons and Martha Baumer, Linda Gruber, Denise Page Hood, John Leung, Rosemary McCombs Maxey, Karen Smith Sellers, and Robert Ullman. The General Synod Form, Function and Frequency Committee was created in 2002 to evaluate those aspects of the General Synod on behalf of the Executive Council. Mr. Smith and Hon. Ms. Hood spoke regarding these issues and facilitated a question and answer time.

Questions asked:

Q: Wouldn't it help to have General Synod on a college campus?

A: This has been investigated and it was found the savings are not significant.

Q: What were the financial implications of adding the directors of covenantal boards as delegates?

A: Membership was enlarged to make it more representational. One covenanted ministry has its board meeting at the same time as General Synod to save costs.

Q: How will meeting less often address the perception of disconnection which is coming from the churches?

A: The disconnect is true. The frequency issue is not meant to address that concern. Having General Synod less often wouldn't necessarily mean there would be less chance for participation on the part of the churches.

Q: Could the number of delegates be cut in half? Had the Group looked at bylaws to reduce the number of delegates?

A: The National setting does not pay for delegates. Cutting the number would impact overall cost, but it would not impact the cost to National.

Q: Was a three-year interval considered?

A: It was considered, but four years was considered to be the best way to address cost.

Q: So many persons, particularly of color, have been nurtured by General Synod. These are

persons who have become leaders. Is that a cost? Was this taken into consideration? How will the whole be affected?

A: There are other ways to recognize and nurture those persons. We will have to be more creative.

Q: How would costs be affected if we only met in Cleveland?

A: Cleveland does not have a facility which can adequately handle our numbers or our accessibility needs, and the gift of hosting would be lost. The City of Cleveland is looking at building a new facility.

Q: How often has the committee met? How comprehensive are the studies?

A: The committee was formed at the end of last year and met in January and February as well as having many conference calls. Discussion has been going on much longer than that, however.

Q: In the off-years, if regional and conference meetings were held, how would the cost be shifted?

A: National setting would not fund those meetings.

Q: Thank you for the opportunity to gather. "Function" should be the driving force of the General Synod gathering. Are we asking for a vote on "frequency" when "function" should be addressed?

A: Making the change can only be done in the future because of contracts (2005 contracts are already signed). For now the intention is to open minds and imaginations to other possibilities.

Q: What would be done during the interim? Has a Faith Works idea been planned?

A: The function of General Synod goes far beyond business. It is about gathering, worship and relationships. Financing for Faith Works is not possible.

Q: The prophetic voice should not be lost. Does the Office of General Ministries pay for all the expenses? Can churches be asked to support financially?

A: Alternate financing was discussed. The committee wanted to look at the total cost. Each of the different ministries of the church could be asked to pay for their own part.

Vice Moderator Smith thanked the committee members for their work.

18. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Bernice Powell Jackson made announcements and asked for God's blessings on the meals and committee times of General Synod.

Vice Moderator Smith declared the second plenary of the Twenty-fourth General Synod complete at 12:03 p.m.

The delegates met in assigned committees Saturday afternoon and evening. Worship was led in committee by a team of young adult worship leaders. The theme was "Risk Transformation."

SUNDAY MORNING, JULY 13, 2003 Third Plenary Session

1. MORNING DEVOTIONS

A meditative time of music and video projections greeted the delegates as they entered the assembly.

2. CALL TO ORDER

Following worship, Assistant Moderator Chris Smith called the Third Plenary of the Twenty-fourth General Synod to order at 9:00 am.

3. SPEAK OUT!

Assistant Moderator Smith directed the attention of the delegates to "Speak Out" speakers.

1. Patricia DuBois (NH) promoted Worship Ways as an excellent resource for local churches.
2. Mark Rideout (NH) spoke on Home Devotions, a weekly devotional resource based on the lectionary and promoted it as one to be used.

3. Don Mayer, (PacNW) talked about an alliance with the Catholics for a new school of theology, in cooperation with Walter Bruggeman.
4. Alfonso Roman, (CHM) spoke on the theme of embracing justice and reminded the delegates that despite military withdrawal from the island of Vieques, there are still five prisoners held there and urged delegates to write letters to congressional representatives urging their release.
5. Janis Dashner, (IS) Military Chaplin from the US Air Force asked delegates to remember the military representatives currently serving in Iraq who are working to keep peace and noted they put their lives on the line. Ms. Dashner asked delegates to keep these service people in their prayers and thanked veterans for their service.
6. Keith Titus (MICH) lived part of the year on an Indian reservation. He quoted statistics regarding the poverty levels on the reservation and spoke of the volunteer efforts at the reservation.
7. Alan Miller (PNE) showed a bicycle wheel which the conference used as a centerpiece and explained that this was a joke that played off the Synod theme of “God has “spoke’n and is still speaking.” The delegates showed their appreciation for the joke with warm applause.
8. Clyde Steckel (MINN) announced the Minnesota Conference had appointed a spiritual development task force with the intention of reforming the “Spiritual Development Network UCC.”
9. Harlette Washington (ILL), a member of United Black Christians, announced there would be an emergency meeting at noon to discuss the resolution “Transforming the Church House” and

to discuss how affirmative action effects all people.

10. Leona Isamo (HI) spoke about the nuclear bombs that fell on the Marshall Islands and the effects on the Marshallese people. Invited delegates to stop by the PAAM Booth for more information.

11. Assistant Moderator Smith thanked the speakers and reminded delegates that the next “Speak Out!” would be held at Plenary Four Sunday evening.

4. INTRODUCTION OF GENERAL SYNOD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Assistant Moderator Smith reminded the delegates of the procedures for the presentation of Committee reports. Each Committee will be allocated thirty minutes for their presentation with the exception of the Committee dealing with the Frequency of General Synod, which had been allocated additional time on the agenda.

Rev. Smith reminded the delegates of the location and purpose of each of the microphones. Rev. Smith expressed appreciation to the Committee Process facilitators Rev. Talitha Arnold, Rev. Dennis Friche-Mouri, and Ms. Wanda Harris-Watkins Assistant Moderator Smith invited all Committee Chairs to rise and be recognized by the Twenty-fourth General Synod.

5. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ALLOW FOR NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR FOR THE OFFICERS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Assistant Moderator Smith called on Ms. Barbara Hanks (PNE), Chairperson of Committee Fifteen, who reported on the proposed actions of the Committee.

Ms. Hanks, on behalf of the Committee, moved the Twenty-fourth General Synod refer the proposed amendments “To Allow for Nominations from the Floor for the Officers of the United Church of Christ” to the Executive

Council and the Restructure Evaluation Oversight Committee. Ms. Hanks spoke to the motion.

03-GS-11 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the motion to refer the proposed amendments entitled “Proposed Amendments To Allow For Nominations From The Floor For The Officers Of The United Church Of Christ” to the Executive Council and the Restructure Evaluation Oversight Committee.

The relevant section of current paragraph 211 reads:

The candidate [for General Minister and President] chosen by the search committee is confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Council before his or her name is placed before the General Synod. Only one nominee may be presented for election, and nominations may not be made from the floor.

The proposed amended paragraph 211 changes the final sentence to read:

Additional nominations may be made from the floor.

The relevant section of current paragraph 212 reads:

The candidate [for Associate General Minister] chosen by the search committee is to be confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Council before his or her name is placed in nomination before the General Synod. Only one nominee may be presented for election, and nominations may not be made from the floor.

The proposed amended paragraph 212 changes the final sentence to read:

Additional nominations may be made from the floor.

The relevant section of current paragraph 218 reads:

The candidate [for Executive Minister of either Wider Church Ministries, Justice and Witness Ministries, or Local Church Ministries] chosen

by the search committee is to be confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the appropriate Board of Directors before his or her name is placed in nomination before the General Synod. Only one nominee may be presented for election, and nominations may not be made from the floor.

The proposed amended paragraph 218 changes the final sentence to read:

Additional nominations may be made from the floor.

6. PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS CLARIFYING THE NUMBER OF TERMS CONFERENCE MINISTERS SERVE ON THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Chairperson Barbara Hanks, on behalf of the Committee, moved the Twenty-fourth General Synod adopt the amendment “Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws Clarifying the Number of Terms Conference Ministers Serve on the Executive Council.”

03-GS-12 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the amendment “Proposed Amendment To The Bylaws Clarifying The Number of Terms Conference Ministers Serve on the Executive Council.”

CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CLARIFYING THE NUMBER OF TERMS CONFERENCE MINISTERS SERVE ON THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Add the words, *not to exceed two consecutive terms*, to paragraph 222(d) of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ and delete *provided however that*.

With these changes the paragraph will read:

d) Six principal ministers of Conferences, one to be elected from each Region by the Council of Conference Ministers for a term of two years, not to exceed two consecutive terms. ~~provided, however, that~~ If any such member ceases during his or her term of office on the Executive Council to be the principal minister of a conference from which said member was elected, the Council of Conference Ministers

shall thereby create a vacancy to be filled by election.

7. FULL COMMUNION BETWEEN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND THE CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA

Assistant Moderator Smith called on Rev. Cecil Prescod (CPC) Chairperson of Committee Eight. Mr. Prescod reported the changes the committee made to the original resolution.

Mr. Prescod, on behalf of the Committee, moved the Twenty-fourth General Synod adopt the resolution “Full Communion between the United Church of Christ and the Church of South India” as amended by the Committee.

03-GS-13 VOTED The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution “Full Communion between the United Church of Christ and the Church of South India” as amended by the Committee.

FULL COMMUNION BETWEEN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND THE CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ and the Church of South India are kindred expressions of Christ’s one Church, basing their formation on Christ’s prayer, “That they may all be one;” and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ and the Church of South India, both members of the world-wide network of united and uniting churches, have expressed the conviction prominently in their motto and symbol; and

WHEREAS, several United Church of Christ Conferences have received innumerable spiritual riches from contacts with the devoted members of the Church of South India and covet such an experience for all United Church of Christ Conferences; and

WHEREAS, the Church of South India in 1947 has recognized the state of full communion with the United Church of Christ, through one of our parent bodies, the Congregational Christian Churches.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fourth General Synod calls on the Office of the General Minister and President, with the assistance of the Council for Ecumenism, and Wider Church Ministries to pursue the steps that are necessary for the United Church of Christ at the Twenty-fifth General Synod to affirm a full communion relationship with the Church of South India.

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

8. DIALOGUE WITH ALLIANCE OF BAPTISTS: A PARTNERSHIP IN MISSION AND MINISTRY

Chairperson Cecil Prescod, on behalf of the Committee, moved the Twenty-fourth General Synod adopt the resolution “Dialogue with Alliance of Baptists: A Partnership in Mission and Ministry”

Mr. Prescod spoke on behalf of the resolution

Rev. Ed Roosa (PNE) requested more information, specifically the number of churches that are involved. Rev. Lydia Veliko, Minister for Ecumenical Relations, reported that the Alliance represents approximately one hundred twenty congregations with sixty thousand members primarily in the South East portion of the country.

Rev. David Runnion-Bareford of the Biblical Witness Fellowship spoke in opposition to the resolution stating that the Alliance of Baptists is a dissident group.

Rev. John Thomas, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, spoke about the dialogue process he and Rev. Veliko had been involved in with the Alliance of Baptists over the past years. He stated it is incorrect to refer to the Alliance as a dissident group. Many of their members have suffered for their convictions, including being removed from positions of responsibility in the Southern Baptists Convention. These are convicted

Christians who offer us grace and hope for the future.

03-GS-14 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution “Dialogue with Alliance of Baptists: A Partnership in Mission and Ministry”

DIALOGUE WITH ALLIANCE OF BAPTISTS: A PARTNERSHIP IN MISSION AND MINISTRY

WHEREAS, ecumenical relationships are realized in the commitments that friends and partners make to each other for support, assistance and mutual counsel; and

WHEREAS, we look forward to expanding and strengthening an evolved ecumenical relationship of deepening friendship, continuing dialogue, and joint public witness with the Alliance of Baptists and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ cherishes its ecumenical relationships and seeks to implement them in as many settings of the life of the church as possible.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the United Church of Christ commit itself to an ecumenical relationship of deepening friendship, continuing dialogue, and joint public witness, by establishing a Partnership in Mission and Ministry with the Alliance of Baptists and in continuing partnership with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage the United Church of Christ’s Covenanted Ministries, Associated and Affiliated Ministries, Associations and Conferences to consider what this partnership might mean in their roles and responsibilities in relation to participation by congregations, clergy, and church staff affiliated with the Alliance of Baptists; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage congregations, clergy and church staff of the United Church of Christ

to develop and deepen this ecumenical friendship by pursuing opportunities for worship, fellowship, collaboration, sharing of resources, and mutual support with neighbors in the Alliance of Baptists, and wherever possible in partnership with the Disciples; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage conversation between the Alliance of Baptists and the Disciples–United Church of Christ Common Global Ministries Board to discern where the ministry of all might be enhanced by cooperation and collaboration; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage the seminaries and other settings of the church, where teaching of history and polity occurs, to include information about the Alliance of Baptists in order to deepen understanding of the faithful witness and ministry of the Alliance as a new ecumenical partner and also encourage the development of programs of Baptist studies; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage, as part of the partnership with the Alliance of Baptists and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the continuation of theological conversation on matters of ministry, sacramental life, theology, and polity 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 invite participation by the Alliance of Baptists, as with other ecumenical partners, in national and regional events; 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 Alliance of Baptists, with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and with other ecumenical colleagues 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 Synod, in recognition of a deeply shared commitment to children and to the growth of our churches, encourage the United Church of Christ to share and, where possible, collaborate with the Alliance of Baptists in the development of educational resources for children and youth and share opportunities for mission, outdoor camp experiences, education, and the fellowship events for children and youth of the Alliance, in partnership with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); and

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that the General Minister and President name United Church of Christ representatives to an ongoing partnership council to facilitate and encourage the growth of this Partnership in Mission and Ministry among the United Church of Christ, the Alliance of Baptists, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

MOMENT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

A moment of personal privilege was requested and granted by consensus for the Rev. Stan Hastey, Executive Director of the Alliance of Baptists. Rev. Hastey spoke about the initial overtures for beginning conversations with the Alliance of Baptists made during the Twenty-first General Synod held in Columbus, Ohio six years ago. Those dialogues continued at the Twenty-second General Synod in Providence, Rhode Island, and at Twenty-third General Synod in Kansas City, Missouri. He expressed his appreciation for the continued dialogue and particularly for the gracious participation of Rev. John Thomas and Rev. Lydia Veliko.

Delegates responded warmly with a standing ovation following Rev. Hastey's speech.

9. A FAITHFUL RESPONSE CALLING FOR A MORE JUST, HUMANE DIRECTION FOR ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION AND PLAN OF ACTION

Assistant Moderator Smith introduced Rev. Keith Mills (NOPL), chairperson of Committee Two. Rev. Mills moved the adoption of the Proposed Pronouncement: "A Faithful Response

Calling for a More Just, Humane Direction for Economic Globalization and Plan of Action" Chairman Mills spoke to the resolution.

Mr. Don Osgood (CONN) offered a friendly amendment that in item number four under CALL TO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST COVENANTED MINISTRIES, CONFERENCES, ASSOCIATIONS, AND SEMINARIES, the words "through whatever means possible" be deleted and "in the spirit of Jesus" be inserted in lieu of the previous wording.

Chairman Mills was not comfortable accepting this as a friendly amendment.

Mr. Osgood moved the amendment and it was seconded.

03-GS-15 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the amendment that in item number four under CALL TO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST COVENANTED MINISTRIES, CONFERENCES, ASSOCIATIONS, AND SEMINARIES, the words "through whatever means possible" be deleted and "in the spirit of Jesus" be inserted in lieu of the previous wording.

03-GS-16 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the Proposed Pronouncement "A Faithful Response Calling For A More Just, Humane Direction For Economic Globalization and Plan of Action" as amended.

A FAITHFUL RESPONSE CALLING FOR A MORE JUST, HUMANE DIRECTION FOR ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION AND PLAN OF ACTION

CALL TO MEMBERS

The Twenty-fourth General Synod, convinced that God calls us to faithfulness in our economic decisions and commitments, calls on the members of the United Church of Christ to the following actions:

1. To grow in spiritual maturity through consistent participation in public worship and the practice of spiritual

disciplines such as prayer, Bible study, fasting and meditation.

2. To engage in intentional reflection on our individual and family economic life; to inquire honestly and humbly concerning the shaping of this life by our faith commitments.
3. To commit as a result of worship, spiritual guidance, and personal reflection to specific ways and concrete actions that will make our individual and family lifestyles consistent with our faith commitments and vision, including changes in our consumer practices.
4. To intentionally seek opportunities of public witness and of advocacy for economic justice and against those policies and actions that deny the economic well being of persons, communities, nations, and the global community.
5. To participate in the decision making of multinational corporations in which we may have economic investment through shareholder resolutions, letters, and attendance at shareholders' meetings.
6. To look for opportunities at local levels to participate in movements that encourage and enable persons and communities to control their own economic well being in just and sustainable ways.

CALL TO LOCAL CHURCHES

The Twenty-fourth General Synod calls local churches and their members to be active, knowledgeable, and critical participants in the global economy. Through education, stewardship, confrontation with the principalities and powers, and social action local churches are called:

1. To confess faithfulness above all to and worship exclusively for God the Creator of all life and live as a trusting, radically

obedient, loving community of disciples strengthened and led by the Spirit, even as this applies to corporate economic life and commitments.

2. To examine their own stewardship commitments especially their investments, so that they will be responsible, just participants in the global economy.
3. To move toward a goal of socially responsible investing and to educate and encourage members to do the same.
4. To engage in a process of action and reflection on specific issues in economic globalization.
5. To consider, in cooperation with Wider Church Ministries, partnership with a church in a developing country to understand its context and the ways in which it has been impacted by economic globalization and to participate in the partnership in concrete, helpful ways.
6. To look for creative ways in which the congregation's lifestyle can pro-actively support workers rights, environmental well being, and other just positions in areas of life impacted by economic globalization (for example, by using fair-traded coffee).
7. To engage in advocacy on legislation and inter national agreements that affect the way the global economy operates, such as the Free Trade Area of the Americas.

CALL TO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST COVENANTED MINISTRIES, CONFERENCES, ASSOCIATIONS, AND SEMINARIES

The Twenty-fourth General Synod calls the Covenanted Ministries, the Affiliated and Associated Ministries of the United Church of Christ, Conferences, Associations, and closely related seminaries of the United Church of

Christ to fully engage the global economy and to actively ensure the development of just and sustainable communities in the global economy. To that end, the Twenty-fourth General Synod calls on these institutions:

1. To continue to provide educational resources and advocacy opportunities and to be a prophetic voice for local churches and members on issues of economic globalization.
2. To urge all settings of the church in their roles as consumers to give priority in decision-making choices to justice concerns, for example, in not purchasing clothes and other consumer goods produced by sweatshop labor.
3. To provide resources on investments in corporations that reflect values resonant with those of the United Church of Christ. Such values can be found in past General Synod actions such as “Direct Investment in Weapons Producers” and “Investment and Corporate Responsibility with Regard to South Africa” (Fourteenth General Synod) and “A Call for Socially Responsible Investment” (Seventeenth General Synod).
4. To work in the spirit of Jesus to reform the principal international trade and finance institutions and governing bodies so that the needs and concerns of all persons, especially the poor and the marginalized, may be addressed in effective ways through their policies and actions.
5. To work for and provide opportunities for individuals and local churches to work for debt relief for developing countries.
6. To continue to develop both national and international partnerships with grassroots organizations, interfaith groups, and partner churches working

for economic justice in developing countries.

7. To work actively with the World Council of Churches, especially as it participates in the United Nations, on issues of economic globalization.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Twenty-fourth General Synod requests that Wider Church Ministries and Justice and Witness Ministries convene a coordinating committee to develop a plan including a timetable for implementation and make reports to the Twenty-fifth and subsequent General Synods.

10. A CALL FOR CHURCH-WIDE SUPPORT OF OIKOCREDIT USA

Rev. Keith Mills, on behalf of Committee Two, moved the adoption of the resolution “A Call For Church Wide Support Of Oikocredit USA.”

03-GS-17 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution “A Call for Church Wide Support of Oikocredit USA.”

A CALL FOR CHURCH WIDE SUPPORT OF OIKOCREDIT USA

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ pronouncement, “Christian Faith: Economic Life and Justice,” establishes as a goal “the just transformation of the global economic order that fundamentally ensures economic, racial, and social justice for all God’s people throughout the world;” and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ and our global partners support development that promotes sustainability and the integrity of creation, justice, equality, and democratic, grassroots participation; and

WHEREAS, Oikocredit USA. has the support of a broad range of denominations and denominational bodies, including the United Church of Christ Wider Church Ministries, seminaries, religious orders, and investor groups; and

WHEREAS, Oikocredit has the support of more than four hundred sixty-five churches and church organizations from all over the world, including many in the sixty-five countries where loans are granted as well as eighteen thousand local church communities and individuals who invest via supporters' Association; and

WHEREAS, Oikocredit has made loans to over four hundred cooperatives and hundreds of thousands of people with micro-credit, employing about \$180 million in capital, about ten percent of which came from the United States; and

WHEREAS, Oikocredit USA has expanded its programs and outreach, intending to develop grassroots networks and working groups in fifteen cities so as to dramatically increase the funds available to meet the vast opportunities for improving the lives of the poorest on earth; and

WHEREAS, Oikocredit ethical investments aim at making a positive contribution:

- to enable poor people to become economically self-supporting
- to promote the economic position of women
- to benefit the local community, and

WHEREAS, investing in Oikocredit is similar to putting funds in deposits in a bank in the form of a note paying two percent for one, three, or five years; and

WHEREAS, there has been no loss of principal and maximum social and economic benefit with investments managed by the Calvert Foundation.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fourth General Synod calls on the United Church of Christ in all its settings to seriously consider investing some institutional funds in Oikocredit USA and provide the opportunity for members and friends to do likewise; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the covenanted ministries, affiliated and associated

ministries, and related ministries be requested to develop plans for ministry-wide participation, educational resources, and partnership or covenanted sponsorship of Oikocredit USA.

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

11. TO SUPPORT COLOMBIAN CHURCHES AND LEADERS UNDER ATTACK

Rev. Smith called on Mr Karl Hayes (SOC), chairperson of Committee Seven for three items of business. Mr Hayes moved the adoption of the resolution "To Support Colombian Churches and Leaders under Attack."

03-GS-18 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution "To Support Colombian Churches and Leaders Under Attack"

TO SUPPORT COLOMBIAN CHURCHES AND LEADERS UNDER ATTACK

WHEREAS, Colombian churches and church leaders are under attack. Colombia's armed groups target both Protestants and Roman Catholics who counsel nonviolence, refuse to take sides, and provide pastoral care and humanitarian assistance to the 2.7 million displaced persons. Protestant leaders reported that during the first seven months of 2002, at least twenty Protestant pastors and church leaders were assassinated and more than four hundred churches were closed. Offices of churches and church alliances working for peace have been intimidated through unwarranted searches; and

WHEREAS, at the same time that churches and leaders who provide humanitarian aid have come under attack, the number of displaced Colombians has continued to grow, with the 342,000 displaced in 2001 increased by one thousand per month in the first six months of 2002, according to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees; and

WHEREAS, throughout the countryside, churches are caught in the middle of the conflict. In Bojaya, Choco, in May 2002, one hundred nineteen Afro-Colombians were killed in their church, where they had taken refuge during a fight between two armed groups. Colombian pastors and church leaders met with the United Church of Christ Ecumenical Delegation in July 2002 and reported on their situations. Their common plea to North Americans was, “No more arms, no more arms;” and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress has authorized increased funds for U.S. military action in support of the Colombian government as part of drug enforcement, war against guerrilla groups, and protection of oil pipelines; and violence toward churches and church leaders has increased in the areas of intensified military action at the expense of humanitarian aid and human services, particularly in Arauca; and

WHEREAS, the Colombian Mennonite Church continues to provide strong leadership for Christian unity and peace in Colombia and to give support and encouragement for evangelical (Protestant) churches who are under attack. Justapaz, the peace and justice office of the Colombian Mennonite Church, and CEDECOL, the Colombian Council of Evangelical Churches, need and deserve our support.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fourth General Synod asks Wider Church Ministries to develop programs to support Colombian churches and church leaders under attack; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod urges Justice and Witness Ministries to call attention to U.S. support for the militarization of Colombia at the expense of humanitarian aid and human services and to the increased attacks on churches and church leaders; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that Justice and Witness Ministries call on the United States government to grant Temporary Protective Status to Colombians who are in need of international protection, as urged by the

United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourages church delegations, including representatives of the national offices, to visit Colombian churches and councils of churches and to support their humanitarian and peace work; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that Wider Church Ministries provides information for local congregations to develop direct relationships with Protestant congregations in Colombia through the Sister Church program of Justapaz and CEDECOL. Materials will also describe the process for becoming sanctuary churches, providing protection and hospitality to Colombians needing to flee for safety; and

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that all congregations of the United Church of Christ be urged to pray and work for peace in Colombia and to develop church partnerships and letter-writing campaigns to officials here and in Colombia. Congregations are urged to work for an end to U.S. policies that add to the violence among our brothers and sisters there.

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

12. GLOBAL NONVIOLENT PEACEFORCE

Mr. Hayes then directed delegates to the Resolution “Global Nonviolent Peaceforce” and moved its adoption.

03-GS-19 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution “Global Nonviolent Peaceforce.”

GLOBAL NONVIOLENT PEACEFORCE

WHEREAS, the Fifteenth General Synod passed a pronouncement declaring the United Church of Christ to be a Just Peace Church, and said pronouncement included declaring our opposition to war, violence, and terrorism; and

WHEREAS, the Eighteenth General Synod passed a resolution on active nonviolence, proclaiming the United Church of Christ's commitment to nonviolence and the promotion of active nonviolence as an appropriate response to violence; and

WHEREAS, millions of persons in countries all around the world continue to be afflicted with the scourge of violent conflict.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fourth General Synod affirms the establishment of the Nonviolent Peaceforce in its creation and the deployment of a highly trained group of active and reserve specialists in conflict resolution, nonviolent strategies, negotiation skills, and civil social development.

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

13. ADVOCATING PEACE AND RECONCILIATION IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA

Mr. Hayes continued by moving the adoption of the resolution "Advocating Peace and Reconciliation in the Korean Peninsula"

03-GS-20 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution "Advocating Peace and Reconciliation in the Korean Peninsula"

ADVOCATING PEACE AND RECONCILIATION IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA

WHEREAS, Jesus' prayer in John's Gospel implores God, "That they all may be one" (John. 17:21 NRSV); and

WHEREAS, the psalmist writes, "How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!" (Psalms 133:1); and

WHEREAS, Matthew says, "Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive." (Matthew 21:22); and

WHEREAS, Jesus states in the Sermon on the Mount, "Blessed are the peacemakers," (Matthew 5:9); and

WHEREAS, 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 says, "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us;" and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ maintains a partnership with the Presbyterian Church of the Republic of Korea; and

WHEREAS, the Korean people suffered under Japanese occupation for fifty years and the Korean Peninsula was divided at the thirty-eighth parallel by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic and the United States following the defeat of Japan at the end of World War II and that in the ensuing Cold War environment, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic and the United States each supported the development of a government and a separate country of the divided peninsula, a division that has continued beyond the truce of the Korean War in 1953; and

WHEREAS, many families were divided when some members migrated across the border to escape communism; and

WHEREAS, isolation, embargoes, floods, and drought have undermined the economy of North Korea; and

WHEREAS, the Presbyterian Church of the Republic of Korea has maintained work for the reunification of the Korean Peninsula as a justice priority and has requested that we include this concern in our prayers; and

WHEREAS, the Kyung-ki Presbytery has adopted a resolution calling for the reunification of Korea; and

WHEREAS, at the 213th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Korean

Presbyterian leaders appealed for peace and reconciliation in their divided country and the General Assembly pledged to join in earnest prayer for peace.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that we the delegates to the Twenty-fourth General Synod of the United Church of Christ call on the members of the churches, Associations, and the Conferences as a whole to express our solidarity with our partners in Korea; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that we join with the 213th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in earnest prayer, “which seeks the face of God’s wisdom in the hope that God transforms our lives from anger to love, from destruction to construction;” and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commend President Bush for his measured response to North Korea’s disclosure of its secret nuclear weapons program and for his public commitment to pursue diplomatic solutions in consultation with the Republic of Korea, Japan, and China; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that we request our national policy advocate to communicate to our policy makers, including our President and the Congress, our recommendation that the United States pursue policies that will end tension, decrease armaments and weapons of mass destruction, and seek the peace and security of all the people of Korea; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call on the Conferences, Associations, and members of local congregations to contact President Bush and urge a continuation of the basic tenets of the “sunshine policy” practiced by the government of the Republic of Korea, including helping North Korea economically, ending the Cold War legacy, reuniting families, and exchanging special envoys to fulfill the 1991 Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Exchange and Cooperation between the North and South; and

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that we urge local congregations to study and become familiar with the problems of our partners in the Presbyterian Church of the Republic of Korea.

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

14. ADDRESS BY BERNICE POWELL JACKSON

Assistant Moderator Smith called upon Ms. Bernice Powell Jackson, the Executive Minister for Justice and Witness Ministries.

Ms. Jackson began by wishing her husband, Franklin, a happy anniversary. Then she spoke about the United Church of Christ being a body of people sent on God’s mission. Our task is to discern what God is saying to each of us and to all of us together. How do we do justice in an unjust world? God is still calling us to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God. What is our answer?

15. COMMUNITY BUILDING

Assistant Moderator Smith called on Ms. Valerie Tutson (RI) for a time of community building.

16. AWARDS PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Moderator Nate Lewis introduced Associate General Minister Edith Guffey who invited to the stage those who had received awards and led the delegates in a Prayer of Thanksgiving for the recipients of awards.

Those awarded included:

The Just Peace Award from Justice and Witness Ministries:

Church Award to Faith United Church of Christ in Iowa City, Iowa
Grassroots Organization Award to the Institute for Peace Studies, Billings, Montana
Clergy Award to Rev. Bill Land of Cincinnati, Ohio

Laitly Award to Holly Miller of Lancaster Theological Seminary

Special Recognition to:

Trinity UCC, Chicago for their strong, continuous support of the Justice and Witness Ministries Scholarship Program

Ms. Verna Uthman, for her many years of voluntarily tracking United Nations activities and programs on behalf of the United Church of Christ

From Local Church Ministries:

The Antoinette Brown Award to Ruth C. Duck and LaVerne McCain

Gill Excellence in Teaching Awards to Marge Bluhm, Curtis Johnson, Margaret Mills, Janet Scott and Carol Wilson

God is Still speaking Awards to Caroline Bail, Margaret Borrelli and Kathryn Ketchum

Recognition of Outstanding Contributions to Church Development to

Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago and the Indiana-Kentucky Conference

The Pilgrim Press Mayflower Awards to

Barbara J. Essex, Leanne McCall Tigert and Timothy Brown, and F. Russell Mitman

United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries Award

Hugh V. Nash

United Church of Christ Mental Illness Network Dell Award to Joyce and Bob Dell

and All Honored Laywomen

From Wider Church Ministries:

Individual Awards of Affirmation to Dr. Zakaria Ngelow and the Rev. Shengjie Cao.

The delegates expressed their appreciation with a standing ovation.

Ms. Guffey offered a prayer of gratitude for their service and faithfulness.

17. THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Moderator Nate Lewis called on Rev. Charles Buck (HI) Chairperson of Committee Thirteen who reported on the three items of business from that committee.

Rev. Buck indicated that the three resolutions received by the Committee were similar in intent and therefore recommended that they be considered in a consolidated resolution entitled “The United Church of Christ and the Boy Scouts of America.”

On behalf of the Committee, Rev. Buck moved that the Twenty-fourth General Synod adopt the resolution “The United Church of Christ and the Boy Scouts of America.”

Rev. Mark Mendes (MASS) moved to amend the resolution after the second LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED to delete “that we support...” and the rest of that paragraph, and insert in lieu, “we encourage congregations to remain in dialogue with the Boy Scouts of America so that our prophetic vision might continue to challenge entrenched attitudes and change hearts.”

The amended was seconded.

Ms Anna Magis-Agosta (CPC) rose to a Point of Personal Privilege urging the delegates to postpone action on this resolution as many of the youth delegates were not present. This resolution had originally not been scheduled for this time.

Ms. Katelyn MacRae (ME) moved to postpone debate until Plenary Four. The motion was seconded.

03-GS-21 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod postpones debate on the resolution “The United Church of Christ and the Boy scouts of America” until Plenary Four.

18. U.S. POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Moderator Lewis called on Rev. Beth Hyde (RM), Chairperson for Committee Three, who introduced and moved the adoption of the resolution “U.S. Policy in the Middle East” as amended by Committee.

03-GS-22 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution “U.S. Policy in the Middle East” as amended.

U.S. POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

MINDFUL of all previous resolutions and statements regarding the Middle East expressed by the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) separately and collectively through the Common Global Ministries Board and the affirmation the denominations have made of the World Council of Churches’ Decade to Overcome Violence; and

WHEREAS, the United States has executed foreign policy in the Middle East in ways that are inconsistent, specially through selective reference to U.N. resolutions, and that have grave implications for the nations and peoples of the Middle East and thus threaten to compromise responsible U.S. leadership; and

WHEREAS, the United States is the only global power in a position to be a primary and effective broker of peace and justice in the Middle East; and

WHEREAS, the war against terrorism is vague rhetoric that has been used by the United States and other nations to subdue disparate adversaries, be the militant groups such as al-Q’aida or nation states such as Iraq; and

WHEREAS, the Arab-Israeli-Palestinian conflict is far and away the leading cause of hostility in the Middle East and has had devastating effects on the people of the entire region; and

WHEREAS, Israelis and Palestinians have suffered injury and death as a result of acts of violence perpetrated by both parties to the conflict, and the occupation of Palestinian lands is violent and begets violence; and

WHEREAS, in March 2003 against the expressed opposition of many people and nations of the world, the United States waged a

war against Iraq with the stated aim of disarming Iraq and effecting regime change; and

WHEREAS, the church, and particularly the United Church of Christ, is called by its head, Jesus Christ, to be reconcilers, peacemakers, and advocates for justice.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Twenty-fourth General Synod of the United Church of Christ

1. Calls on the U.S. government to base its Middle East policy on principles of human rights and human justice and to refrain from narrowly acting with U.S. economic interests in mind.
2. Calls for a consistent and coherent approach to U.S. policy in the Middle East, including, but not limited to, the issues of weapons proliferation and enforcement of U.N. resolutions in a principled way.
3. Expresses voices of opposition to unprovoked U.S. military action such as that waged against Iraq and to the continuation of sanctions, preferring the pursuit of diplomatic means to resolve the differences between governments, including the issues of no-fly zones, weapons proliferation, and human rights.
4. Urges the U.S. government to reorient its long-term policy with regard to Iraq and other Middle Eastern states, including ending U.S.-led punishment of the Iraqi people through sanctions and war, so that a healing of the relationship between the states might promote integration of Iraq into the community of nations.
5. Calls upon the U.S. government to support relief and reconstruction efforts generously but cede such authority to the United Nations, allowing non-governmental organizations full and unconditional access to provide relief in

Iraq, and to work diligently to mend broken fences with countries of the region and the world in order to reduce feelings of animosity and distrust; and

6. Calls on the U.S. government to direct its attention to and actively commit to work fairly and creatively for peace and justice for Palestinians and Israelis and most urgently to end the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, a good-faith step required by international law that would go a long way toward establishing trust, stability, and an end to violence between Palestinians and Israelis and in the Middle East as a region.
7. Calls upon the churches of the United Church of Christ to appreciate the connections we have with Christians in the Middle East through partnerships and mission relationships, and strengthen those connections through engagement in healing the brokenness and distrust created by war and national isolationism, and by contributing to relief and reconstruction appeals through One Great Hour of Sharing, and further to engage in activities that promote bridge-building between churches in the United States and churches in the Middle East and people of Middle Eastern heritage here in this country.
8. Communicate these concerns and positions to the fifteen members of the United Nations Security Council and the leaders of the United States government.

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

19. AN ALTERNATIVE VOICE TO CHRISTIAN ZIONISM

Rev. Hyde introduced the next resolution “An Alternative Voice to Christian Zionism” and moved its adoption.

03-GS-23 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution “An Alternative Voice to Christian Zionism.”

AN ALTERNATIVE VOICE TO CHRISTIAN ZIONISM

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has affirmed its support for a secure state of Israel in a previous Synod resolution [“The Israeli-Palestine Conflict” (1987)], and the existence of Israel as a Jewish state is important; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has also condemned anti-Jewish positions in previous resolutions [“Anti-Semitism” (2001), and “Relationship between UCC and the Jewish Community” (1987)]; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has affirmed its concern about the ongoing conflict in Israel and Palestine, and the importance of justice for both Israelis and Palestinians in the resolutions: “Bringing Justice and Peace to the Middle East” (1999); “Jerusalem City of Life” (1997) and “Palestine/Israel” (1997); and

WHEREAS, as a result of Israeli settlements, access roads, and military control areas, Palestinians have been constrained in smaller and smaller densely populated, non-contiguous areas; and

WHEREAS, many innocent Israeli and Palestinian civilians have been killed in the struggle for this land; and

WHEREAS, Israel has a very large peace movement that opposes the occupation of Palestine; and

WHEREAS, in polling data, a majority of Israelis express a desire for negotiations with Palestinians, a two-state solution, and evacuation of settlements in the context of a peace accord; and

WHEREAS, Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority have accepted provisions of the Road Map to Peace; and

WHEREAS, Christian Zionism, aligned with the minority Jewish settler group, takes positions on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict that are contrary to the position of the Israeli government and of the most Israelis, opposing a two-state solution and supporting transfer of all Arabs out of Palestine; and

WHEREAS, influential members of the current U.S. government endorse Christian Zionist positions as a basis for U. S. foreign policy; and

WHEREAS, the Just Peace Pronouncement that was adopted by the General Synod in 1985, as well as updates and similar proclamations of other denominations and like-minded groups, has received insufficient publicity within our denomination, in the mass media, and among U.S. government officials.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fourth General Synod of the United Church of Christ recognizes the diversity of biblical perspectives on the question of a Jewish homeland, but affirms that all such perspectives should be grounded in the message of justice and peace taught by Jesus and the biblical prophets; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ will write a letter to the President of the United States, other leaders in our government, and the leaders of the state of Israel and the Palestinian Authority, informing them that this General Synod asks all parties to agree unconditionally to abide by the Geneva Conventions and to accept the Road Map to Peace as originally proposed; and

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ will, in consultation with the appropriate ministries, develop a plan to communicate the theological and political ramifications of Christian Zionism. Elements of this plan should include:

1. Issuing to all churches in the United Church of Christ a pastoral letter on Christian Zionism and the ongoing

conflict in Israel and Palestine and that this letter be available on the United Church of Christ website.

2. Informing current government officials of Christian alternatives to Christian Zionism.
3. Continuing to develop the United Church of Christ educational program about the ongoing conflict in Israel and Palestine and include material that enables Christians to respond with a biblical basis to the tenets of Christian Zionism. The objective of this educational program should be that members of the United Church of Christ will be encouraged to become more active on this issue.
4. Cooperating with other denominations and like-minded groups to promote alternatives to Christian Zionism in the mass media.

Considering the human suffering and the political urgency of the on-going conflict, we would hope the first elements of this plan could be implemented by fall 2003.

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

20. IN HONOR OF SENATOR PAUL WELLSTONE

Moderator Lewis introduced Ms. Karli Purscell (NE) who introduced the resolution "In Honor of Senator Paul Wellstone" and moved its adoption as amended by the Committee.

Rev. David Greenhaw (MOMS), President of Eden Seminary, questioned the theological implication of honoring Senator Wellstone, rather we should honor Jesus Christ.

An amendment was proposed, but ruled out of order as it was made after the vote was called on the resolution.

Ms. Bernice Powell Jackson moved to postpone action on the resolution until the next plenary.

03-GS-24 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod postpones action on the resolution "In Honor of Senator Paul Wellstone" until the next Plenary.

The order of the day was called.

21. INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATE FOR WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES

Moderator Lewis referred delegates to biographical information on Ms. Olivia Masih White, candidate for the position of Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministers.

Mr. Lewis introduced Rev. Rodney Franklin, Chair of the Board of Directors of WCM, who introduced Ms. Olivia Masih White as the nominee for the position of Executive Minister for Wider Church Ministries.

Ms. White described herself as a third generation Christian born in Jabalpur, India and a graduate of missionary schools. She gave credit to her parents for nurturing her in the Christian faith, providing her the opportunity to attend missionary boarding schools and setting an example by their commitment to the church. Their values built the foundation of her faith journey. They passed away some twenty-five years ago and she wished they could see her now. They would be proud.

Ms. White attended Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. She often boasted that she is very ecumenical: raised as an Anglican, taught in a Roman Catholic girls school in India, studied in a Methodist seminary, worked two summers in a Presbyterian Church in New York and married a member of the United Church of Christ.

Ms. White believed that God has been leading her each step of the way, guiding her and preparing her to accept this new challenge.

During her interview for this position, Ms. White lifted up four major challenges: finance, ecumenism, interfaith connections, and the

concerted effort to become truly a multicultural and multiracial, open and affirming church for all of God's children.

22. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moderator Lewis called on Ms. Edith Guffey for announcements.

23. RECESS

Moderator Lewis declared the Third Plenary of the Twenty-fourth General Synod to be complete.

The Rev. Canon Naim Ateek, Palestinian Christian serving in Palestine and Israel, was the keynote speaker for the Sunday Community Celebration. The theme for the worship service was "Embrace Justice."

Sunday Evening, July 13, 2003 Fourth Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Moderator Carol Wassmuth called the fourth plenary of the Twenty-fourth General Synod to order at 7:30 p.m. She opened with a personal story describing "Minnesota Nice" with an appreciation for the grace and kindness of the host conference at this General Synod.

2. SPEAK OUT!

Ms. Wassmuth welcomed the Speak Out! participants

1. Sheryl Cross (Parish Nurse Network/MOMS) urged participants not to let the stress of Synod get to them. She suggested using the massage therapists who could be found in Health and Wellness Booth 15-16. She also urged donating blood in room 101H of the convention center.
2. Melanie Lawrence (MI) reported there is good news regarding Benton Harbor, Michigan. Benton Harbor and its sister city, St. Joseph, have formed a cooperative union to address the issues of race in the two cities.

3. Charles Simonson (CONN) invited all to learn more about the Iona Community in Scotland by looking at a video, taking brochures, or coming tomorrow afternoon when he will host a one hour informational talk in Room 101D of the Convention Center.
4. Sachi Fujita (PAAM/ HI) reminded everyone that in 1954 the United States military did not relocate Micronesian women before nuclear testing began. Before they knew it, powder had fallen down on them. Soon their hair fell out and deformed babies were born. The women seek an apology from the United States government.
5. Robert Koth (SW) spoke regarding immigrant rights. He encouraged people to stop by the Justice/Witness booth and pick up information.
6. Earl Menchhofer (IL) told General Synod that his father had attended seventeen general synods as a visitor. During that time he had always paid all of his own expenses from his own salary as a pastor and retired pastor. Mr. Menchhofer thanked God for those who this year helped his father with cost of lodging and food so he could once again attend.
7. Marvin Silver (Justice and Peace Action Network) encouraged delegates to sign up for ucctakeaction.org.
8. Barbara Kershner Daniel (PSE) introduced Rev. Riess Potterveld, Tenth President of Lancaster Seminary. He thanked those who had offered prayers during the search process.
9. Kalelyn Macrae (ME), Melanie Morrison (MICH) Carl Cuffee (SOC) noted that the first action of Synod was to approve the report of the credentials committee. They asked why the delegates were not supplied with demographic information about the

present delegates as they need to be assured that there is accurate representation of diversity.

10. John Stansell (United Church of Christ Musicians Association/CONN) informed the Synod that they provide consultation for churches seeking musicians. Their next conference is July 25, 2004. More information can be found at uccma.org. He noted that Local Church Ministries sponsors the United Church of Christ Musicians Network whose next conference is August 3-6, 2003.
11. Roger Mealiff (WIS) invited all to Sheboygan during the Amistad event and invited them to the Shelby Banks concert in Sheboygan during that time.

3. PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE FOR ASSOCIATE GENERAL MINISTER

Ms. Olga Sierra Sandman, Chair of the Executive Council, introduced Ms. Edith Guffey, Nominee for Associate General Minister. The Search committee recommended that Ms. Guffey be reelected for her second four-year term in the new structure of the United Church of Christ.

4. CANDIDATE SPEECH FOR ASSOCIATE GENERAL MINISTER

Ms. Guffey shared with the General Synod her personal journey in becoming a member of the United Church of Christ. She spoke of her conviction that administration is ministry and affirmed her commitment to the vision of the United Church of Christ as it strives to become multiracial, multicultural, open and affirming and accessible to all.

5. THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Assistant Moderator Wassmuth called upon Mr. Charles Buck, Chair of Committee Thirteen. As this was a continuation from Plenary Three, no further presentation was needed by the body. Mr. Buck moved that the Twenty-fourth General Synod adopt the resolution "The United Church of Christ and the Boy Scouts of America."

Two amendments to the resolution were defeated.

03-GS-25 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution “The United Church of Christ and the Boy Scouts of America.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

WHEREAS, Jesus’ prayer, “that they may all be one” (John 17:21) offers the guiding vision of the United Church of Christ and invites us to celebrate the gifts and graces of all God’s children; and

WHEREAS, Paul wrote, “The body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ....Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it” (1 Corinthians 12:12, 27); and

WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts of America has offered generations of youth and adults opportunities to build friendships and foster mentoring relationships, develop leadership skills, and embody values that encourage a reverence for the earth and service on behalf of others; and

WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts of America established a policy in 1978 of not accepting gay youth and adults and in February 2002 reaffirmed its discriminatory policies and practices upon the recommendation and by action of the Relationships Committee of the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has recently (June 2000) upheld the right of the Boy Scouts of America to set membership criteria; thus effectively allowing them to exclude homosexuals as members or leaders or as professional or non-professional employees; and

WHEREAS, various settings of the United Church of Christ, in various actions and communications, have requested that the

National Council of the Boy Scouts of America cease its discriminatory practices against gay youth and adults and allow local scouting units autonomy and therefore variance from the Boy Scouts of America’s discriminatory policies and practices; and

WHEREAS, the discriminatory policies of the Boy Scouts of America have caused pain to gay and bisexual youth and adults in the United Church of Christ, as well as to their heterosexual peers, families, and allies; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the United Church of Christ Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns has endorsed “Scouting for All,” an organization which works for the inclusion of all in scouting, regardless of sexual or affectional orientation; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ believes in a gospel that affirms and welcomes all, including gay and bisexual youth and adults, and we believe that the discriminatory policies and practices of the Boy Scouts of America invite gay or bisexual persons to feel diminished, invisible, and marginalized.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that we, the delegates to the Twenty-fourth General Synod of the United Church of Christ reaffirm our belief that discrimination against anyone based on sexual orientation is contrary to our understanding of the teachings of Christ; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage the use of the local church resource packet, “The United Church of Christ Local Churches and the Boy Scouts of America” (2001), prepared by the Covenanted Ministries of the United Church of Christ; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that we support the actions of congregations within a full range of options, including those who wish to sever their ties to the Boy Scouts of America and those who wish to remain in dialogue and connection with the Boy Scouts of America; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that we direct the Collegium and encourage other

settings of the church to urge the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America to adopt a membership policy that does not discriminate based on sexual orientation, and that allows for the reactivation of membership of persons who were previously excluded solely on that basis; and

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that we prayerfully refer this issue to the local churches, Associations, Conferences, General Synod, and other settings of the United Church of Christ for study, discernment, and advocacy.

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

6. IN HONOR OF SENATOR PAUL WELLSTONE

Moderator Nate Lewis called upon Karli Purscell, Chair of Committee Eleven, who then moved the adoption of the resolution “In Honor of Senator Paul Wellstone.”

A motion to amend the resolution was made by Matthew Wooster (OH) to delete the paragraph beginning LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED on page two. The amendment was seconded.

03-GS-26 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod accepts the amendment to delete the paragraph beginning LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED.

03-GS-27 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution as amended, “In Honor of Senator Paul Wellstone.”

IN HONOR OF SENATOR PAUL WELLSTONE

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has declared itself a just peace church, and many local churches have declared themselves just peace churches; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ acknowledges the void, in his absence, of an

equivalent impassioned, tireless advocate for the moral missions that Senator Wellstone represented; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wellstone spoke tirelessly and passionately, again and again, over and over, on the Senate floor for actions and issues related directly to the lives of those with little or no voice in this democracy and who are often left out of our society time and time again; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wellstone was a role model for the United Church of Christ’s vision that the basis of true democracy is grassroots participation of citizens from the local level working to impact national issues of peace and justice; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wellstone and the United Church of Christ share the belief that grassroots democracy is the best policy for this country; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wellstone was continually accessible for gatherings with the United Church of Christ on peace and justice concerns. Wellstone was a key participant in the debate as to where politics should be going, forever upholding high standards for the moral obligations of politicians as public servants; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wellstone pressed for campaign finances reform so that our country would become a true democracy; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wellstone and his wife Sheila, were recognized as national leaders on domestic violence and fought fervently to educate the populace and diminish the occurrence of domestic violence in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in fall 2002 Senator Wellstone voted against giving the President of the United States authorization to declare war on the country of Iraq; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wellstone fought to enact into law measures to improve the living conditions of hundreds of thousands of

American veterans and was an unremitting advocate for the rights of the disabled; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wellstone fought to protect the environment through brownfield cleanup, as well as conservation and renewable-energy measures and incentives for farmers, ranchers, and small businesses; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wellstone fought for worker-safety rights, increased worker training, and citizen health care security.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fourth General Synod of the United Church of Christ expresses its great appreciation for the outstanding contributions of Senator Paul Wellstone to peace and social justice and for the leadership he provided to legislation that fulfilled our denomination's commitment to living out God's vision of shalom; and

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fourth General Synod of the United Church of Christ direct President and General Minister John Thomas to communicate this action to Senator Wellstone's family.

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

7. AMERICAN INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOLS

Moderator Lewis called upon Karli Purscell, Chair of Committee Eleven, who moved the adoption of the resolution "American Indian Boarding Schools" as amended by the Committee. She asked that Ms. Sammy Toineeta, minister for native American relations, be granted "voice without vote." This was granted by consensus of the body. Ms. Toineeta pointed out that the policy which required American Indians to be educated in boarding schools began in 1868 and is still in effect. There are currently ten thousand American Indian children in boarding schools which allow teachers free reign with discipline. The children have no rights in these schools.

An amendment to change the word "reparation" to "reconciliation" was defeated.

03-GS-28 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution, "American Indian Boarding Schools" as amended by the Committee.

AMERICAN INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, United States President Grant in 1869 awarded separate divisions of Indian Territory to the church denominations for missionization of the Indians in order to facilitate westward expansion and settlement of this country; and

WHEREAS, the American Missionary Association and the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions commissioned missionaries who were zealous in their beliefs that the Indians had no religion and no souls and were therefore ripe for conversion to Christianity; and

WHEREAS, in the decade following 1869 the Christian denominations began to establish boarding schools with the underlying policy to "kill the Indian and save the man," and one such boarding school was the Hampton Institute, which opened its doors to Indian students in 1878; and

WHEREAS, the boarding school was of paramount significance in the attempted genocide of an entire people, and the mandatory placement of Indian children in the boarding schools resulted in the loss of hundreds of languages, spiritual beliefs, traditional practices, and the destruction of healthy family life; and

WHEREAS, the American Indian people have not fully recovered from the devastating boarding school era; however, the Indian nations in the United States are beginning to find their way back to their cultural life ways and are beginning to heal the wounds of the past; and

WHEREAS, the consideration of reparations is required due to the extent of the harm

perpetrated against the children of the Indian nations.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the United Church of Christ be the first church denomination to acknowledge, confess and accept its historic participation and accountability for the harm done through the establishment of boarding schools in the United States and that the United Church of Christ work with the Council for American Indian Ministry to repair the harm that has been done to indigenous people and the community and soul of the United Church of Christ; and

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the United Church of Christ begin its reparation process by formally apologizing for the harm done to the indigenous peoples; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United Church of Christ implement a process for educating the membership of the United Church of Christ about the boarding school issue and its impact on the languages, cultures, and families of indigenous peoples; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United Church of Christ demonstrates its commitment to the indigenous peoples by calling together an ecumenical forum to discuss the historic and ongoing boarding school issues and appropriate reparation responses; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United Church of Christ call on President Bush and the United States Congress to reform or repeal the legislation and policies that support, create, or continue the dehumanizing, abusive, and culturally insensitive programs offered by boarding schools; and

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the United Church of Christ call on the Bureau of Indian Affairs and other federal, state, and local agencies to investigate the policies, practices, and systems that contribute to ongoing cases of abuse and neglect, and that steps be taken to investigate the average nine thousand annual cases of abuse and neglect and to ensure the safety of all boarding school students, and

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that Conferences and Associations of the United Church of Christ, Local Church Ministries, Justice and Witness Ministries, and the Office of General Ministries work in cooperation with the Council for American Indian Ministry to address the issues raised in this resolution.

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

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Edith Guffey announced that copies of the Credentials Committee Report were available.

9. RECOGNITION OF THE MINISTRY OF DALE BISHOP

The evening plenary concluded at 9:25 p.m. following the recognition of the ministry of Dale Bishop, Executive Minister, Wider Church Ministries. The recognition included comments from Mr. Curtis Reuter, Vice Chair of Wider Church Ministries, and Rev. Megrdoch Karagoezian of the Union of Evangelical Churches in the Middle East. The service also included The Sinikathemba Choir of Durban, South Africa.

MONDAY MORNING, JULY 14, 2003

Fifth Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER

Assistant Moderator Carol Wassmuth called the Fifth Plenary of the Twenty-fourth General Synod to order at 8:30 a.m. by inviting the delegates to sing "This Is The Day!"

2. BIBLE STUDY

Ms. Wassmuth introduced Ms. Valerie Tutson, story-teller (RI), who led the delegates in the morning's Bible Study on the theme, "Live Joy!"

3. ANNOUNCEMENT

Ms. Wassmuth announced that Gerry Miller (IOWA), a youth delegate had been taken to the hospital the previous evening, but had been released.

4. SPEAK OUT!

Assistant Moderator Wassmuth directed the attention of the delegates to “Speak Out!” speakers.

1. Donald Duchow (WIS) offered some suggestions to the Executive Council for the distribution of committee assignments. Mr. Duchow recommended committee assignments be made by Conferences so that delegates would have at least two weeks notification in order to prepare adequately.
2. Wendy VanderHart (MASS) alerted the delegates to Witness Our Welcome 2003, and invited the delegates to advocate for all people.
3. Lori Tisher (OHIO), a student at Eden Theological Seminary, urged the delegates to change the order of the day to be able to deal with the resolution “The Nation’s Crisis: The Church’s Mandate.”
4. Amelie Sell (MOMS) invited the delegates to a Christian Justice Action event for Young Adults.
5. Arnold Thomas (VT) urged delegates to familiarize themselves with the United States presidential candidacy of Howard Dean, a United Church of Christ member. Mr. Dean has consistently been a strong advocate in congress for traditional United Church of Christ positions. Mr Dean’s web site for more information is www.deanforamerica.com.
6. Fred Edmonds (VT) wished to celebrate Vermont as a place where Christians choose to retire, including Rev. Avery Post, and Rev. William Sloan Coffin, and to celebrate the ministry of one of the United Church of Christ’s favorite daughters, Rev. Murdale Leyseth.
7. Kevin Tucker (FLA) and Bess Higgs (FLA) invited the delegates to visit a

restaurant they had discovered in Minneapolis named Peter’s Grill.

8. Jeanette Brown (CAC) alerted delegates to the 50th Anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education, a Supreme Court decision which mandated integration and became known as the Princeton Plan. More information was available at the Justice and Witness Booth.
9. Kathy Kasten (MINN) alerted delegates to the Turkish Scarf Project and asked everyone to support the project by visiting the booth in the Market Place.
10. Frank Groggett (FLA) expressed gratitude and appreciation for all the resources the four Covenanted Ministries provide. Rev. Groggett cited two web-sites www.ucc.org and www.stillspeaking.org.
11. Bernice Powell Jackson reminded delegates to celebrate with the Farmworkers Ministry at the conclusion of this plenary session.
12. Eppie F. Encabo (CA NV, S) reminded delegates of the continuing legacy of radioactive fall-out from nuclear tests on the Marshall Islands, putting all children at risk.
13. Robert Gilchrist (OHIO) reminded delegates of the 50th Anniversary of Volunteer Ministries through Wider Church Ministries and invited more volunteers.

Assistant Moderator Wassmuth thanked the speakers and reminded delegates that the next “Speak Out!” would be held during the Plenary Six.

5. ELECTIONS

Assistant Moderator Wassmuth explained that the elections which would take place in three stages. The first stage was for the election of the Executive Minister for Wider Church Ministries and the election of the Associate General Minister.

Ms. Wassmuth called on Rev. Rodney Franklin (OHIO), Chairperson of the Board of Directors, Wider Church Ministries, who moved the election of Ms. Olivia Masih White to a four-year term as the Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries and an Officer of the United Church of Christ.

03-GS-29 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod elects Ms. Olivia Masih White to a four-year term as the Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries and an Officer of the United Church of Christ.

Applause and a standing ovation celebrated Ms. White's election.

Ms. Wassmuth called on Ms. Olgha Sierra Sandman, Chairperson of the Executive Council, who moved the election of Ms. Edith A. Guffey to a four-year term as the Associate General Minister and an Officer of the United Church of Christ.

03-GS-30 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod elects Ms. Edith A. Guffey to a four-year term as the Associate General Minister and an Officer of the United Church of Christ.

Applause and a standing ovation celebrated Ms. Guffey's re-election.

Ms. Wassmuth called Ms. Bernice Powell Jackson, Rev. Joe Mayalang, and Rev. John Thomas forward, inviting Mr. Dale Bishop to offer a word of prayer for the new Collegium of Officers. Mr. Arthur Clyde led the congregation in singing the Doxology.

Ms. Wassmuth called on Rev. Robert Lee, Vice Chairperson of the Executive Council, who continued with the second set of elections.

Rev. Lee explained that this set of elections were for those positions that were uncontested, and moved that the Twenty-fourth General Synod elect the nominees for the Moderators, the nominees for the Executive Council and the nominees for the Board of Directors for Justice and Witness Ministries, Local Church Ministries and Wider Church Ministries.

03-GS-31 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod elects the nominees for the Moderators, the nominees for the Executive Council and the nominees for the Board of Directors for Justice and Witness Ministries, Local Church ministries and Wider Church ministries.

Rev. Lee requested that ballots for the General Synod Nominating Committee elections be distributed. He reminded delegates that there were two sets of names on the ballot: those to be elected from Conferences and those who were nominated from Groups. Rev. Lee instructed delegates about the voting procedure, explaining that from the twelve names in the first set; three clergy and three lay persons were to be elected. Then a vote of yes or no should be cast for the names submitted by Groups to serve on the General Synod Nominating Committee.

Ms. Wassmuth explained that election results would be announced on Tuesday morning.

6. FINAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Assistant Moderator Smith called on Ms. Olgha Sierra Sandman, Chairperson of the Executive Council for the continuation of the Executive Council Report.

Ms. Sandman spoke about the importance of Our Church's Wider Mission.

A video presentation offered words about Our Church's Wider Mission from others around the United Church of Christ.

Assistant Moderator Smith introduced Mr. Bill Morgan, Chief Financial Officer of the United Church of Christ and Mr. Ray Young, Chair of Budget and Finance Committee of the Executive Council, for interpretation of the financial portion of the presentation.

Mr. Morgan reported that the National Offices receive 76% of its annual funding from three primary sources: the drawdown on income from investments represents 37%, National Basic Support represents 28% and Special Support represents 11%.

Currently, and for the past several years, the drawdown of investments has exceeded the income earned. National Basic Support represents the portion of Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support that ultimately is forwarded to the National Offices by the Conferences. Support of the Conference and National Ministry originates at each local church. There are no fixed formulas or formal agreements at any level that guide this process.

In 1967, the Conferences, on average, forwarded 64% of the Basic Support they received from associations and churches to the National Offices. The trend has been a consistent decrease since then. As of 2002, the Conferences, on average, forwarded 36% of the Basic Support they received to the national offices.

In terms of Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support dollars, the total received by the Conferences has remained flat since 1987, on an inflation adjusted basis this represents a decrease in spending power of greater than 50%.

Our Church's Wider Mission Special Support is comprised of four primary special offerings: Neighbors in Need; One Great Hour of Sharing; Strengthen the Church; and Christmas Fund (formerly Veterans of the Cross). Thirteen percent of all United Church of Christ churches take all five offerings, in addition to Our Church's Wider Mission.

This means that some very difficult conversations and decisions about mission priorities, mandates and service delivery have taken place in the National Offices. Decisions included the elimination of staff positions, program reductions or elimination and across the board cut backs in service delivery and assistance.

Mr. Morgan introduced persons joining him on the stage including: Ms. Kathy Houston, Treasurer for Local Church Ministries and Ms. Ann Kiernozek, Treasurer for Wider Church Ministries. In addition Mr. Michael Downs, Executive Vice President of the Pension Board; Mr. Don Hart, Executive Vice President of

United Church Foundation; and the five members of the Collegium responded to questions.

Rev. John Hudson (MASS) asked about the specific percentage of draw from invested funds. It was reported that the routine calculations are for between a 5%-6% draw with the calculations based on a rolling average of three years returns. An exact figure was difficult as the percentages were tracked by units due to the combining of a several pooled funds.

Rev. Richard Slater (NH) requested information about how resources were allocated between covenanted ministries, and how decisions for cuts in ministries were made. Some decisions were determined by actions of the General Synod, others by the Boards of Directors of the Covenanted Ministries and Pension Boards.

Rev. Mark Bigelow (NY) asked if an asset sheet was available. The annual report includes most of the information requested on a combined base. A report could be mailed to those requesting it when it is completed.

Rev. Jim Peck (MINN) requested the percentages of churches that have contributed to special offerings and what percentage of churches contribute to Our Church's Wider Mission. It was reported that approximately 75% of local churches contribute to Our Church's Wider Mission basic and special support.

Rev. Craig Anderson (CA NV, S) requested the respective rates of draws from endowments from each of the Covenanted Ministries. It was reported that no Covenanted Ministry draws more than 8%, but there is no more than an average draw of 6.5%. It was also reported that pre-restructure financial procedures permitted a 5% drawdown. The Covenanted Ministries are striving to bring their drawdown to 5% policy level.

A question was raised about how the prioritization cuts now occur.

Local Church Ministry budget figures for 2002 allowed a 5% to 6.1% average market value

draw. Budget figures for 2002 add in unrestricted funds which represents 5.5%. It was also mandated by the LCM Board of Directors to reduce the draw to 5% by 2006.

Wider Church Ministries policy allows a draw of 6.25%. It was reported that Wider Church Ministries, unlike other Covenanted Ministries, is able to replenish their draw on an annual basis. They have committed themselves to using unrestricted reserves responsibly.

Mr. Frank Morris, LCM Board member, requested that information be made more widely available. There is the perception that significantly greater amounts are going to support Our Church's Wider Mission. Reports can be made following the General Synod. It was also reported that the presentation would be posted on the United Church of Christ website.

Rev. Edgard Roosa (PNE) asked whether all of the money received in the United Church of Christ is given from private donations or if any of the current budget represents money from public sources. It was reported that no state and/or government funds are currently used to any significant degree.

Ms. Josephine McNeil (MASS) stated that there seems to be a disconnect between local and national. As a result we give somewhat grudgingly. Are there any statistics that indicate where local churches really call on resources of the church at national setting? Perhaps a greater effort to reach local churches so they can recognize that they receive something that will benefit them. This effort might benefit the financial health of the national budget.

Ms. Edith Guffey reported that Covenanted Ministries have been working on relationships, attempting to address some of the concerns brought forth. In addition there is a significant amount of information currently available. Annual Reports, the Calendar of Prayer, the monthly All Church Mailing, and many resources on the web site, all are efforts to bridge between the national setting and the local churches.

Rev. José Mayalang, Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries, reported that staff members regularly discuss resources that have been requested, including curricula, video tapes, and resource persons. A significant portion of the job portfolios of Wider Church Ministries staff persons include being with the local churches.

Rev. Jeanette Sawyer (CONN) reminded the delegates General Synod had voted earlier that each church was supposed to contribute based on membership. Her question to the delegates was how many churches actually did this?

Ms. Bernice Powell Jackson, Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries, the Twenty-third General Synod voted to request local churches to increase their Our Church's Wider Mission giving by 5%. That increase has not happened.

Ms. Ruby Trouw (ME) stated that on the Wider Church Ministries Board, part of their charge was to go to Annual Meetings of Conferences with information about Our Church's Wider Mission.

Rev. Ken Fuller (CAC) requested statistics about the per capita, per denomination, and per capita, per member, per donation of member churches. It was reported that while the statistical handbook is available, it is limited to whatever information the churches had provide. Because of this limitation, the information requested is not available.

Mr. Gary Cooper (PSE) requested information about the current status of Conference retention rates. It was reported that while actual dollars had not declined, adjustment for inflation represents a significant decrease. In 2001, approximately \$853 million was collected. In 2002, \$868 million represented the total resources. The monies forwarded from local churches to Associations / Conferences has been flat for the past five years. Many Conferences have retained more and more funds.

Rev. Bill Green stressed that the Conferences are struggling financially, also. Increase in

retention rates does not appear to be based on negative feelings toward national, but that Conferences are simply receiving less money as well.

Assistant Moderator Smith called on Mr. Ray Young, Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee of the Executive Council who presented the distribution allocation of national basic support.

Mr. Young moved, on behalf of the Executive Council, that the Twenty-fourth General Synod adopt the National Basic Support Allocation percentages of 22.55% for the Office of General Ministries; 17.35% for Justice and Witness Ministries; 29.40% for Local Church Ministries; 23.65% for Wider Church Ministries and 7.05% for the Pension Boards for the budget years 2004 and 2005 respectively.

03-GS-32 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the National Basic Support Allocation percentages of 22.55% for the Office of General Ministries; 17.35% for Justice and Witness Ministries; 29.40% for Local Church Ministries; 23.65% for Wider Church Ministries and 7.05% for the Pension Boards for the budget years 2004 and 2005 respectively.

Mr. Young, on behalf of the Executive Council, moved that the Twenty-fourth General Synod adopt the National Basic Support payout base of \$11.5 million for budget years 2004 and 2005.

03-GS-33 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the National Basic Support payout base of \$11.5 million for budget years 2004 and 2005.

Ms. Wassmuth called on Rev. John Thomas for a word of challenge about the newly adopted budget.

In Rev. Thomas' words: "You have just approved a biennial budget. It's a budget that reflects our current levels of giving and our current National Basic Support income. It's a budget that will require careful management and quite likely some painful decisions about General Synod frequency that we will be having

later this morning. Never before have the Boards of our Covenanted Ministries, the Executive Council and the Collegium of Officers been faced with such challenging financial realities. Never before have we needed your prayers more.

"But prudent and responsible handling of these realities now and over this next biennium does not mean that vision and growth cannot also be at the heart of our life together. On Friday you heard me offer a vision of growing total annual giving to all United Church of Christ settings to one billion dollars by the year of our fiftieth anniversary, giving that would increase support of the United Church of Christ by one hundred forty million dollars a year, giving which, if directed carefully, could increase annual support of Conference and National ministries by as much as forty million dollars.

"And friends, we are already starting to work toward achieving this goal. We have begun building relationships between our national staff and our one hundred most generous Our Church's Wider Mission congregations. We have started partnering Collegium officers and other staff with thirteen conferences to grow Our Church's Wider Mission giving, and more conferences will be added this year. Our staff in Cleveland has extended its consulting services to assist conferences in capital campaigns. Under the leadership of our Financial Development Ministry team, and in collaboration with conference ministers, we have been actively nurturing relationships with potential major donors, some of whom are already beginning to support initiatives in leadership development, growing new churches, identity and justice ministries. We have embarked on an exciting identity emphasis and are now raising money to take the next bold step in moving toward a church-wide identity campaign with the help of a major national advertising firm. Last month the Stewardship and Church Finance Ministry Team convened a group of Conference Ministers along with leaders on the national staff to put in place a plan for growing Our Church's Wider Mission support in dramatic new ways. The group is meeting again in ten days to further develop that plan, a plan that will make our

identity campaign the major engine driving our generosity in the coming years. By the fall they will have a plan to present to the Boards and the Executive Council. We are committed to careful management of our resources that, right now, are limited. But we are also committed to growth, amazing growth.

“And what about you? On your tables is a “God is Still Speaking” postcard with five ways to be a part of an exciting new vision of financial support for the United Church of Christ. Take it with you; decide how you will respond. Each of us must be a part of this; complaining about someone else won’t do. It’s all about our love for Jesus, our amazing generosity - - yours and mine!”

7. COMMUNITY BUILDING

Assistant Moderator Wassmuth called on Christopher Grundy for a time of Community Building which included an action song lifting up the differences between Si and see!

8. GENERAL SYNOD COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CHANGE THE FREQUENCY OF THE MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

Assistant Moderator Smith called on Ms. Gynii Gilliam Chairperson of Committee Fourteen for the report of the committee which addressed the proposed Bylaws Amendment “Proposed Amendment to Change the Frequency of the Meetings of the General Synod.”

Ms. Gilliam reported minor typographical corrections including in the last line of recommendation two the word “mailing” should be “making”, and in line one of recommendation four a comma should be inserted after the word church.

Ms. Gilliam reported the Committee recommended disapproval of the resolution, but with accompanying recommendations, sharing with delegates that the committee had voted thirty-four to thirteen to send the recommendation in its present form to the General Synod floor. Ms. Gilliam moved that the Twenty-fourth General Synod not approve

the proposed Bylaw amendment to change the frequency of General Synod meetings from biennial to four years, but with recommendations.

Ms. Gilliam spoke to the recommendation.

Ms. Kristina Westra (MINN) indicated that while General Synod may not meet, Regional Youth Events would continue. The impact on youth, however, will be significant. If General Synod moves to once every four years, then a person could only be a youth delegate one time.

Rev. Michael Boehm (OHIO) requested clarity about what a “yes” vote, and a “no” vote actually meant. Ms. Judy Willingham (KO) reminded delegates that current giving to national is now underfunded. Ms. Willingham issued a challenge to the Board for Local Church Ministries to find substantive alternative means to come up with hard dollars.

Rev. Paul Forman (PNW) urged delegates not to increase the time between General Synods. While the United Church of Christ is in financial trouble, the frequency of General Synod addresses only two and one-half percent of the problem. We’re only “painting the toe-nails of the elephant in our living room” if the frequency of General Synod is our response. Couldn’t we commit ourselves to raise the funds as suggested by General Minister and President John Thomas.

Mr. Louis Grim (PSE) reminded delegates that General Synod is very important. It represents an opportunity to gather and share, and an opportunity to influence governance of church. While the church is facing financial difficulties, it is our responsibility to ensure that important ministries are not curtailed or eliminated. This recommendation comes from the Executive Council after considerable conversation. There are other ways including the use of electronic media available. Certainly we must be willing to think out of the box and challenge ourselves to accept change, lest we spend our financial resources on ourselves.

Mr. Harland Hall (WIS) reported that the average local church contributes 3.8 % of their

budget to Our Church's Wider Mission, which includes both Conference and National. If we accept John Thomas' challenge to increase Our Church's Wider Mission giving to one billion dollars, and if local churches increase their giving by 5%, we will reach that goal in 2005, not 2006. If there were an increase of only 0.2% in every church giving to Our Church's Wider Mission, then we would easily raise the billion dollar goal. Understood in those terms it is clearly a manageable goal.

Ms. Barbara Schmidt (ILL) urged delegates to consider that our function is "That we may all be one", our form is "covenant relationship" and our frequency is to maintain relationships. These relationships are required for our covenant relationships. Ms. Schmidt asked for guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Rev. Ed Kneff (SOC) urged the delegates to delay this vote, giving the committee more time to study the proposal, including looking at other denominations who send more delegates and meet more frequently than we do. Somebody needs to research this.

Ms. Constances Brooks (MOMS) questioned what would happen to the deficit and what programs and ministries will go by the wayside if we remain at this level another two years.

Rev. Kelly Shiflett (SOC) commented that local churches do not see the relevance of the United Church of Christ in their lives. Twenty-five percent do not even give to Our Church's Wider Mission. There are many more who don't support special offerings. We don't talk to one another enough, and decreasing the frequency of General Synod won't save us money. We need to be about the business of creating bridges and lines of dialogue so that we can be the family of Christ.

Mr. Dan Caplan (CAC) moved the previous question.

Assistant Moderator Smith reminded the delegates that this vote required two-thirds approval to close debate. The motion to end debate was defeated.

Rev. Peter Luckey (KO) suggested that the concern ducks the issue of financial responsibility. We need to go back to the local church. Mr Luckey proposed a special offering for General Synod at each local church.

Rev. Steve Gray (IK) spoke in favor of maintaining the current frequency of General Synod. At the same time he appreciated the financial difficulties being encountered. He pointed out that Conferences have not had the opportunity to discuss this issue. Perhaps we could wait until the next General Synod to revisit the issue with much more ownership.

Mr. Ray Young (MONT-NO.WYO) expressed concern about budget constraints which will cause us to delve deeper into ministries of other budgets.

Rev. Arnold Thomas (VT) urged delegates to maintain the frequency of General Synod every two years. At the same time to look seriously at how our ecumenical partners (Disciples of Christ), hold meetings every year, including representatives from every church of their denomination. How do we widen the scope of participation?

Rev. John Gage (CONN) while being supportive of the United Church of Christ, believes it is important that we do not confuse our meetings with what we do in the world. He would hate to see ministries diminished.

Ms. Edith Guffey stated she was neither for nor against the resolution, but wanted delegates to know that the Office of General Ministries cannot continue to fund General Synod the way it has been. She looked forward to the conversation that must take place about funding General Synod another way rather than through the Office of General Ministries.

Rev. Allen Miller (PNE) offered a friendly amendment "that the national offices add a one time special offering entitled "Fifty for Fifty Years," and the monies be used to fund the next General Synod to give us more time to study this issue.

Ms. Gilliam, on behalf of Committee Fourteen, accepted it as a friendly amendment and recommended it be included as recommendation number five.

Assistant Moderator Smith, upon the advice of the parliamentarian, ruled the amendment out of order as Rev. Miller was not a voting delegate.

Ms. Taneta McCaw (CONN) offered a friendly amendment “that the national office add a one time special offering entitled “Fifty for Fifty Years,” and the monies be used to fund the next General Synod to give us more time to study this issue.

Ms. Gilliam, on behalf of Committee Fourteen, accepted it as a friendly amendment and recommended it be included as recommendation number five.

Rev. Elizabeth Nordbeck from the Executive Council commented that “50 for 50” suggests the General Synod in 2007 not in 2005.

Assistant Moderator Smith called the order of the day and asked delegates if they were ready to vote.

03-GS-34 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod votes not to approve the bylaw amendment proposal to change the frequency of General Synod meetings from biennial to four years, as amended, with the following recommendations:

1. That Executive Council will lead a church-wide engagement in further study, dialogue and understanding to address the financial and other implications of this action by the year 2005.
2. That the General Synod express heartfelt appreciation to the Committee on Form, Function and Frequency of the General Synod for its courage and hard work in making its proposal and promoting a much-needed discussion.

3. That the Executive Council will appoint a committee to create a new vision of the function and form of General Synod to promote the ministry and mission of the United Church of Christ by the year 2005.

4. That the Twenty-fourth General Synod challenge every member, local church, association, conference and Covenanted Ministries with the responsibility to give every future General Synod spiritual and financial support.

5. That the national office add a one-time special offering entitled “Fifty for Fifty Years,” with the monies received to be used to fund the next General Synod to give us more time to study this issue.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moderator Nate Lewis called on Ms. Edith Guffey for announcements.

Rev. Wayne Sautter (PW) asked who was paying for the Our Church’s Wider Mission video presentation and if it would be mailed to congregations free of charge. He then offered to buy two copies at ten dollars each. Ms. Guffey replied she would be happy to make them available to Rev. Sautter for that amount.

10. CONTINUATION OF THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL – DIRECT RESOLUTION THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST - THIRTY YEARS OF FAITHFUL ACCOMPANIMENT WITH FARM WORKERS

Moderator Lewis called on Rev. Liz Aguilar for the continuation of the Executive Council’s report.

Ms. Aguilar, on behalf of the Office of General Ministries, moved that the Twenty-fourth General Synod, adopt the resolution entitled “The United Church of Christ - Thirty Years of Faithful Accompaniment With Farm Workers.” Ms. Aguilar yielded her time to Ms. Bernice Powell Jackson who spoke to the resolution.

03-GS-35 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution entitled “The United Church of Christ - Thirty Years of Faithful Accompaniment With Farm Workers.”

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST --
THIRTY YEARS OF FAITHFUL
ACCOMPANIMENT WITH FARM
WORKERS**

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ, through the former United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and the commitment of Executive Vice President Dr. Howard Spragg and Secretary for Special Programs John Moyer, was one of the founding members in 1971 of the National Farm Worker Ministry, an interfaith organization, whose purpose is to support farm workers as they organize for justice and empowerment and equality; and

WHEREAS, in 1973, thirty years ago this July, the United Church of Christ through its Ninth General Synod demonstrated exceptional courage, support, and commitment to farm worker organizations when it chartered a plane and sent ninety-five General Synod delegates to help prevent violence on the picket lines during the United Farm Worker strike in Coachella, California; and

WHEREAS, the experience of the delegates who went to Coachella and the testimony they offered on return only deepened the commitment of the United Church of Christ to farm worker self-determination and their nonviolent struggle to organize; and

WHEREAS, the leadership of the United Church of Christ through its Presidents Robert Moss, Avery Post, Paul Sherry, and John Thomas and the ongoing support of the Justice and Witness Ministries have affirmed that commitment through continued assignment of staff and resources to the National Farm Worker Ministry and through their prophetic witness and voice both within the denomination and the larger church; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ, in refusing to allow itself to be paralyzed by the

fear of controversy, has consistently been one of the first denominations to endorse the farm workers’ organizing campaigns and consumer boycotts such as the grapes and lettuce, Campbell’s, Norpac, Mt. Olive, and Taco Bell boycotts; and

WHEREAS, countless staff, ministers, congregations, and individual members have acted on those endorsements, demonstrating their solidarity with farm workers by standing on picket lines, visiting supermarkets, writing letters, and witnessing from the pulpit; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ continues to be on the forefront of the farm worker struggle through its support for current organizing efforts by the United Farm Workers (UFW), the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), Pinos y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN), and the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW); and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has celebrated the victories brought about through organizing and the changes it has made in thousands of workers’ lives; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ recognizes that the struggle remains difficult and that there are hundreds of thousands of farm workers who continue to work under abusive conditions without access to just wages, medical care, safe and sanitary working conditions, or decent housing and who fear being fired or deported if they complain.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the United Church of Christ offers its gratitude for Cesar Chavez, on this tenth anniversary of his death, and to Dolores Huerta, valiant cofounder of the United Farm Workers, for offering the church the opportunity to put its faith into action and to serve with them in the struggle, and to other leaders in the movement who continue to do so, such as Arturo Rodriguez, President, UFW; Baldemar Velasquez, President, FLOC; Ramon Ramirez, President, PCUN; and Lucas Benitez, co-director, CIW; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United Church of Christ offers its gratitude to Olgha Sierra Sandman and others within the church who had the vision, foresight, and courage to put themselves on the front lines with the farm workers and to urge others to follow; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United Church of Christ affirms its intent to continue partnering with the National Farm Worker Ministry and pledges its ongoing commitment to justice for all farm workers. *Si se Puede!*

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

11. RECESS

Mr. Lewis called the Fifth Plenary of the Twenty-fourth General Synod complete, and invited delegates to celebrate the anniversary of one of the most remarkable events in the life of the United Church of Christ, the flight to Coachella by ninety-five General Synod delegates and visitors of the Ninth General Synod, held in St. Louis in June of 1973. Recess was called at 11:46 am.

CELEBRATION OF THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PILGRIMAGE TO COACHELLA

A procession supporting farm workers moved to the stage accompanied by music and flags. The delegates stood in solidarity clapping to the music. Guests and honored people (approximately forty persons) were on stage.

Rev. John Thomas invited the Rev. Avery Post and the Rev. Paul Sherry to the stage as he also reminded delegates of the participation of the Rev. Joe Evans who was not in attendance at this celebration, and the memory of the Rev. Robert Moss. Rev. Thomas also invited all the Nineteenth General Synod alumni to wave their hands.

Ms. Virginia Nesmith, Executive Director of the National Farm Worker Ministry, thanked the United Church of Christ for always being the denomination that can be counted on for support.

Mr. Baldemar Velazquez, President of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee, thanked the United Church of Christ for its support.

Mr. Ramon Ramirez, President of Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN) also thanked United Church of Christ for its support, especially the delegates from the Pacific Northwest.

Mr. Lucas Benitez, Co-director of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, thanked the United Church of Christ for support of farm workers.

Ms. Dolores Huerta, Co-founder of the United Farm Workers of America shared that those who supported the farm workers in the pilgrimage to Coachella in 1973 risked death or injury and lifted up the improvements in benefits to farm workers over the past thirty years.

John Thomas commended all for their solidarity and urged commitment in the years to come. He offered blessings to each on the stage for the struggle and witness, and for being prophets in our midst.

MONDAY EVENING, JULY 14, 2003 Sixth Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER

Assistant Moderator Carol Wassmuth called the sixth plenary of the Twenty-fourth General Synod to order at 7:35 pm.

2. SPEAK OUT!

Assistant Moderator Wassmuth called upon the participants for the Speak Out!

1. Cally Rogers Witte (SW) and 100% of her conference delegates were inspired by budget conversations and contributed to Our Church's Wider Mission budget, and invited other delegates to do the same.

2. Britt Mitchell (CAC) invited delegates to sign a petition promoting clean water for children to drink.
3. Dosa Carlson (SW) initiated a program for older members of her congregation which developed a network for sharing of resources for older adult ministries.
4. Mark Bigelow (NY) invited those affected by September 11th to participate in the “International Day of Peace,” September 21st of each year.
5. Mark Seifried (MASS) asked for a moment of silence in recognition of the struggling wider church.
6. Jan Barnes (MOMS) recognized the 30th anniversary of the Coalition for Reproductive Choice. She invited clergy and lay persons to participate in the April 25, 2004 rally for reproductive choice.
7. Lynn Hanson (Financial Development Ministry Team) announced the drawing for the \$1,000 gift annuity. Instructions were given on how to enter the drawing.
8. Art Cribbs (CA NV S) noted the 30th anniversary of the farm workers movement. He invited all to participate in the border demonstration on Oct. 27 in Texas.
9. J. David Menchhofer (SE) encouraged everyone to use the rail system to promote the ecology.
10. Elma Coleman (HI) reminded attendees of the effects of missile testing on Marshall Island residents, and the lack of adequate health care to accommodate the effects.
11. Rebecca Johnston (WIS) recognized Jared Stodmocker the organist.

Ms. Wassmuth thanked the participants of the Speak Out!

Moderator Wassmuth reported that one of the delegates had to leave General Synod due to the death of her husband. Ms. Wassmuth granted a moment of personal privilege to Bob Sandman (OH). He gave an update on the condition which led to his hospitalization, and thanked all for their prayers of support and encouragement.

3. ADDRESS BY EDITH GUFFEY

At the conclusion of the Speak Out!, Ms. Wassmuth invited Ms. Edith Guffey, Associate General Minister, for her report.

Ms. Guffey spoke about the importance of relationships, and how to create relationships through convenantal promises to one another. These relationships are what hold this body together in various expressions of the Church.

4. RESOLUTION: “ORGAN, TISSUE AND BLOOD DONATION”

Moderator Wassmuth called upon Dale Schmidt, (OHIO) the Chair of Committee Ten, to present the resolution, “Organ, Tissue, and Blood Donation.” The committee consolidated two of the original resolutions. Mr. Schmidt moved that the new consolidated resolution “Organ, Tissue, and Blood Donation,” be adopted.

Extensive discussion was offered in support of this resolution.

Lauri Janke (SD) offered a friendly amendment to the first two paragraphs of THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Twenty-fourth General Synod of the United Church of Christ

- 1) encourages and supports members of the United Church of Christ to become organ, tissue, blood *and bone marrow* donors as an expression of Christian ministry, generosity, stewardship, and love;
- 2) calls upon those providing pastoral care to provide information to help individuals make informed decisions regarding organ, tissue, blood *and bone marrow* donation

Mr. Schmidt accepted the amendment as friendly.

03-GS-36 The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the amended resolution, "Organ, Tissue, and Blood Donation,"

ORGAN, TISSUE AND BLOOD DONATION

WHEREAS, God taught us to love one another through Jesus Christ, whose life was sacrificed that we might live abundantly; and

WHEREAS, much of the ministry of Jesus was a ministry of healing, restoring persons to wholeness in body and spirit and relationships; and

WHEREAS, the miracle of organ and tissue transplantation brings with it the opportunity for renewed health and well being and represents the highest form of compassion and love for others; and

WHEREAS, thousands of people suffer and die from an unnecessary shortage of organ and tissue donations; and

WHEREAS, resurrection and eternal life are not dependent on the condition of one's physical body at or after death, but upon the grace of God alone as promised in the gospel; and

WHEREAS, donors of organs, tissues may be living related donors (LRD), living unrelated donors (LURD), and donors upon death.

WHEREAS, some states maintain an organ and tissue donor registry approved by an Organ Procurement Organization (OPO), while other states do not; and

WHEREAS, in states which require consent of surviving family members for organ and tissue donation upon death, the family faces a time of tragic loss without an official statement from the United Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS, the recovery of organs and tissues, though subject to temptation and abuse, is normally carried out responsibly and caringly.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Twenty-fourth General Synod of the United Church of Christ

- 1) encourages and supports members of the United Church of Christ to become organ, tissue, blood and bone marrow donors as an expression of Christian ministry, generosity, stewardship and love;
- 2) calls upon those providing pastoral care to provide information to help individuals make informed decisions regarding organ, tissue, blood and bone marrow donation;
- 3) encourages and supports individuals to join Organ Procurement Organization-approved organ and tissue donor registries where applicable, to sign organ and tissue donor cards, and to include within their advanced medical directives instructions for organ and tissue donation;
- 4) encourage and support those individuals who decide to become organ and tissue donors to discuss and share their life-giving decision with their clergy and their families.
- 5) encourages members and ministries of the United Church of Christ to investigate realities of organ and tissue donation and access to organ and tissue donation and share that information with all the settings of the church.
- 6) calls on all settings of the church to engage the American Red Cross, the United States Food and Drug Administration, and other regulatory agencies to change blood donation policies so that gay and bisexual men (who are, at present, prevented from donating blood because of sexual

histories) may be included in the pool of potential donors as well as increase the opportunities and gifts of blood donation.

Funding for this action will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available. These same agencies would be the ones responsible for developing the strategy and program to implement this resolution.

5. RESOLUTION: “PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE, THE UNBORN, THE SUBJECTS OF MEDICAL RESEARCH, THE DISABLED, THOSE CHRONICALLY AND TERMINALLY ILL

Mr. Schmidt, on behalf of the committee, recommended no action on the resolution.

Mr. Schmidt spoke to the issue, reporting that the committee unanimously felt there were too many issues to be dealt with with integrity.

03-GS-37 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod votes to take no action on the resolution: Protecting the Vulnerable, the Unborn, the subjects of Medical Research, the Disabled, those Chronically and Terminally Ill.

Ms. Wassmuth called the order of the day and concluded the business for the evening.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Assistant Moderator Wassmuth called for announcements. Dale Bishop made the announcements.

7. RECESS

The sixth plenary was recessed with the beginning of worship at 8:35 p.m.

The theme for Monday evening’s worship was “Live Joy.” The sermon was delivered by Rev. Lillian Daniel (CONN), pastor of the Church of the Redeemer, New Haven.

**TUESDAY MORNING, JULY 15, 2003
Seventh Plenary Session**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Moderator Nate Lewis called the seventh plenary session to order at 8:30 a.m.

2. BIBLE STUDY

Dr. Ephraim Agosto, New Testament Professor and Director, Programa de Ministerios Hispanos at Hartford Seminary was Bible Study Leader Tuesday morning. The theme for the day was “Act the Word.”

3. SPEAK OUT!

Assistant Moderator Chris Smith called upon the participants for the Speak Out!

1. Steve Voelko (PW) voiced his feeling that if the United Church of Christ claims to be a faithful people, then another Faith Works! is needed. He suggested that the church not “hide behind financing, but step out in faith to sponsor an event.”
2. Charlotte Phillips (VT) announced that the First United Church of Christ in Cornwall, VT is approaching the 200th anniversary of its church building. She suggested the General Synod honor its older churches in 2005.
3. Hilary Dahlberg (MINN) noted that sexuality is a gift from God and asked why the Pension Boards’ Health Insurance Plan does not pay for oral contraceptives which sends the message that sexual expression is only appropriate for purposes of procreation.
4. Cathy Sherry (PC) expressed concern that the United Church of Christ “identity shirts” were not made in Fair Trade shops and asked that identity products not be made at the expense of others.
5. Lloyd Steffen (PNE) spoke in opposition to the death penalty. He asked that future General Synods be held only in states that do not execute their citizens and he asked for a commitment to make the death penalty an issue of focus in 2005.

6. Dan Hatch (HI) called for the General Synod to remember the history of the United Church of Christ and continue the mandates and reparations.
7. Susan Waldron (CT) announced that the next New England Women's Celebration would be held March 17-19 in Burlington, Vermont.
8. Charles Buck (HI) extended an invitation to have the 2009 General Synod in Hawaii in the new Convention Center.
9. Kim Wells (FLA) extended birthday wishes to Florida Conference Minister, Doug Borko. The assembly sang "Happy Birthday" to Rev. Borko.
10. Zack Lewis (RI) announced that five hundred youth had come to participate in the Twenty-fourth General Synod and that between four and five thousand would participate at the National Youth Event which will be held July 22-26, 2004 in Knoxville, Tennessee.
11. Jennifer Gingras (CONN) called upon participants to support eighteen to thirty-year-olds who are considering ministry. She announced that, currently, only seven percent of pastors are under forty years of age and suggested that young "maybe" ministry groups be brought to the 2005 General Synod.
12. Sue Latourette (CONN) lifted up the ministry of Valerie Tutson, story-teller from Rhode Island.

Assistant Moderator Smith asked that Gail Benson (CANV,S) be held in prayer. Her daughter Kristin, had gone into labor while Gail was at General Synod.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTION RESULTS

Moderator Nate Lewis asked for a moment of prayer for all nominees. The Moderator then announced the results of elections for the

General Synod Nominating Committee Class of 2009:

Lay Persons

Nancy Klingeman - Central Pacific Conference
 Carmen Flores Rance - Illinois Conference
 Carol J. Shipley - Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference

Clergy Persons

Jane L. Ellefson - Nebraska Conference
 Melinda Quellhorst Lacefield - Ohio Conference
 Logologo Sa'au - Pacific Northwest Conference

Clifford Johns - United Black Christians
 Diane Darling - Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns
 Hattie Walker - Council for American Indian Ministry

5. REAFFIRMING THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST'S DENOUNCEMENT OF VIOLENCE AGAINST LESBIAN AND GAY PEOPLE AND CALLING FOR THE INCLUSION OF TRANSGENDER PEOPLE WITHIN THAT ANTIVIOLENCE STATEMENT

Committee Chairperson, Lisa Alston, (SE) moved the adoption of the Resolution "Reaffirming the United Church of Christ's Denouncement of Violence Against Lesbian and Gay People and Calling for the Inclusion of Transgender People Within that Antiviolence Statement." She expressed the support of Committee Six, and stated that transgender people know that Jesus loves them and that it was time they know the United Church of Christ loves them also.

Voice without vote privilege was granted to Rev. Pat Conover, Legislative Director for Public Life and Social Policy, Justice and Witness Ministries. Rev. Conover asked that when this resolution gets taken home, that General Synod participants be welcoming and loving. He reminded the General Synod that transgender persons need to know they are welcome in the local church and that there are resources available for education, if they are needed, from the Coalition for Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Concerns.

There was some discussion about bringing this resolution to more conservative churches than those in California where it originated. Several persons related encouraging stories of people and congregations that had already accepted transgender persons into their communities. Others asked for continued support on this issue.

03-GS-38 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution “Reaffirming the United Church of Christ’s Denouncement of Violence Against Lesbian and Gay People and Calling for the Inclusion of Transgender People Within That Antiviolence Statement.”

REAFFIRMING THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST’S DENOUNCEMENT OF VIOLENCE AGAINST LESBIAN AND GAY PEOPLE AND CALLING FOR THE INCLUSION OF TRANSGENDER PEOPLE WITHIN THAT ANTI-VIOLENCE STATEMENT

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ Council for Christian Social Action first issued a policy statement concerning justice for same gender-oriented people over thirty years ago; and

WHEREAS, the Tenth General Synod in 1975 issued the pronouncement, “Civil Liberties without Discrimination Related to Affectional and Sexual Preference,” and similar national statements have been issued in 1969, 1973, and at every General Synod since 1975; and

WHEREAS, the Seventeenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ issued a pronouncement denouncing violence against lesbian and gay people and called on “all local churches, Associations, Conferences, national agencies, instrumentalities, and other institutions to become aware of the oppressive violence against lesbian and gay people within their jurisdictions and to develop ways to put it to an end;” and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ Executive Council in 1998 called for enactment of the Federal Hate Crimes Prevention Act; and

WHEREAS, violence against transgender men and women has grown significantly; with an average of more than one transgender murder per month across the United States over the past decade and escalating physical and emotional violence and harassment against those who are transgendered; and

WHEREAS, in a 1998 Pastoral Letter to the United Church of Christ, former President Paul Sherry said, “The story of our pilgrimage with our gay, lesbian, and bisexual members at times has been marked by hesitation, fear and frequent failure of nerve.” He continued, “We have sometimes failed to recognize how the Bible has been used by some to perpetuate prejudice and to justify violence against homosexual persons;”

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fourth General Synod denounces the continued proliferation of hate, violence, and prejudice, extending its denouncement of violence to include violence against transgender persons as well as lesbians, gays, and bisexuals; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fourth General Synod calls for an end of any form of hate, violence, and prejudice based on sexual orientation or gender identity, as well as violence and prejudice based on race, nationality, religion, mental or physical disability; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fourth General Synod reaffirms its stand against the use of scripture to generate hatred and the violation of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender persons; and

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fourth General Synod urges churches and church members to take the lead in ending discrimination against lesbians, gays, bisexual, and transgender persons and to actively counter public perceptions that view the Christian community as supporting such discrimination.

Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made with the overall

mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

6. AFFIRMING THE PARTICIPATION AND MINISTRY OF TRANSGENDER PEOPLE WITHIN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND SUPPORTING THEIR CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Committee Six Chairperson, Lisa Alston,(SE) moved the adoption of the resolution “Affirming the Participation and Ministry of Transgender People within the United Church of Christ and Supporting Their Civil and Human Rights.” She then spoke to the resolution. She expressed her feeling that the committee should be the first to say “welcome”, and to give thanks to God that the table is becoming more inclusive. After a brief discussion, the vote was taken.

03-GS-39 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution, “Affirming the Participation and Ministry of Transgender People Within the United Church of Christ and Supporting Their Civil and Human Rights.”

AFFIRMING THE PARTICIPATION AND MINISTRY OF TRANSGENDER PEOPLE WITHIN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND SUPPORTING THEIR CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

WHEREAS, God has brought forth human beings as creatures who are male, female, and sometimes dramatically or subtly a complex mix of male and female in their bodies; and

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

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

WHEREAS, there are numerous biblical affirmations of the goodness of creation and the

love of God for all people, including Genesis 1, Psalm 139, John 1: 1-5, and Acts 10: 34-43; and

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

WHEREAS, transgender and intersexual people are currently offering valuable ministry within the United Church of Christ, both as lay people and as clergy; and

WHEREAS, transgender people are recognized within the constitution of the United Church of Christ as appropriately sharing in the guidance of the national expression of the United Church of Christ (as part of the United Church of Christ Coalition for Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Concerns); and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ in numerous program activities in all expressions of the church has affirmed the positive virtues carried by men within traditional cultures, by women within traditional cultures, while also calling for the transformation of gender roles that are oppressive of men or women, or otherwise not fully reflective of Christian values; and

WHEREAS, Christian transgender people have sometimes experienced rejection and non-acceptance within some expressions of the United Church of Christ and in other expressions of Christ’s Church, and are in need of a welcoming Christian community where they are valued as Christian people, and

WHEREAS, many settings of the United Church of Christ have little understanding of transgender people; of how to meet their needs and make them feel welcome, of how to integrate their gifts and capacities for ministry into the life of the church and of how to integrate them into liturgy and expressions of worship.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT all congregations of the United Church of Christ are encouraged to welcome transgender people

into membership, ministry, and full participation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT all settings of the United Church of Christ are encouraged to learn about the realities of transgender experience and expression, including the gifts and callings and needs of transgender people, and are encouraged to engage in appropriate dialogue with transgender people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Wider Church Ministries and Local Church Ministries are encouraged to develop appropriate resources, in consultation with a representative group of transgender people within the United Church of Christ, to encourage the participation and ministry of transgender people in the life of the church and to prepare individuals and churches to receive such participation and ministry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Justice and Witness Ministries is encouraged to develop a program of education and advocacy, in consultation with a representative group of transgender people within the United Church of Christ, and then to provide leadership in advocating for the human and civil rights of transgender people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a representative group of transgender people within the United Church of Christ shall be invited to report on progress made in regard to participation within the United Church of Christ and the development of education and advocacy concerning civil and human rights by the United Church of Christ, and to make additional suggestions, to the Twenty-fifth General Synod.

Expected Outcomes are: the strengthening of the United Church of Christ through deepening hospitality; the enriching of church life and mission as the ministries of transgender members are encouraged; the increase of righteousness in society as the human and civil rights of transgender persons are addressed.

Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the

overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

**7. OUR COMMON CALLING:
PROVIDING THE RESOURCES FOR THE
EDUCATION OF FUTURE ORDAINED
MINISTERS IN THE UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

Committee One Chairperson, Eliot Howard, moved adoption of the Pronouncement “Our Common Calling Providing the Resources for the Education of Future Ordained Ministers in the United Church of Christ.” Mr. Howard reported overwhelming support for this resolution by the Committee. Members of the Committee spoke in favor of the Pronouncement and raised some concerns.

Two amendments were proposed, but both were defeated.

03-GS-40 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the Pronouncement “Our Common Calling: Providing the Resources for the Education of Future Ordained Ministers in the United Church of Christ.”

**OUR COMMON CALLING PROVIDING
THE RESOURCES FOR THE EDUCATION
OF FUTURE ORDAINED MINISTERS IN
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

SUMMARY

This pronouncement calls on all settings of the United Church of Christ to provide support for the education of ordained leaders through programs to reduce and finally eliminate educational debt for seminary education. This proposal covers United Church of Christ in-care seminarians enrolled in a master of divinity degree program.

BACKGROUND

The issue of the mounting debt of seminary students in our denomination has been of concern to the church since at least 1975. Three previous General Synods have raised the issue as a serious concern through the resolution, “Prevention and Reduction of Seminarians’ Educational Debt,” in 1997 and reports about progress on that resolution in 1999 and 2001.

Also during this period of time two separate surveys have been conducted to determine the level and effect of educational debt on recent seminary graduates in the United Church of Christ. An alarming trend was confirmed by these surveys: the average reported debt incurred by those responding to the survey had risen from \$19,578.00 in 1998 to nearly \$30,000 in 2001. A task force representing various settings of the church as well as recent seminary graduates has been exploring since January 2002 ways to reduce and eliminate educational debt for seminary education. This proposal for action grows out of their work and the work of previous task forces. In order to meet this debt reduction and elimination goal, the task force estimates that three million dollars will be needed annually from the combined efforts of all sources: local congregations, associations and conferences, seminaries, and the national offices. An endowment of sixty million dollars would be needed to meet this need.

DIRECTIONAL STATEMENT

This pronouncement calls for all settings of the United Church of Christ to take greater responsibility for the theological education of future ordained leaders by helping to reduce and eliminate debt incurred as a result of theological education. It requests the Financial Development Ministry Team of the Office of General Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ) to oversee a major fund raising effort to create an endowment that moves toward the goal of providing need-based grants up to the value of one hundred percent of tuition for United Church of Christ in-care seminarians attending an approved seminary. Further, each setting of the church is requested to take specific action to support the goal of seminarians finishing their education unencumbered by debt and new pastors being assisted with a reduction in their educational debt.

We recognize that tuition is only a portion of the total cost for seminary education. Other costs include room and board, books, health insurance, transportation, supplies, and basic living expenses for the student and his or her family. Because this is so, our intention is to close the gap between the total costs of seminary

education and non-loan student resources by providing grants up to the value of one hundred percent of the cost of tuition. For instance if the annual tuition cost for a student is \$8,000 and the other expenses total \$10,000, then the total costs are \$18,000. If that same student has \$6,000 to contribute out of their savings, the unmet need for that student is \$12,000. Our intention is to provide up to the value of the cost of tuition based on the student's unmet need. In this example a grant of up to \$8000 would be awarded, leaving an unmet need of \$4,000. We call on other settings of the church - local congregations, associations, conferences, and seminaries to help with those additional unmet costs.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Twenty-fourth General Synod calls on the Financial Development Ministry Team of the Office of General Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ), in cooperation with Local Church Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ), to oversee a major fund raising effort to move toward the establishment of an endowment sufficient to support United Church of Christ in-care seminarians attending approved seminaries up to the equivalent of one hundred percent of their demonstrated tuition need. The first step of this effort will be a feasibility study to determine both a concrete monetary goal and the best method to reach our goal.

The twenty-fourth General Synod further calls on the Parish Life and Leadership ministry team of Local Church Ministries, in direct consultation with the Council for Theological Education, to determine criteria by which a seminary might qualify to receive money from the above named endowment for tuition costs of United Church of Christ in-care seminarians. The criteria would include a plan for how the seminary supports United Church of Christ students' formation in their denominational history and identity.

Further, Parish Life and Leadership is requested to develop resources to:

- assist Local Churches to understand the process of training and education for clergy, as well as how local churches can identify, nurture, and support future ordained leadership
- assist local congregations, conferences, and associations to understand and adopt programs of debt reduction for new pastors and to understand the tax implications of such programs
- assist pastors to engage in financial planning, taking account of the realities of average salary figures for United Church of Christ pastors in their first few years of ministry

The Twenty-fourth General Synod calls on the Evangelism Ministry Team of Local Church Ministries to find ways to provide for the reduction and elimination of debt for pastors in new church starts and those serving emerging racial and ethnic congregations.

The Twenty-fourth General Synod requests Justice and Witness Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ) to advocate for need-based financial aid that relies on grants rather than loans or tax breaks at the state and national level and reducing the interest rate on existing and future loans.

Further, the Twenty-fourth General Synod calls on Local Church Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ) to review all existing endowments to determine if there are unrestricted funds that might be reallocated for seminary education.

The Twenty-fourth General Synod calls on the Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ (an Affiliated Ministry of the United Church of Christ) in cooperation with Local Church Ministries to over-see a study of the feasibility for providing financial support that allows In-Care seminarians enrolled in an approved seminary to participate in the health benefits plan of the United Church of Christ.

The Twenty-fourth General Synod calls on associations and conferences to:

- make more scholarship money available to In-Care students
- require financial counseling as a condition for In-Care status
- provide accurate information to In-Care students about average salaries of new pastors
- adopt innovative incentive programs of debt reduction for new pastors

The Twenty-fourth General Synod calls on the seminaries of the United Church of Christ and the historically related seminaries to:

- require and provide financial planning as a requirement for enrollment
- provide counseling and intervention in the case of students who surpass the school's debt threshold
- make every effort to continue to restrain the cost of seminary education to seminarians
- increase non-loan financial aid

The Twenty-fourth General Synod calls on local congregations to:

- become educated about the ways in which a pastor is equipped to serve a local church and the communal nature of the responsibility for that preparation
- understand the task of identifying, nurturing, and supporting future pastoral leaders to be a part of the vocation of a local church
- set up innovative compensation packages for pastors carrying a heavy burden of educational debt

- identify and support at least one United Church of Christ seminary student in an “adopt-a-seminarian” or “each one fund one” program.
- provide internship stipends beyond basic living expenses that would enable students to pay down accumulated educational debt

The Twenty-fourth General Synod calls on the beneficiary of the financial aid (student) to demonstrate commitment to the United Church of Christ by finishing his or her education and to serve as an authorized minister of the United Church of Christ for a period of not less than five years. If the beneficiary is not able to fulfill his or her commitment, the financial aid shall be repaid to the provider of the funds.

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

8. YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Committee One Chairperson, Eliot Howard, moved the adoption of the Resolution “Young Adult Ministries in the United Church of Christ.” After a brief statement of support, the vote was taken.

03-GS-41 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution “Young Adult Ministries in the United Church of Christ.”

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WHEREAS, historically and currently, young adults have been called to and have provided significant leadership in the growth and shaping of the church; and

WHEREAS, many young adults have been nurtured and strengthened through strong youth ministries and are seeking ways to serve the church faithfully; and

WHEREAS, a gap exists between youth and young adult ministries in that ministries with

youth are stronger, better established, and have better financial support than young adult programming; and

WHEREAS, many young adults are now expressing a feeling of disconnection from the church and each other; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ acknowledges and proclaims that Young Adult Ministries is not merely a branch or an outreach of the church, but is an essential, driving life force that is in serious need of direction, resources, time, and energy in all settings of the United Church of Christ, in order to avoid stagnation and to be faithful to the claims of the gospel to go into all the world.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the body of this General Synod of the United Church of Christ reaffirms its dedication to the development and support of young adult leadership and opportunities for spiritual growth;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that steps be taken, including the development of a national young adult event specifically for the United Church of Christ, to extend leadership opportunities to young adults and to further promote the building of today and tomorrow’s leaders;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local churches are encouraged to develop Young Adult Ministry programs including, but not limited to, maintaining contact with young adults who are in college, seminary or serving in the armed forces, and establishing relationships and ministering with young adults in the community, especially if they are located within or near a college community. Such programs may include providing transportation to church, providing opportunities for community service, or a place to explore meaningful questions about their faith and life in an encouraging and nurturing environment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that conferences and/or associations are encouraged to establish councils or other bodies to plan and implement programming for young adults, provide support

for developing and nurturing programs within the conference or association, and to serve as a liaison between the national, conference, and local settings of the church.

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that the national setting of the United Church of Christ evaluate staffing patterns, provision of resources, and development of models, programs and resources to provide for the strengthening of ministry with young adults, recognizing their distinct and varied needs and gifts within the church.

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementing bodies include all settings of the United Church of Christ (local churches, agencies, and ministries; Associations and Conferences; and national offices) with the primary responsibility placed with Local Church Ministries in consultation with the Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Subject to the availability of funds.

9. SUPPORT OF CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA, AND CITIZENS OF COMMUNITIES LIVING NEAR CHEMICAL WEAPONS STOCKPILES

The Chairperson of Committee Sixteen, Anton Krinshaw, moved the adoption of the resolution and briefly spoke to it. Committee member, Pamela Cheney (OH) also spoke to the resolution.

03-GS-42 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution “Support of Calhoun County, Alabama, and Citizens of Communities Living Near Chemical Weapons Stockpiles.”

SUPPORT OF CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA, AND CITIZENS OF COMMUNITIES LIVING NEAR CHEMICAL WEAPONS STOCKPILES

WHEREAS the U.S. stockpile of lethal chemical weapons must be destroyed, as mandated by Congress and through the Chemical Weapons Convention;

WHEREAS Congress directed the U.S. Army to destroy these chemical weapons while providing

“maximum protection” to workers and citizens throughout the weapons destruction process;

WHEREAS the Army’s initial proposed method of weapons disposal was incineration, without consideration of the health consequences of incineration emissions;

WHEREAS incinerators of all kinds emit large amounts of contaminated gasses into the air, containing a number of toxic compounds that are irrefutably linked directly to cancer, birth defects, reproductive disorders, developmental delay, and many other chronic illnesses;

WHEREAS hazardous waste incinerators, landfills and other polluting industry are located near communities of color and low-income populations;

WHEREAS the list of common incinerator emissions – dioxins, furans, PCBs, mercury, lead, and other persistent pollutants – are also emitted from chemical weapons incinerators;

WHEREAS the Army’s chemical weapons incinerators also emit chemical agents into the environment, through the smokestack, via contaminated materials, and via chemical agent which may still be present in secondary wastes;

WHEREAS technologies demonstrated by the Department of Defense through its Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment (ACWA) Program can destroy chemical agents at low temperature and pressure, in a system that contains chemical agents and other toxics without any uncontrolled releases of these toxics into the environment;

WHEREAS these safe technologies are now being used, or will soon be used to destroy chemical weapons stockpiles in Indiana, Maryland, Colorado and Kentucky;

WHEREAS there is unanimous support for these safer technologies from local citizens as well as from local, state and federal elected officials and government agencies;

WHEREAS the communities living near chemical weapons stockpile sites in Utah, Oregon, Alabama and Arkansas are already overburdened with contamination from nuclear weapons testing and storage, industrial processes that have dumped high levels of dioxins, PCBs and heavy metals into the air, soil and water;

WHEREAS the United States Army and state governments' preferred weapons disposal technology for those stockpiles is incineration, despite the fact that safer technologies are being used elsewhere;

WHEREAS the risks associated with incineration – including toxic smokestack emissions and unsafe worker conditions – are not acceptable if they are avoidable;

WHEREAS preventing the use of safer technologies in disproportionately impacted communities in Utah, Oregon, Alabama and Arkansas violates the Principles of Environmental Justice.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-fourth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourage state and local governments to continue seeking safe disposal of proscribed chemicals and chemical weapons in their regions, and calls on the Department of the Army and the Department of Defense to suspend the incineration of chemical weapons, and begin immediately to replace hazardous incinerators with safer non-incineration technology.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ and the Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ in consultation with the appropriate conference ministers express the Twenty-fourth General Synod's opposition to the use of incineration technology in Calhoun, County, Alabama and other communities designated as incineration sites, by contacting the appropriate governmental agencies and representatives.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT we prayerfully request the United States Department of Defense implement a decision-making

dialogue that allows citizens living near all chemical weapons stockpile sites direct involvement in the process of choosing an acceptable technology to replace the incinerators.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Twenty-fourth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests that Justice and Witness Ministries recommend specific actions and encourage local congregations, associations and conferences to follow up on these actions in support of this resolution.

10. TRANSFORMING THE CHURCH HOUSE

Chairperson Krinshaw, speaking for Committee Sixteen, after moving the adoption of the resolution "Transforming the Church House," recommended a "No" vote.

After some discussion, Rev. Robert Lee (VT) moved a substitute motion to refer the resolution "Transforming the Church House" to the Executive Council for consideration by the Affirmative Action Formulation Committee and the Restructure Evaluation Oversight Committee, and that the Executive Council report its findings to the Twenty-fifth General Synod and that all employee terminations continue to be vigorously reviewed by the Affirmative Action and Diversity Initiative Minister to ensure that the rights of each individual are respected and upheld.

03-GS-43 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod refers the resolution, "Transforming Church House" to the Executive Council for consideration by the Affirmative Action Formulation Committee and the Restructure Evaluation Oversight Committee, and that the Executive Council report its findings to the Twenty-fifth General Synod and that all employee terminations continue to be vigorously reviewed by the Affirmative Action and Diversity Initiative Minister to ensure that the rights of each individual are respected and upheld.

TRANSFORMING THE CHURCH HOUSE

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ is committed to justice, affirmative action, and equal opportunity for all; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ General Synods have passed resolutions and pronouncements encouraging all settings of the church to act on behalf of justice and fairness for all; and

WHEREAS, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ has declared the national setting of the church to be an affirmative action employer; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is to help our beloved denomination move from the church house model, which is perceived as the secular corporate model, to God's house, which is perceived as a place where justice, affirmative action, and equal opportunity employment is the justice culture; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is to help find ways in which the perceived reduction in force and voluntary resignations of staff is no longer disproportionately borne by people of color; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ is called on to show compassion to our national church staff and to equalize the racial percentage of workforce reductions; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ is called on, through the Office of the General Minister and President, that any termination or downsizing of positions due to budgetary shortfalls shall come only as an absolute last resort, resulting only after alternative avenues are exhausted, which shall include all classes of positions sharing equally and proportionately the burden of budgetary shortfalls.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Minister for Affirmative Action and Diversity Initiatives should be administratively and programmatically responsible to the Executive Committee of the Executive Council through the chairperson of the Executive Council.

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

11. COMMUNITY BUILDING

Christopher Grundy, David Holden, and Andrew Loftus from the sound crew led the General Synod in a time of community building.

12. SEEKING THE MIND OF CHRIST ON ISSUES OF PEACE AND JUSTICE IN PUBLIC POLICY

Committee Nine Chair, Angel Toro (LCM), thanked the trainers of the committee chairs, the youth leaders, recorders, timekeepers, technical support persons and Office of General Ministries staff for their work. He then moved the adoption of the resolution "Seeking the Mind of Christ on Issues of Peace and Justice in Public Policy." Mr. Toro reported the Committee recommended the resolution be defeated, indicating there was lack of clarity. Committee members yearned to dialogue with the presenters, but were frustrated and disadvantaged because the presenters were not present for the duration of the discussion. Many issues, therefore, could not be addressed.

During discussion Wendy Vanderheart (MA), a member of the Committee reported the Committee members anguished over the resolution, finding that the proponent vacated the hearing shortly after the initial presentation.

After discussion, the vote was taken and the resolution "Seeking the Mind of Christ on Issues of Peace and Justice in Public Policy" was defeated.

13. INTEGRITY IN DIVERSITY

Committee Nine Chair Toro continued by moving the adoption of the next resolution "Integrity in Diversity." The committee recommended defeat of the resolution. Again, the presenter was not present for the entirety of discussion. A significant number of Committee members wanted to work in a spirit of reconciliation. Valid points were made in the resolution, but there was inadequate feedback from the presenters. Committee members acknowledged that theological diversity should be welcome in our church.

An amendment was presented and defeated.

Following discussion and a report again that the proponent of the resolution did not remain in the Committee meeting to answer questions, the vote was taken and the resolution was defeated.

Jason Henderson (LCM) asked a question regarding “point of order.” Assistant Moderator Smith noted that Point of Order took precedence over a motion. The Point of Order must come when the action is happening and the specific infraction must be named.

Assistant Moderator Smith then asked that the General Synod pause for a moment. A prayer was offered.

The Massachusetts Conference announced they had agreed to take responsibility for the health of the denomination. They recognized that true Christian discipleship had a cost. This delegation will advocate in the local churches and give graciously of their time. They announced they had raised \$11,442 in cash and pledges for Our Church’s Wider Mission. They challenged others to radical action in support of the United Church of Christ.

The Northern California/Nevada Conference also took up a collection and collected \$3350 for Our Church’s Wider Mission.

14. CALLING THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO BE AN ANTI-RACIST CHURCH

Josephine McNeil,(MASS), Chair of Committee Twelve, presented an amended resolution “Calling the United Church of Christ to be an Anti-racist Church.” The committee recommended adoption as amended. A proposed amendment from the floor was defeated.

03-GS-44 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution “Calling the United Church of Christ to be an Anti-racist Church.”

Bernice Powell Jackson asked to speak to this resolution and announced that she and John Thomas would be seeing the editor of the

Minneapolis newspaper regarding logos using Native American caricatures.

CALLING THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO BE AN ANTI-RACIST CHURCH

WHEREAS, racism is rooted in a belief of the superiority of whiteness and bestows benefits, unearned rights, rewards, opportunities, advantages, access, and privilege on Europeans and European descendants; and

WHEREAS, the reactions of people of color to racism are internalized through destructive patterns of feelings and behaviors impacting their physical, emotional, and mental health and their spiritual and familial relationships; and

WHEREAS, through institutionalized racism, laws, customs, traditions, and practices systemically foster inequalities; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance affirmed that racism has historically through imperialism and colonization created an unequal world order and power balance with present global implications impacting governments, systems, and institutions; and

WHEREAS, the denomination has shown leadership among many United Church of Christ conferences, associations, and local congregations by initiating innovative anti-racism programs, by developing anti-racism facilitators, and in general have made dismantling racism a priority, there is still much to be done. As we continue in this effort, the work we do must reflect the historical and present experiences and stories of all peoples impacted by racism. We must work from a paradigm reflective of the historical relationships of racial and ethnic groups and racial oppression within the United Church of Christ and society; and

WHEREAS, the United States finds itself in increased racial unrest during this period after the tragedy of September 11, 2001. New studies

show that hate crimes and blatant acts of racial violence doubled in number during the last half of 2002 and are continuing to rise. These outward acts, combined with continued institutional racism, emphasize the need for anti-racism mobilization within church and society as we seek to do justice; and

WHEREAS, there are growing movements of peace that have people of all races, backgrounds, and ages involved, urging us to expand our knowledge of what racism is and study its ramifications on all people; and

WHEREAS, General Synods of the United Church of Christ have, since 1963, voted eleven resolutions, statements, and pronouncements denouncing racism, and it is time to honor mandates and expectations of this body and of the church.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the United Church of Christ is called to be an anti-racist church and that we encourage all Conferences and Associations and local churches of the United Church of Christ to adopt anti-racism mandates, including policy that encourages anti-racism *programs* for all United Church of Christ staff and volunteers; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that Conferences and Associations and local churches facilitate programs within their churches that would examine both historic and contemporary forms of racism and its effects and that the programs be made available to the churches; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that Justice and Witness Ministries provides leadership in the development and implementation of programs to dismantle racism, working in partnership with the Collegium, Covenanted Ministries, Affiliated Ministries, Associated Ministries, Conferences, Associations and local churches in developing appropriately trained anti-racism facilitators; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Covenanted Ministries of the United Church of Christ work in concert to dismantle racism in

church and in society and partner with Conferences and Associations in sharing resources and costs associated with doing anti-racism work.

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Justice and Witness Ministries will report the progress of the development and implementation of these programs at the Twenty-fifth General Synod.

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

15. CONFRONTING RACISM AND MILITARISM IN U.S. DRUG POLICY

Ms. McNeil presented the resolution “Confronting Racism and Militarism in U. S. Drug Policy” for Committee Twelve and moved its adoption. After a brief discussion, the vote was taken.

03-GS-45 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution “Confronting Racism and Militarism in U.S. Drug Policy.”

CONFRONTING RACISM AND MILITARISM IN U.S. DRUG POLICY

WHEREAS, racism and militarism continue to exacerbate rather than heal the problem of drug abuse and its impact on all of our communities; and

WHEREAS, the emphasis of the United States war on drugs continues to be placed on the production and supply of illegal substances rather than focusing on the demand for drugs in our own land; and

WHEREAS, according to federal statistics, 72 percent of all users of illegal drugs are white, 15 percent are African American, and 10 percent are Hispanic; however, African Americans constitute 36.8 percent of those arrested for drug violations and over 42 percent of those in federal prisons for drug violations. African Americans, Latino and Latina Americans, Asian Americans, and American Indians account for nearly 80

percent of those in state prisons for drug felonies; and

WHEREAS, the justice system is racially biased and includes racial profiling, prosecutorial discretion, gross disparities in sentencing, and mandatory minimums that unfairly offer privilege to white offenders while resulting in harsher penalties for people of color and greater hardships for their families; and

WHEREAS, the war on drugs has been especially harmful to American Indians on tribal lands who are subject to federal, not state, laws, and those arrested for even minor drug offenses must be processed through the federal court system, meaning that American Indians now comprise almost two-thirds of those prosecuted for criminal offenses in federal courts; and

WHEREAS, the poor and people of color in the United States and those who live in poor nations are the ones who are continually stigmatized in media and culture as the reason for our nation's drug problems, despite empirical data that proves otherwise; and

WHEREAS, U.S. drug policy has been approached primarily as a law enforcement issue that has resulted in record arrests and incarcerations, while continuing to neglect the growing need for accessible and affordable medical treatment for drug users; and

WHEREAS, the chronic number of middle-class and wealthy white persons who are self-medicating through the use of illegal drugs underscores the spiritual aridity and emotional disease in our culture; and

WHEREAS, two-thirds of the federal drug control budget now funds interdiction and law-enforcement programs, while treatment, prevention, research, and education divide the remaining federal dollars; and

WHEREAS, more than half of those who request drug treatment services are denied access due to space limitations or high costs; and

WHEREAS, U.S. State Department figures show coca production increasing in Colombia by two hundred sixty-eight percent since large-scale spraying started in 1995, and for every acre of coca eradicated in southern Colombia, three acres of Amazon rain forest are cut down to replace them; and

WHEREAS, gross economic disparities in our nation and around the world are the root cause of illicit drug sales, and eradication efforts have led to an increased militarized U.S. presence in Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of U.S. aid comes in the form of military assistance rather than economic aid, and we can observe an increased level of global violence as well as economic and environmental devastation related to the drug trade; and

WHEREAS, according to a 1994 study by the Rand Corporation, coca and poppy crop eradication is the least effective method for controlling drug supply, while treatment and prevention have been shown to be twenty-three times more cost effective than source country eradication. Nonetheless, in 2003 forced aerial eradication of coca and poppy crops continues to be the major thrust of the U.S. drug policy in Colombia and throughout the Andes region, which only leads to greater levels of hunger, poverty, and environmental destruction.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fourth General Synod urges the federal government to:

1. Shift its emphasis from a law enforcement paradigm in favor a policy that treats drug use as a health problem with social and economic implications.
2. Eliminate racial disparities in U.S. drug laws, such as unequal sentencing for possession of crack cocaine and powder cocaine.

- 3 . Improve the accessibility and affordability of drug treatment programs and related health services.
4. Reduce the use of incarceration for those involved in minor offenses, but instead offer medical treatment and/or alternatives to incarceration for first-time, non-violent offenders.
- 5 . Invest in young people through increased funding for after-school programs, mentor programs, skills building, job training, and summer employment programs.
6. Place renewed emphasis on economic aid rather than military assistance to other nations; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fourth General Synod urges the federal government to reevaluate international eradication efforts, which have not proven effective. The focus should instead be placed on economic development programs in other nations and decreasing the demand for drugs in the United States; and

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fourth General Synod calls on all settings of the church, through the leadership of Justice and Witness Ministries in cooperation with the other covenanted, affiliated and associated ministries, conferences, and associations, to:

1. Advocate for the elimination of racial bias in drug sentencing, such as disparate sentencing and mandatory minimums.
2. Advocate for alternatives to incarceration for first-time, nonviolent offenders.
3. Call for adequate funding for health care-based drug treatment programs in every community.
4. Support efforts in every community to treat drug abuse primarily as a public

health problem rather than a law enforcement problem.

- 5 .Support economic development alternatives to the current U.S.-backed Plan Colombia, which primarily invests in militarized campaigns to eradicate coca plants in Colombia and the Andes region through aerial fumigation.

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

16. CALLING ON THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO RENEW THE BATTLE AGAINST RACISM IN ALL ITS GUISES

Committee Twelve Chair McNeil moved the adoption of the resolution “Calling on the United Church of Christ to Renew the Battle Against Racism in All Its Guises.” After a brief discussion the vote was taken.

03-GS-46 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution “Calling on the United Church of Christ to Renew Battle Against Racism in all its Guises.”

RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO RENEW THE BATTLE AGAINST RACISM IN ALL OF ITS GUISES

WHEREAS, the Bible, from its first chapter (Genesis 1:27) to its last book (Revelations 7:9) speaks of one people without reference to race and indeed explicitly stresses our common roots, noting that “from one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth” (Acts: 17:26); and

WHEREAS, racism, particularly subtle racism, which Marian Anderson characterized as a “hair caught in an eyelash,” never seen, but inescapable, is nonetheless practiced and experienced by large segments of our society; and

WHEREAS, the practice of exclusion is sometimes reflected in our churches, which,

having been historically separate, all too often have remained so comfortably white congregations, black congregations, Hispanic, and Asian—congregations in all the colors of the rainbow, but no single one of which can ever *be* the rainbow; and

WHEREAS, we are instructed in Hebrews 10:24-25 to “consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another...” and

WHEREAS, Paul, the prisoner, did not urge a life of ease and comfort when he framed one of his many pleas for unity: “I beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.” (Ephesians 4:1-6); and

WHEREAS, churches look for leadership from its ordained pastors and the pastors call on their members to “be imitators of God,” (Ephesians 5:1) and God calls on us all to be “the light of the world,” (Matthew 5:14,16); and

WHEREAS, there are many warnings of the peril of delay in both Old and New Testaments, among them Peter’s: “It is time for judgment to begin with the family of God, and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?” (I Peter 4:17); and finally,

WHEREAS, we have as our authority the powerfully simple answer of Jesus to the query as to the greatest commandment, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” (Matthew 22:37-40).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that each attendee shall be encouraged to renew his or her personal battle against racism in its more subtle forms, drawing upon the strength of God and our gathered community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United Churches of Christ affirm and advocate a renewed battle against the divisive effects of racism in society by joining interfaith councils where they exist and act to create such organizations where they are lacking; and through dialogue among such groups and within local churches, the United Church of Christ shall take up the challenge of unity, to truly “be as one” (John 17:20-24); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that with Peter’s cautionary note ringing in our ears, (I Peter 4:17) and emulating Mark’s passion for “immediately,” may we hasten back to our individual churches intent on reaching out to communities unlike our own, that we strive to forge new bonds, and foster a keener discernment of the wily, hidden face of racism; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the delegates of this Twenty-fourth General Synod will covenant to speak out the truth in order to re-energize “the tireless efforts and persistent work in their own area of worship, and become co-workers with Christ,” (Martin Luther King, Jr. in *Why We Can’t Wait*) socially marching in the light of God.

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

17. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Edith Guffey announced that the Montana/Northern Wyoming Conference had raised \$2500 at their table for Our Church’s Wider Mission. The large “com,unity” signs are available for rent through the Proclamation, Identity and Communication Ministry Team. Tapes of sermons will also be made available

through the Proclamation, Identity and Communication Team.

The offerings collected at worship totaled:
Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery \$10,527
Jeffrey Radford Fund \$6,148
Joint Religious Legislative Coalition/Church World Service Africa Initiative \$11,242
An additional \$16,661 has been collected for Our Church's Wider Mission. (Collections for pictures with Dale Bishop totaled \$0!!!)

The seventh plenary ended at 12:00 noon.

**Tuesday July 15, 2003 - 2:30 PM
Eighth Plenary Session**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Assistant Moderator Wassmuth called the final plenary of the Twenty-fourth General Synod to order at 2:30 p.m.

2. SPEAK OUT!

Ms. Wassmuth directed the delegates' attention to the final Speak Out! presentations.

1. LiErin Probasco (RI) praised the Strengthen the Church Offering because 10% of the funds go to youth and young adult ministries.
2. Adrian Maxey (CAIM) apologized to the delegates and particularly to the parliamentarian for his frustrations with Robert's Rules of Order. In spite of the rules, Mr. Maxey stated that all voices need to be heard.
3. Sarah Frazer (PNW) requested that the Collegium begin implementation of young adult ministries outlined in the resolution.
4. Susan Henderson (NH) shared with delegates that the Episcopalian Church will be meeting later this month. What is notable is if elected by the Dioceses, the Rev. Gene Robinson would be the first openly gay Bishop elected by the Episcopalian Church.

5. Melissa Morton (CYYAM) announced the election results for the Council on Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

New England Region: Emmanuel Balogun,
Brian Merrill, April Lau
Mid Atlantic Region: Molly Clauhs, Heather Koch, Wilson Rivera, Rebecca Chrystal
Great Lakes Region: Betsy Remp, David Bucksten, Kyle Minnis
Southern Region: Ellen Green, Helena Burnett, Kristen Sroczyński
West Central Region: Caroline Rendon, Chasity Meidinger, Andrew Goedeken
Western Region: Siri Smillie, Ali Lajoie, Robbie Gilchrist, Matt Savala
Council for American Indian Ministry:
Marcus Lewis
Council for Hispanic Ministries: Joel Agosto
Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries:
Christina Ielu
United Black Christians: Artesia Thomas
Coalition for Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Concerns: Kyle Tade

6. David Claypool (RM) read a poem about Dale Bishop's ministry.
7. Baron Barley (PC) introduced Rev. Eubal Frost, Moderator of the Pennsylvania Central Conference, who expressed appreciation and invited delegates to celebrate Rev. Lyle Weibel's ministry upon the occasion of his retirement.
8. Gloria Little (MN) spoke about the need for affordable housing.
9. Tony Lewis (CA NV, N) alerted delegates to a resource available on transgender issues through New Wineskin Press online at www.newwineskinspress.com.
10. Jackie Smith (SW) spoke about border and justice issues for those who cross our southern borders.
11. Heather Iriye (SW) expressed appreciation to all those persons in the background who help make General Synod function effectively. She asked volunteers to stand.

Delegates responded with a warm round of applause.

12. Lewis Blue Coat (CAIM) celebrated the establishment and support of the Eagle Butt Learning Center to improve the quality of life for native Americans.
13. Ken Fuller (CAC) invited delegates to explore the possibility of sending their pastor to the Holy Land free through the efforts of Christian Masons.
14. John Corbin (OH) urged General Synod to increase the time allowed for Youth and Young Adult Ministries issues.

At the conclusion of the Speak Out! presentations, Ms. Wassmuth thanked all the Speak Out! participants and the Rev. Dick Sparrow for his work as Speak Out! Coordinator.

3. RECOGNITION OF STAFF OF THE NATIONAL OFFICES

Assistant Moderator Wassmuth called all staff from the National Offices to the stage to prolonged warm applause and a standing ovation. Ms. Wassmuth declared that “These are the folks who make our church tick!”

4. POINTS OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. Jason Henderson (LCM) expressed appreciation to all who ran the stage, and especially to the Parliamentarian “who treated me like family.”

Ms. Stephanie Temple and Ms. Jane Matthews (PC) spoke to the issues of ageism in being denied the opportunity to speak during the Youth and Young Adult Ministries resolution.

5. A THEOLOGICAL RESPONSE TO CORPORATE GREED

Ms. Wassmuth called on Mr. Steve Ito (WCM), Chairperson of Committee Five. Mr. Ito moved the adoption of the resolution “A Theological Response to Corporate Greed.”

Mr. Ito noted corrections and amendments to the original resolution. The typographical correction

was on Page 191, column 2, line 20: “justice’ should read “injustice.” The amendment was to add after inclusion #11 an additional “#12. Seek and support ecumenical and interfaith partners in the implementation of this Resolution.”

03-GS-47 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution “A Theological Response to Corporate Greed.”

A THEOLOGICAL RESPONSE TO CORPORATE GREED

WHEREAS, General Synods of the United Church of Christ have historically relied on government regulation to protect the common good (“Resolution Affirming Government’s Role to Protect the Common Good,” The Twenty-first General Synod); and

WHEREAS, General Synods of the United Church have repeatedly called for just economic practices of companies (“Christian Faith and Economic Justice,” The Seventeenth General Synod; “Ethical Guidelines in Labor Relations,” The Twentieth General Synod); and

WHEREAS, it is a known practice of many companies to stretch accounting practices beyond legal bounds and sound business principles in order to boost profits and inflate stock prices; and

WHEREAS, many members of corporate boards of directors have received special multimillion-dollar, low-interest loans, special consulting contracts, and other benefits, while failing to properly oversee the business practices of their firms; and

WHEREAS, many corporate insiders buy and sell stock based on confidential information not available to the general public, reaping large gains while minimizing losses, even though it is often illegal to do so; and

WHEREAS, it has been the practice of many securities firms to provide biased investment advice to clients to boost sales of the stocks they are selling through their investment banking division; and

WHEREAS, several energy firms manipulated the newly deregulated markets for electricity to bilk customers of billions of dollars, while banks made loans to shore up shaky companies and then helped firms conceal the true size of their corporate debt and the risk to shareholders; and

WHEREAS, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), which was created after the 1929 stock market crash to protect investors and maintain the integrity of the stock market, has been weakened by decades of under-funding and deregulation; and

WHEREAS, President Bush, in the FY2004 budget, has proposed increasing funding for SEC enforcement, but not at a level adequate to maintain federal regulatory practices severely weakened by budget cuts in the past; and

WHEREAS, many companies have pursued a business model in which the primary purpose of a corporation is to benefit a small, select group of board and management insiders; and

WHEREAS, some public companies have adopted weak corporate governance practices, leading to undemocratic practices, in which boards of directors and key committees of the board are not independent and operate in isolation of other key stake-holders; and

WHEREAS, the social vision of corporations is often limited to a single-minded focus on maximizing short-term gains to the exclusion of all other business goals and responsibilities.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fourth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on local congregations, associations, conferences, and the national settings of the church, as well as interest groups and institutions related to the United Church of Christ, to support the following measures that will lead to a higher standard of corporate behavior and stronger pension protections for workers, retirees, and future generations:

1. Support legislation that makes it easier for workers to diversify holdings in a company-provided 401(k) plan and that

lifts restrictions on when employees can sell company stock.

2. Support legislation that would lead to just pension reform. This would include strengthening the three legs of retirement security – Social Security, employer-provided defined benefit plans (traditional pension), and employee retirement savings accounts 401(k). Oppose proposed legislation that makes it easier for companies to convert traditional defined benefit plans into simple savings plans.
3. Seek additional funding for the Security Exchange Commission, and seek SEC reforms that would include more stringent regulation of accounting and other corporate behavior, stiffer penalties, stronger authority and oversight through federal regulatory agencies, and more vigorous auditing reforms.
4. Support the licensing challenge of OC Inc. (Office of Communications, Inc.) at the Federal Communications Commission, which has called into question the legitimacy of the post-bankruptcy WorldCom's operations by citing its past history of operating outside the public good.
5. Support United Church of Christ members who work for corporate accountability with their employer and who seek a business model in which a corporation exists to benefit all its stakeholders (employees, communities, the environment, all shareholders, and the public). Support all management and workers for whom corporate social responsibility is just as important a value as corporate profitability.
6. Support legislation requiring companies to expense stock options, seek stricter laws to regulating sales of stock by directors, and advocate for policies that

will decouple executive compensation from stock options and stock price.

7. Support 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.
8. Seek legislation that will overhaul accounting standards.
9. Seek to extend campaign finance reform beyond the Shays-Meehan Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act of 2002, and help congregations participate in national discussions on democracy to stem corporate influence in Washington, D.C.
10. Lift up existing Humphrey-Hawkins legislation requiring full employment and advocate for unemployment compensation reform that will provide higher and more lengthy benefit levels to a larger share of workers. Promote measures that will help transition workers who have been laid off in the current wave of corporate mismanagement and fraud.
11. Seek legislation to adequately fund the Federal Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, which is dangerously close to running out of money as the federal government has been called on to bail out unfunded pension commitments of bankrupt companies.
12. Seek and support ecumenical and interfaith partners in the implementation of this Resolution.

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

6. TO EXPLORE THE IMPLICATIONS OF DIETARY CHOICES AND ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

Ms. Wassmuth called on Mr. Ito for introduction of the second resolution, "To Explore The Implications of Dietary Choices and Animal Agriculture."

Mr. Ito noted the change in the title of the resolution to "To Explore the Implications of our Dietary Choices." Mr. Ito moved to refer to the Executive Council the resolution "To Explore the Implications of our Dietary Choices."

03-GS-48 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod refers the resolution "To Explore the Implications of our Dietary Choices" to the Executive Council.

TO EXPLORE THE IMPLICATIONS OF OUR DIETARY CHOICES

WHEREAS, our bodies are God-given gifts that should be directed at glorifying and magnifying God, and Paul said, "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own?" (1 Corinthians 6:19, NRSV), unhealthy diets predispose to a wide range of diseases; for example, diets heavily laden with meat and other animal products are associated with substantially higher risks of heart disease, obesity, diabetes, arthritis, and certain cancers (*Journal of the American Dietetic Association* 97 (1997), 1317-21). Doctors often encourage their cardiac patients to eat less cholesterol and saturated fat, and healthful nutrition earlier in life would help prevent coronary artery disease and other conditions. Since some fad diets are unhealthy, nutritional education should accompany any recommendations to change dietary habits; and

WHEREAS, Jesus said "For I was hungry and you gave me food . . . as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:35, 40, NRSV), yet 1.1 billion people are underfed and malnourished and tens of millions (mostly children) die of malnutrition-related diseases annually (*Worldwatch* Paper 150 [Worldwatch

Institute, 2000]). While world hunger is a complex economic, social, and political problem that our dietary choices alone will not eradicate and while grazing in some lands unsuitable for growing crops can increase food production, contemporary production of animal foods aggravates world hunger because crop lands dedicated to animal grains could readily produce food for human consumption. Converting grains to meat wastes the majority of grains' proteins and calories and all of grains' carbohydrates and fiber. In 1998, thirty-seven percent of the world's grain harvest was fed to animals for human consumption, and in the United States this figure was sixty-six percent (World Resources Institute <www.igc.org/wri/facts/datatablesforests.html>); and

WHEREAS, God gave Adam the special task to "till" and "keep" the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:15), which suggests that humankind has a sacred task to be good stewards to God's creation, since "all things were created through him [Christ-God] and for [Christ-God]" (Colossians 1:16, NRSV), yet many contemporary agriculture practices harm the environment; for example, intensive agricultural methods have often included heavy pesticide use that has been harmful to ecosystems. The inefficiency of converting grains into animal flesh means that meat production generally depletes far more of the dwindling water, energy, and topsoil resources than plant food production. Deciduous and tropical forests have been cleared for cattle grazing and other agricultural uses, contributing to global warming, deadly mud slides, permanent soil damage, and species extinctions. It is widely agreed that contemporary resource use (including resources dedicated to food production) is not environmentally sustainable and threatens great hardships for humankind this century; and

WHEREAS, while highly mechanized, high-speed, intensive farming technologies have often increased food production efficiency and reduced prices for consumers, they have also had undesirable consequence for workers and many farmers, including the high injury rate

among slaughter-house workers (Eric Schlosser, Fast Food Nation [2001]) and the waning viability of smaller, farmer-owned farms that cannot afford the large capital investments. The loss of farmer-owned farms has had profound effects on rural life, culture, and community; and

WHEREAS, Genesis 1:29-30 relates that Adam, Eve, and all animals in the Garden of Eden ate only plant foods, and Isaiah envisioned a return to plant-based diets at the end of time, and he prophesied a messianic age in which "the wolf shall live with the lamb," "the lion shall eat straw like the ox," and "they will not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord" (Isaiah 11:6-9, NRSV). The Bible teaches that God cares about all creatures; for example, the psalmist wrote, "The Lord is good to all, and [God's] compassion is over all [God] has made" (Psalms 145:9, NRSV). Jesus said that God feeds the birds of the air (Matthew. 6:26) and does not forget sparrows (Luke 12:6), but Jesus concurrently reminded listeners that they are of greater value than sparrows. Although Genesis 2:18-19 describes animals as put on earth as Adam's companions and helpers, several biblical teachings indicate that, after the Fall, eating meat was not inherently sinful. For example, Noah was permitted to eat animals; Luke 24:43 describes Jesus eating fish; many people interpret Peter's dream (Acts 10:10-13) as supporting meat consumption; Paul wrote in 1 Timothy (4:4) that "everything created by God is good" (NRSV); and 1 Corinthians 10:25 reads, "Eat whatever is sold in the meat market" (NRSV). These diverse teachings suggest that God-centered eating calls for study, reflection, and prayer; and

WHEREAS, the Hebrew Scriptures oppose cruelty to animals, for example, prohibiting yoking the ox with the much weaker donkey (Deuteronomy 22:10) and muzzling the ox as he plows the fields (Deuteronomy 25:4), and Proverbs 12:10 relates that "The righteous know the needs of their animals, but the mercy of the wicked is cruel" (NRSV). Jewish tradition, derived from rabbinic interpretation of the Bible, forbids cruel slaughter by rendering inedible any animal who is not killed with a single cut or who

is killed with a nicked blade, yet animal welfare laws exempt “standard agricultural practices” in nearly every state. The federal Humane Slaughter Act, which requires that animals be rendered unconscious prior to slaughter, is poorly enforced (*Washington Post* [June 13, 2001]) and excludes poultry. Consequently modern slaughter often causes animals terror and pain (Gail Eisnitz, *Slaughterhouse* [1997]). Jesus said, “Blessed are the merciful (Matthew 5:7), yet several widely used techniques designed to increase productivity cause animal suffering, including painful procedures without anesthesia, highly stressful crowding, frustration of animals” basic behavioral needs, and miserable conditions en route to slaughter, but we should also acknowledge that animal husbandry practices vary widely, and members of some species of farmed animals tend to be treated much better than others.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fourth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages pastors and congregations of every local church to explore the ways in which one’s dietary choices can be valid and meaningful expressions of Christian witness, particularly on Ecojustice Sabbath (early April); and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fourth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on Local Church Ministries to develop educational curricula for Sunday school, adult education, and institutions of higher learning that

- 1) explore the relationship between dietary choices and our health, world hunger, the environment, the welfare of those working in animal agriculture, and animal well-being;
- 2) encourage reflection on how people can promote reforms in animal husbandry, such as identifying farmers who abide by more humane animal husbandry standards; and
- 3) provide responsible nutritional advice. (Several pastors and lay members have

already offered to voluntarily work on preparing these curricula, and these people plan to develop curricula appropriate for different age levels that provide factual information and then encourage reflection and discussion by asking questions. These curricula will then be presented to Local Church Ministries for revision and approval.)

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

7. DISASTER RELIEF AND UNDOCUMENTED PERSONS

Assistant Moderator Wassmuth called on Mr. Ito for introduction of the third resolution “Disaster Relief and Undocumented Persons.” Mr Ito moved its adoption.

03-GS-49 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution “Disaster Relief and Undocumented Persons”

DISASTER RELIEF AND UNDOCUMENTED PERSONS

Purpose and Expected Outcome:

To inform the wider church concerning the growing likelihood that “paperless” persons affected by disasters may be re-victimized by deportation by the United States government if they seek assistance and to increase our vigilance, support and advocacy on behalf of these brothers and sisters.

Text of the Resolution:

In May, 2003, violent storms and tornadoes ripped through many states including: Kansas, Oklahoma, Southern Illinois, Tennessee, Indiana and Missouri. Over two hundred seventy-six tornadoes touched down in Missouri alone and seventy-six of one hundred three counties were declared federal disaster areas. These regions are still reeling from the devastation, but amidst the mud and debris, God is still speaking.

Through the efforts of the affected Conferences and the National Disaster Ministries Office, members of the United Church of Christ

continue to respond to the unmet needs of those harmed by the storms. Disaster response in the United Church of Christ is often performed in concert with many ecumenical interfaith, secular and governmental partners. In particular, the United States government plays a critical role in federally-declared disasters.

In every disaster, some of the greatest unmet needs are among undocumented or “paperless” people that are excluded from the benefits of governmental assistance. The United Church of Christ and other faith-based disaster responders are often their only source for relief. A concern has arisen while responding to the May storms, that our “paperless” sisters and brothers were re-victimised by governmental deportations triggered by the visibility brought to them by seeking relief as victims of disaster.

In order to continue to work in partnership with government agencies, disaster responders from the faith community need to be assured that all information gathered by federal agencies during disaster response is treated with appropriate confidentiality and is used solely for the purposes of relief and recovery.

All settings of the United Church of Christ are urged to remain vigilant advocates for undocumented and “paperless” persons as they engage in disaster preparedness, mitigation and response in partnership with governmental agencies.

8. AFFIRMING THE ESSENTIAL ROLE OF COMMISSIONED MINISTRY AS AN AUTHORIZED MINISTRY OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ms. Wassmuth called on Ms. Amarilys Ramos (PR), chairperson of Committee Four for introduction of the resolution “Affirming the Essential Role of Commissioned Ministry as an Authorized Ministry of the United Church of Christ.” Ms Ramos moved its adoption.

03-GS-50 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution “Affirming the Essential role of Commissioned Ministry as an Authorized Ministry of the United Church of Christ.”

AFFIRMING THE ESSENTIAL ROLE OF COMMISSIONED MINISTRY AS AN AUTHORIZED MINISTRY OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WHEREAS, in the letter to the Church at Ephesus we are told “The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry for building up the Body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11-12); and

WHEREAS, in Paul’s first letter to the Church at Corinth he says, “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good” (1 Corinthians 12:4-7); and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United Church of Christ “recognizes that God calls the whole Church and every member to participate in and extend the ministry of Jesus Christ by witnessing to the Gospel in church and society” (Article VI, paragraph 20); and

WHEREAS, “The United Church of Christ recognizes that God calls certain of its members to various forms of ministry in and on behalf of the church for which ecclesiastical authorization is required by the church (*Constitution and Bylaws*, Article VI, section 21); and

WHEREAS, “Commissioning is the act whereby the United Church of Christ, through an Association, in cooperation with a person and a local church of the United Church of Christ, recognizes and authorizes that member whom God has called to a specific church-related ministry which is recognized by that Association, but not requiring ordination or licensing” (*Constitution and Bylaws*, Article VI, paragraph 27); and

WHEREAS, professionals in the areas of Christian education, parish nursing, church music, church administration, worship and the arts, parish visitation, spiritual direction, and other church ministries serve in positions in our

congregations or in other settings of the church that do not require ordination or licensing; and

WHEREAS, these ministries are vital for the faith formation, continued spiritual growth, and empowerment of the children, youth, and adults of our local churches to live as a people of faith in an ever-more-volatile society and are undertaken on behalf of the entire United Church of Christ.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fourth General Synod reaffirms, emphasizes, and celebrates the essential role of commissioned ministry as an authorized ministry in the United Church of Christ, as one that seeks to empower lay persons through the granting of ecclesiastical authority and standing to those individuals who have demonstrated a call from God to specific ministries for which they have gained the credentials required by the authorizing Association or Conference and in which they will serve a calling body that will enter into covenant with the authorizing Association or Conference; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that in so recognizing and affirming the essential role of commissioned ministry as an authorized ministry in the United Church of Christ, the Twenty-fourth General Synod requests that the Parish Life and Leadership Ministry Team of Local Church Ministries works intentionally and as needed to increase knowledge and awareness about commissioned ministry with committees on the ministry in the various Conferences and Associations so that they are able to provide adequate assistance and support of candidates for commissioned ministry, including a period of mentorship and preparation that is patterned after the "In Care" process used with candidates for ordination, for the length of time deemed appropriate for the discernment and commissioning process to evolve effectively; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fourth General Synod requests that the Parish Life and Leadership Ministry Team of Local Church Ministries undertakes a diligent effort to determine how best to provide support

and assistance on commissioned ministry to all interested parties and to undertake a study of commissioned ministry as it is currently being lived out in order to ascertain how best to provide that support and assistance; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fourth General Synod recommends that all professionals living out a call from God through their service in the various settings of the church in positions that do not require ordination or licensing should seek the recognition and authorization of their calls through the process for commissioned ministry, providing they possess the credentials deemed necessary for said authorization; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fourth General Synod recommends that all candidates for commissioned ministry be mentored effectively through the commissioning process by the local church and the Conference or Association and that once the process is completed and the authorization granted, the standing of all commissioned ministers be recognized through such official channels as listings in Conference and Association directories, inclusion as appropriate in United Church of Christ Ministers' Associations, and the recognition of anniversaries of commissioning for those with long periods of service; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fourth General Synod urges local congregations, Conferences, Associations, and other settings of the church to consider commissioned ministers as viable candidates for those professional positions not requiring ordination or licensing and that the compensation for those positions be comparable for the level of credentialing and responsibility required, including such additional items as sabbatical time, access to pension and health plans, continuing education funds, and housing allowance as appropriate.

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

9. CALLING FOR DISCUSSION OF THE WORSHIP LIFE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND FOR WORSHIP RESOURCES AND PROGRAM INITIATIVES

Ms. Wassmuth called on Ms. Ramos who directed delegates to the resolution “Calling for Discussion of the Worship Life of the United Church of Christ and for Worship Resources and Program Initiatives.” Ms. Ramos moved its adoption as amended.

03-GS-49 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution “Calling for Discussion of the Worship Life of the United Church of Christ and for Worship Resources and Program Initiatives.”

CALLING FOR DISCUSSION OF THE WORSHIP LIFE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND FOR WORSHIP RESOURCES AND PROGRAM INITIATIVES

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ seeks always to be faithful to its call to worship God in spirit and in truth; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ embraces and affirms the gift of its diversity; and

WHEREAS, churches throughout our denomination have expressed the need for ways to enhance their worship life; and

WHEREAS, the creation of resources and programs for worship renewal should be rooted in a comprehensive understanding of worship traditions and practices throughout the United Church of Christ and in the ecumenical church; and

WHEREAS, the scope of this initiative invites the support and blessing of the whole church as represented by the actions of the Sixth General Synod; and

WHEREAS, the Worship and Education Ministry Team of Local Church Ministries is mandated to support the worship life of the

United Church of Christ with resources, programs, and training for the use of such resources in the local church and other ministry settings.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Twenty-fourth General Synod calls on Local Church Ministries and the Worship and Education Ministry Team, supported by the Research Office of General Ministries, to encourage a broad-based discussion of and inquiry into worship throughout the United Church of Christ and, having listened to the church to consider, evaluate, design, and develop: resources for worship renewal including liturgical texts, music, the arts, and electronic media, programs and initiatives, including worship leadership training and education in both church and schools of theology; possible enhancements and complements to the *Book of Worship: United Church of Christ* that respond to the distinctive call of this generation in the life of the local church and other ministry settings, and honor our commitment to be a church that serves God in all of Creation, and is inviting and welcoming to all.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-fourth General Synod calls on the Worship and Education Ministry Team of Local Church Ministries to report its progress to the Twenty-fifth General Synod (2005) by presenting results of research, programmatic strategies, and examples of resource works-in-progress.

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

10. POINTS OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Rev. Kenneth Harrington (CAC) requested that we recognize the contributions of local Church and Ministry Committees, asking members to stand.

Rev. Sharon Guffey-Lewis (IOWA) reported that the Iowa Conference delegates had collected \$2,450 to be given to Our Church’s Wider Mission.

Mr. Bill Draper (IS) challenged leaders of the church to make significant decisions in light of the financial crises facing the church. Mr. Draper affirmed the Collegium, National Staff and Covenanted Ministries for their hard work and commitment to United Church of Christ. Delegates responded to the request for applause with a standing ovation.

11. ANNOUNCEMENT OF TOLL-FREE NUMBER AT THE CHURCH HOUSE

Assistant Moderator Wassmuth called on Mr. Hans Holznagel, minister for community life, at the Church House in Cleveland.

Mr. Holznagel announced there is now a new toll-free phone number for the national setting of the United Church of Christ which starts today. The number is 866-822-8224, or 866-UCC-UCC4.

12. RECOGNITION OF LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Assistant Moderator Chris Smith called on Ms. Edith Guffey, who invited Ms. Edi Apelt, and Rev. David Martens and all host conference volunteers who had been serving this General Synod to come to the stage. Delegates expressed their appreciation with a standing ovation. Ms. Guffey presented Ms. Apelt and Rev. Martens multi-colored stoles and communion cups with United Church of Christ logo.

Rev. Martens indicated it had been the desire of the local arrangement committee and all volunteers to make everyone feel welcome. He invited everyone back, saying Minnesotans really are this nice all the time and the weather is beautiful all the time. The volunteers then sang a song dedicated to Edith Guffey - "All God's critters got a place in the choir." Assistant Moderator Smith declared that she was proud to be from Minnesota.

13. POINTS OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Rev. Jean Alexander (ME) reported that Maine had collected \$1,200 for Our Church's Wider Mission.

Assistant Moderator Chris Smith indicated that her mother had died two years ago on this day

during General Synod, and she had not been present for the installation of Moderators. She learned later that Rev. John Thomas had prayed for her family during General Synod, and expressed appreciation to both Rev. Thomas and the General Synod for their support.

Ms. Donna Collins (SOC) sang the song "Love in Any Language."

Rev. Nancy Anderson (MINN) reported that the Minnesota delegation had contributed \$1,127 to Our Church's Wider Mission.

Rev. George Worcester (NE) reported that the Nebraska Conference had contributed \$32,000 to OCWM.

Rev. Russell Mittman (PSE) and Rev. Davida Floyd Crabtree (CONN), representing the Council of Conference Ministers, invited delegates to join them in prayer for those who were going to be traveling to the Middle East shortly: Rev. John Thomas, Mr. Dale Bishop, Rev. Lydia Veliko and Mr. Peter Makari.

14. INVITATION TO THE TWENTY FIFTH GENERAL SYNOD IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Assistant Moderator Smith invited Rev. Tim Downs (SE), Southeast Conference Minister, Conference staff Joyce Hollyday, Bennie Liggins and Kathy Clark, and a special surprise guest to the podium for an invitation to the Twenty-fifth General Synod to be held in Atlanta, Georgia.

To the music of the blues version of "Georgia On My Mind" members of the Southeast Conference invited delegates to the Twenty-fifth General Synod to be held July 1 through July 5, 2005 in Atlanta, Georgia.

15. FINAL REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Moderator Nate Lewis called on Rev. Jonathan Pia (OHIO), the Co-chairperson of the Credentials Committee for the Twenty-fourth General Synod, to give that Committee's final report.

Rev. Pia reported that there were:
eight hundred sixty-seven delegates
seventy-five associate delegates
twenty honored guests
twenty-five voice-without-vote
representatives
one thousand five hundred sixty-nine
visitors
three hundred sixty-six youth
one hundred thirty-eight National Staff
and twenty-nine General Synod staff
for a grand total of three thousand eighty-nine
persons present at General Synod.

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Wassmuth thanked Ms. Edith Guffey, General Synod Administrator, for her marvelous work, support, and two-fisted gentleness and invited her to make the final announcements.

17. INSTALLATION OF MODERATORS FOR THE TWENTY-FIFTH GENERAL SYNOD

Current Moderator Nate Lewis and Assistant Moderators Chris Smith and Carol Wassmuth, with newly elected moderators Norman (Jack) Jackson, Annie Wynn Neal and Eric C. Smith, participated with the delegates in the service of installation for the new moderators.

18. COMMISSIONING OF DELEGATES / GENERAL SYNOD WRAP-UP VIDEO

Moderator Lewis called on Ms. Valerie Tutson (RI) expressing appreciation for her wonderful work at General Synod. Ms. Tutson offered final words of reflection and introduced the delegates to the first viewing of the Twenty-fourth General Synod highlight video.

Moderator Lewis thanked all for their participation. Ms. Olgha Sierra Sandman, Chairperson of the Executive Council, encouraged the delegates to show their appreciation to the Moderators Nate Lewis, Carol Wassmuth and Chris Smith. They responded with a standing ovation.

19. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Ms. Sandman moved the adjournment of Twenty-fourth General Synod at the conclusion of this evening's worship.

Moderator Lewis invited the delegates to vote in the affirmative by their applause.

Moderator Lewis declared the Twenty-fourth General Synod to be adjourned at the conclusion of the evening's worship service.

The theme for the final worship service was "Act the Word." The Rev. Felix Carrion (OH) of Euclid Avenue Congregational Church, Cleveland, Ohio, was the preacher.

APPENDIX A

STANDING RULES FOR THE TWENTY-FOURTH GENERAL SYNOD

The Membership of the General Synod

1. The General Synod is the representative body of the United Church of Christ and is composed of delegates chosen by the Conferences from among the members of its local churches; the voting members of the Boards of Directors of Justice and Witness Ministries, Local Church Ministries, and Wider Church Ministries; and of *ex officio* delegates; these shall constitute the voting delegates. The *ex officio* delegates with vote are the members of the Executive Council, including the officers of the United Church of Christ, the moderator, and assistant moderators. There are also associate delegates who have voice without vote (United Church of Christ Constitution, paragraph 53, and Bylaws 190–191).

Accreditation and Seating of Voting Delegates and Associate Delegates

2. Delegates will be accredited by the General Synod registrar or the assistant registrar or their agents at the registration desk upon presentation of proper credentials.
3. Conference ministers are responsible for certifying substitutes to fill vacancies in the Conference's delegation. These persons shall be registered by the registrar or the assistant registrar and accredited as delegates.
4. Composition of delegations can be challenged by voting or associate delegates only. Delegate seats that are contested will remain vacant until the General Synod Credentials Committee (Bylaw 204) makes a recommendation to the Synod and a decision is made by majority vote of the Synod.
 - A. A challenge of a delegation shall be made to the Executive Council or the Credentials Committee or both at least one month prior to the General Synod for appropriate consideration and recommendation to the General Synod.
 - B. In the event of a challenge to the composition of a delegation, the Credentials Committee shall consider the matter on the basis of the (1) provisions of the Conference for electing its General Synod delegates and (2) provisions as described in paragraph 186 of the Bylaws for the composition of the Conference delegations.

5. Voting delegates (Bylaws 185–189) wearing the proper badge will be seated in the specifically designated delegate section. Conference delegates will be seated with their Conference delegation. Members of the Covenanted Ministries Boards of Directors will be seated with their covenanted ministry.
6. Associate delegates (Bylaws 190 and 191) wearing the proper badge will be seated in the specifically designated associate delegate section, except the chairperson of the governing board and the chief executive officer(s) of each Conference who may be seated with their Conference delegation.
7. No other persons will be allowed in the delegate section except nondelegates having voice without vote, as described below, and persons designated by the General Synod administrator as General Synod staff, national staff liaisons, and persons with press credentials. All delegates, associate delegates, nondelegates having voice without vote, and other persons mentioned in this paragraph must have appropriate credentials from the General Synod registrar.

Accreditation and Seating of Non-delegates Having Voice without Vote

8. Any chairperson or chief executive officer of any national program agency, both temporary and permanent, created by General Synod action, or of any of the bodies representing a historically under-represented constituency (Bylaw 221), who is not either a voting delegate or an associate delegate (Bylaws 184–191) shall be accorded the privilege of voice without vote and of seating with the associate delegates.
9. When the interests of their respective institutions or groups are before the General Synod, the chief executive officers of the institutions related to the Council for Higher Education or the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries shall have the privilege of voice without vote.
10. A group is composed of at least twenty-five members of the United Church of Christ who have come together because they are persons of a particular constituency or interested in a specific issue or concern. Such groups may have voice without vote under the following conditions:

- A. The General Synod may vote, on recommendation of the Business Committee, to grant to not more than two nondelegate representatives of a group the privilege of voice without vote and of seating with the associate delegates, if the group meets the following criteria:
- (1) The group must consist of at least twenty-five members of the United Church of Christ, and more than one Conference must be represented in its membership.
 - (2) The group must show cause to the Business Committee why elected delegates cannot effectively represent its cause or concern to the General Synod.
 - (3) The two nondelegate representatives given voice without vote must hold membership in a local church of the United Church of Christ.
- B. Any request for voice-without-vote privileges at the General Synod must be made in writing to the General Synod Business Committee in care of the Office of General Ministries of the United Church of Christ no later than thirty days before the General Synod meeting. A list of at least twenty-five current members, including local church membership reflecting membership in more than one Conference, must accompany all requests.
- C. For groups not formally related to the United Church of Christ, privilege of voice without vote ends with the adjournment of General Synod.
11. Honored guests, former officers of the United Church of Christ, the moderator of each past General Synod, chief executive officers of formerly recognized and established instrumentalities and the Commission of Racial Justice who retired from these positions, and ecumenical guests who are not associate delegates may be accorded the privilege of voice without vote and of seating with the associate delegates by vote of the General Synod.

Procedures for Communicating and Considering Formal Motions

12. Matters of concern to members of the United Church of Christ may be presented in the form of formal motions for consideration by a General Synod. Formal motions are Proposed Pronouncements, Proposals for Action, Resolutions, and Other Formal Motions. All matters submitted by a Conference or Association shall be considered by the

Synod (Bylaws 166 and 171). The administrator of the General Synod will recommend to the Executive Council proposed disposition of these proposals for formal motion based on the procedures set forth in this paragraph. The Committee of Reference will then propose recommendations regarding the disposition of these proposals, and report these recommendations to the General Synod.

- Items that are expected to be routine, noncontroversial, or dealt with in a special hearing will be reported directly to the plenary session by the Executive Council. This might include but is not limited to such items as the budget, amendments to the Constitution or Bylaws, statements of commendation, recognition, and celebration.
- All Proposed Pronouncements and Proposals for Action shall be assigned to committee.
- Items that are complicated or controversial, that require background discussion and study, that merit and need a hearing process, or that have a system-wide impact will be assigned to a committee. The proposer shall supply a resource person to the committee.
- Any item that reiterates previous action shall normally be referred by the General Synod to the body or bodies implementing such action. If a proposed motion differs significantly from previous policy or action of the two preceding General Synods, it shall be assigned to a committee. The burden of proof is on those submitting the policy to explain how the proposal is different or necessary to a timely, current ministry of the United Church of Christ.

A. Proposed Pronouncements

- (1) Definition: A Pronouncement is a statement of Christian conviction on a matter of moral or social principle and has been adopted by a two-thirds vote of a General Synod. It is based on biblical, theological, and ethical grounds. Until adopted, the statement presented for consideration by a General Synod is a Proposed Pronouncement. Proposals for Action shall not be included in Proposed Pronouncements. (See B. Proposals for Action, below.)
- (2) Sources: A Proposed Pronouncement may be submitted only by:
 - (a) a General Synod delegate or delegate-elect with the written concurrence of at least ten additional General Synod delegates or delegates-elect from two or more Conferences;
 - (b) a local church, with the written concurrence of at least five other local churches of the

- United Church of Christ;
- (c) an Association;
 - (d) a Conference;
 - (e) a Covenanted, Associated, or Affiliated Ministry, or other body as defined in Article VI of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.
- (3) Procedures for considering Proposed Pronouncements are:
- (a) A copy of the Proposed Pronouncement must be sent to the Office of General Ministries at least eight months before the opening of a General Synod.
 - (b) The Office of General Ministries will send the Proposed Pronouncement to the local churches, Associations, Conferences, and delegates at least six months in advance of a General Synod. It shall be labeled “Proposed Pronouncement—Circulated for Discussion and Comments.”
 - (c) The Executive Council shall designate a committee or other group to review the Proposed Pronouncement and make recommendations to a General Synod. The initiator(s) of the Proposed Pronouncement shall designate a person to support the Proposed Pronouncement before the committee or group designated by the Executive Council. Additional persons may provide support or opposition.
 - (d) The Office of General Ministries will receive responses to the Proposed Pronouncement from local churches, delegates, delegates-elect, Associations, Conferences, Covenanted, Associated, or Affiliated Ministries, or other bodies as defined in Article VI of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, including the record of any votes taken. The Office of General Ministries will provide one copy of each response to the committee or group designated to review the Proposed Pronouncement, retaining one copy in the Office of General Ministries. A report shall be made to the General Synod of the volume and character received.
 - (e) The committee or group designated by the Executive Council to review the Proposed Pronouncement shall have the following duties:
 1. To coordinate the responses received.
 2. To hold open hearing(s) after proper notice.
3. To present, after such hearing(s), to a plenary session of the General Synod its recommendations for action. Such action may be approval, disapproval, amendment, consolidation, referral, or no action. A substitute motion or other amendment that radically alters the basic intent or direction of the original Proposed Pronouncement, however, shall be ruled out of order.
- (f) Copies of the Proposed Pronouncement and the recommendations of the committee or group reviewing the Proposed Pronouncement must be distributed to the delegates before action can be taken.
 - (g) If adopted, the Pronouncement shall be communicated throughout the United Church of Christ and to the public.
- (4) Format: A Proposed Pronouncement and its supporting materials shall be submitted and circulated in the following format: (Proposed Pronouncements and supporting materials that do not follow this format will be returned for revision.)
- (a) A brief title, with an information sheet indicating the source of the Proposed Pronouncement, date of submission, and any other information pertinent to the Proposed Pronouncement.
 - (b) A brief summary (an abstract).
 - (c) Background statement indicating significance and rationale for the Proposed Pronouncement.
 - (d) Biblical, theological, and ethical rationale for the Proposed Pronouncement.
 - (e) The statement of Christian conviction upon which the General Synod will vote.
- (5) The Statement of Christian Conviction is the only portion of the Proposed Pronouncement that will be voted on by the General Synod. Committees functioning for the General Synod, however, shall consider and may amend any portion of the Proposed Pronouncement.
- B. Proposals for Action**
- (1) Definition: A Proposal for Action is a recommendation for specific directional statements and goals implementing a Pronouncement. A Proposal for Action

normally accompanies a Pronouncement. Additional Proposals for Action may also be considered at a later date. (A Proposal for Action may be submitted and circulated in anticipation of the adoption of a Proposed Pronouncement.)

- (2) Sources: Proposals for Action may be submitted only by
 - (a) a General Synod delegate or delegate-elect, with the written concurrence of at least ten additional General Synod delegates or delegates-elect from two or more Conferences;
 - (b) a local church, with the written concurrence of at least five other local churches of the United Church of Christ;
 - (c) an Association;
 - (d) a Conference;
 - (e) a Covenanted, Associated, or Affiliated Ministry, or other body as defined in Article VI of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.
- (3) Procedures for considering Proposals for Action are:
 - (a) A copy of the Proposal for Action must be sent to the Office of General Ministries at least eight months before the opening of the General Synod.
 - (b) The Office of General Ministries will send the Proposal for Action to the local churches, Associations, Conferences, proposed implementor(s), and delegates at least six months in advance of a General Synod. It shall be labeled "Proposal for Action—Circulated for Discussion and Comments."
 - (c) The Executive Council may designate a committee or other group to review the Proposal for Action and make recommendations to the General Synod, or the Executive Council may present the Proposal for Action with its own recommendation to the General Synod. The initiator(s) of the Proposal for Action shall designate a person to support the Proposal for Action before the committee or group designated by the Executive Council. Additional persons may provide support or opposition.

- (d) The Office of General Ministries will receive responses to the Proposals for Action from local churches, delegates, delegates-elect, Associations, Conferences, Covenanted, Associated, or Affiliated Ministries, and other bodies as defined in Article VI of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, including the record of any votes taken. The Office of General Ministries will provide one copy of each response to the committee or group which may have been named by the Executive Council to review the Proposals for Action, and one copy to the initiator(s) of the Proposals for Action, retaining one copy in the Office of General Ministries. A report shall be made to the General Synod of the volume and character of the responses received.
 - (e) The proposed implementors shall be required to provide to the General Synod a statement of feasibility and an estimate of the financial implications for the church at the national level of the Proposal for Action.
 - (f) Copies of the Proposal for Action and the recommendations pertaining to it, including a statement of financial implications, must be distributed to the delegates before action can be taken.
 - (g) If adopted, the Proposal for Action shall be communicated throughout the United Church of Christ, to the public, and to those named as implementors.
- (4) Format: A Proposal for Action shall include the following: (Proposals for Action and supporting materials that do not follow this format will be returned for revision.)
 - (a) A brief title, with an information sheet indicating the source of the Proposal for Action, date of submission, and any other information pertinent to the Proposal for Action.
 - (b) A brief summary (an abstract).
 - (c) Background statement indicating the Pronouncement(s) or the Proposed Pronouncement(s) on which it is based, the Synod(s) at which it was adopted or is proposed, and the rationale for the Proposal for Action.
 - (d) The names of the implementor(s) expected to develop the strategies and program to carry out the Proposal for Action.

- (e) The directional statements and goals upon which the General Synod will vote.
 - (f) A statement that the implementing body is responsible to develop the strategy and program of the directional statements and goals.
 - (g) A statement that the funding for the implementation of the Proposal for Action will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.
- (5) The Directional Statements and Goals are the only portions of the Proposal for Action that will be voted on by the General Synod. Committees functioning for the General Synod, however, shall consider and may amend any portion of the Proposal for Action.

C. Resolutions and Other Formal Motions

(1) Definitions:

- (a) Resolution of Witness: A Resolution of Witness is an expression of the General Synod concerning a moral, ethical, or religious matter confronting the church, the nation, or the world, adopted for the guidance of the officers, Associated, or Affiliated Ministries, or other bodies as defined in Article VI of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ; the consideration of local churches, Associations, Conferences, and other bodies related to the United Church of Christ; and for a Christian witness to the world. It represents agreement by at least two-thirds of the delegates voting that the view expressed is based on Christian conviction and is a part of their witness to Jesus Christ. The text of the proposed Resolution should be so phrased as not to bring into question the Christian commitment of those who do not agree.
- (b) Prudential Resolutions: A Prudential Resolution establishes policy, institutes or revises structure or procedures, authorizes programs, approves directions, or requests actions by a majority vote.
- (c) Other Formal Motions include actions other than those provided for above by majority vote.

(2) Sources: A Resolution or Other Formal Motion may be submitted by

- (a) any three delegates or delegates-elect from two or more Conferences,

- (b) a local church,
- (c) an Association,
- (d) a Conference,
- (e) a Covenanted, Associated, or Affiliated Ministry, or other body as defined in Article VI of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

(3) Procedures for considering Resolutions and Other Formal Motions are:

- (a) Proposed Resolutions and Other Formal Motions shall be submitted before the following deadlines:
 1. A copy of the Resolution or Other Formal Motion must be sent to the Office of General Ministries by February 15 before the opening of the General Synod. The Office of General Ministries shall send copies to delegates by May 15.
 2. A Resolution or Other Formal Motion-that could not have been anticipated or submitted in conformance with the above deadline must be received by the Office of General Ministries at least three weeks prior to the opening session of the General Synod at which it is to be considered.
 3. A Resolution or Other Formal Motion that could not have been anticipated or submitted three weeks prior to the opening session of the General Synod may be presented to the Office of General Ministries during those three weeks or by a voting delegate to the Executive Council on the day of registration or at a designated point in the agenda of Synod where new business may be introduced by title only or when there is no other business before the Synod, provided that there will remain twenty-four hours for study before action is taken by the Synod. The presenter must be accompanied by two other delegates, at least one of whom must be from a second Conference, and must provide at least one thousand copies of the proposed Resolution or Other Formal Motion

- for distribution to the Executive Council, Business Committee, officers, chairpersons of committees, delegates, and to each conference.
4. Resolutions or Other Formal Motions submitted by a Conference or Association (Bylaws 166 and 171) shall be considered by the General Synod. These proposals are subject to the deadlines articulated in this section except in cases where a Conference or Association Annual Meeting takes place fewer than three weeks before the General Synod. In such cases, the Conference or Association must provide at least one thousand copies of the proposed Resolution or Other Formal Motion for distribution to the Executive Council, Business Committee, officers, chairpersons of committees, delegates, and to each Conference.
 - (b) Every Resolution or Other Formal Motion received prior to the General Synod shall be referred to the Executive Council or, during the General Synod meeting, to the Business Committee. The Executive Council or Business Committee shall, in respect of each proposal, either (1) present its own recommendations to the General Synod or (2) assign it to a committee or other group for review and recommendation to the General Synod. Such recommendations may include approval, disapproval, amendment, consolidation, referral, or no action. (See Rule 22.)
 - (c) Resolutions or Other Formal Motions addressing issues addressed by one of the two preceding General Synods would normally be referred by the General Synod to implementing bodies unless the proposal would significantly change the previous action or address an urgent and significantly altered context. The burden of proof is on those submitting
 - (a) the policy to explain how the proposal is different or necessary to a timely, current ministry of the United Church of Christ.
 - (d) Copies of each Resolution or Other Formal Motion and the recommendation pertaining to it must be distributed to delegates at least one-half day before action can be taken.
 - (4) Format: Resolutions and Other Formal Motions shall include the following information:
 - (a) A brief title with information providing the source of the Resolution or Other Formal Motion, the date of submission, and any other information pertinent to the Resolution or Other Formal Motion. The title must accurately reflect the intent of the proposed motion. If presented at General Synod, the names and Conferences of the delegates presenting the Resolution or Other Formal Motion shall be included.
 - (b) A brief summary of the Resolution or Other Formal Motion.
 - (c) The biblical, theological, and ethical rationale and the expected outcome.
 - (d) The text of the motion.
 - (e) A statement that 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. There is no financial guarantee of any kind other than the annual budget determined by the Executive Council (73 GS 81).
 - (f) A statement that the implementing body is responsible for developing the strategy and program designed to implement the Resolution or Other Formal Motion.
 13. No more than four Proposed Pronouncements, Proposals for Action, Reports with Recommendations, Resolutions, and Overtures may be admitted to the agenda from any single source.
 14. Reports to be made to succeeding General Synods on a Pronouncement, Proposal for Action, Resolution, or Other Formal Motion may be requested for no more than the three General Synods immediately following that General Synod.

Reports to the General Synod

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

Conduct of the Business of the General Synod

16. A quorum for the conduct of business at General Synod shall consist of one-third of the voting delegates, provided that in this number at least two-thirds of the Conferences are represented by at least one delegate each (United Church of Christ Constitution, paragraph 53).
 17. All proceedings of the General Synod shall, unless otherwise provided for, be governed by the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* (United Church of Christ Bylaw 182).
 18. Main motions not in distributed, printed material and substantive amendments shall be presented to the moderator in writing, signed by the maker and seconder. Only voting delegates may make motions.
 19. When a matter has been referred to a committee or group during the General Synod for review prior to its presentation to a plenary session for debate and action, the recommendation made to a plenary session by such committee or group shall be considered an original main motion fully open to amendment by the General Synod, except a recommendation that radically alters the basic intent or direction of the original matter referred to a committee or group shall be regarded as a substitute motion requiring a majority vote of the General Synod for consideration.
 20. The agenda as adopted by the General Synod may be changed by two-thirds vote or general consent upon recommendation of the Business Committee or motion from the floor.
 21. Debate shall conform to the following provisions:
 - A. Delegates and others wishing to be recognized shall obtain use of a microphone, address the moderator, and identify themselves by name and Conference or other represented body.
 - B. Pro and con microphones may be designated by the moderator as required.
 - C. A delegate may not speak on an issue and conclude by moving the previous question.
 - D. A delegate may not present a combined motion to close debate on an amendment to a motion and the main motion.
 - E. No one may speak to the same debatable motion more than twice except to answer questions from the floor or the moderator.
 - F. A maximum of three minutes for the first speech is allowed the maker of the motion; subsequent speakers are limited to two minutes each, which can be divided into two speeches.
 - G. During timed floor debates and speak outs, microphones will be turned off at the expiration of a speaker's time provided for in the General Synod Standing Rules.
 - H. When time restrictions on speakers are required by these Standing Rules, an extension of time may be granted by the presiding moderator to the following persons:
 - (1) Speakers requiring translation into English from another language (time needed for the translation shall not be counted in the time allotment) and speakers who require sign language translation;
 - (2) Speakers whose fluency in English is limited and for whom translation is not available;
 - (3) Speakers with disabilities that affect mobility or speech or both.A request for an extension of time shall be indicated to the floor parliamentarian who shall notify the presiding moderator.
 - I. Opportunity will be provided for two delegates speaking in favor and two delegates speaking in opposition to a motion before an amendment can be made.
 - J. A motion to limit or extend the limits of debate is itself undebatable; such motion requires a second and a two-thirds vote unless decided by general consent.
 - K. Nondelegates not otherwise authorized to speak may speak only by a two-thirds vote of the General Synod.
22. Voting shall conform to the following provisions:
- A. Votes shall be decided by the delegates present and voting. Abstentions shall not be counted in the total.
 - B. Voting shall be conducted on main motions, amendments, and other motions by the moderator by show of voting cards (not voice vote) except:
 - (1) When a standing vote is necessary as decided by the moderator; or
 - (2) When a counted vote is required by decision of the assembly or by the moderator.

Minority Resolutions

23. Requirements. In the case where a formal motion, Constitution or Bylaw amendment, or priority is adopted by less than 75 percent of the votes cast, a

minority resolution expressing a minority viewpoint on the same subject matter may be proposed at the same or the next business session of that General Synod.

24. Procedures to be followed when a minority resolution is to be considered shall conform to the following provisions:
 - A. A delegate who plans to propose a minority resolution should, at the time of the consideration of the original proposal, request of the moderator that the percentage of votes in the affirmative be determined and recorded so that eligibility for proposing a minority resolution can be established.
 - B. A minority resolution is to be voted on only by those who voted in opposition to the original proposal. Each Conference shall be responsible to determine the eligibility of its own delegates in such a vote.
 - C. To become a matter of record of General Synod, a minority resolution shall require a majority vote of those voting as designated in 24. B., above.
 - D. An adopted minority resolution shall be attached to the action to which it relates.

**Procedures for Nominations
and Elections**

25. The Nominating Committee shall make nominations from the platform as provided by the Constitution and Bylaws.
26. Biographical information on each candidate shall be made available by the Nominating Committee for those it nominates. The Nominating Committee shall submit its information to the General Synod not later than the opening of the business session in which the Nominating Committee reports to the General Synod.
27. Written consent of each nominee is required prior to election and should be submitted to the Office of General Ministries.
28. There may be nominations from the floor for the positions of moderator and assistant moderators of the General Synod. Nominees for these positions must fulfill the criteria established by the Bylaws for the contested position.
29. Members of the Nominating Committee are nominated by the Executive Council. These nominations are made from the platform by the Business Committee. Nominations for these positions may be

made from the floor if the nominees fulfill the criteria established by the Bylaws for the contested position.

30. The person making a nomination from the floor shall submit the required biographical information to the Office of General Ministries by the close of the business meeting during which the nomination is made and provide verification of the consent of the nominee in a form acceptable to the Office of General Ministries pending receipt of written confirmation.
31. All nominations shall be presented by name only. Biographical information for all nominees shall be distributed in printed form.
32. The Business Committee shall administer the nomination and election procedures. Designated representatives of the Nominating Committee will be a resource to the Business Committee in the nomination and election procedures. The Office of General Ministries shall provide adequate staff assistance to the Business Committee and the Nominating Committee.
33. Election by ballot shall be required only when an election is contested. When the election is contested, the sequence of names shall be varied on the printed ballots. Nominations made from the floor shall be so identified on the ballots.
34. All elections shall be decided by plurality except for those specified in Standing Rule 37. Votes for write-in candidates and abstentions shall not be counted.
35. Requirements and limitations for nominations are set forth on the following chart:

No. of Bio. Info.	Floor (Max. Words)	Nom. Nom. Allowed	Seconding Speech (Max. Mins.)	Seconding Speeches Allowed	Speeches (Max. Mins.)
Moderator	50	Yes	5	2	2
Assistant Moderators	50	Yes (only when contested)	3	No	No
Executive Council	50	No	No	No	No
Covenanted Ministries	15	No	No	No	No
Nominating Committee	50	Yes	No	No	No

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

36. The moderator and assistant moderators of the General Synod shall be elected by majority vote, a majority being based on the number of votes cast for the office.

The results and number of votes cast for each candidate shall be announced to the delegates in a timely manner. If no candidate receives a majority of votes cast on any ballot, the next ballot will include the two candidates receiving the largest number of votes and all other candidates who receive more than the average number of votes cast per candidate on the previous ballot.

Procedure and Call by Election

37. In the General Synod year in which the general minister and president or the associate general minister of the church is to be called by election or reelection, the candidate will be presented to the General Synod by the Executive Council. A single presentation for each candidate may be made, each to be no longer than ten minutes.
38. In the General Synod year in which the executive minister for Justice and Witness Ministries, Wider Church Ministries, or Local Church Ministries is to be called by election or reelection as an officer of the church, a candidate will be presented to the General Synod by the Board of Directors of the appropriate Covenanted Ministry. A single presentation for the candidate may be made, to be no longer than ten minutes.
39. Candidates for the offices of general minister and president, associate general minister, executive minister for Justice and Witness Ministries, executive minister for Wider Church Ministries, and executive minister for Local Church Ministries may each make a speech no longer than twenty minutes prior to the call by election.
40. An affirmative vote of at least 60 percent of the votes cast is necessary for each candidate to be called and elected by the General Synod to serve as an officer of the church. The results of the vote for each candidate shall be announced to the delegates in a timely manner.

General Rules

41. Meeting expeditors (such as pages) shall perform duties as designated by the Business Committee and shall be nondelegates.
42. Only printed matter and other matter (including commercial) that has been approved by the Business Committee may be distributed on the floor of the General Synod and within its environs. Such material must contain the identity of the originator.

43. The Business Committee will announce any necessary rules pertaining to photographs being taken during the General Synod meetings. These rules may be changed in the manner as other General Synod Standing Rules.
44. Recording the procedures of General Synod is the responsibility of the Office of General Ministries.
45. Planned demonstrations and celebrations on the floor and visitors' gallery of the General Synod plenary sessions must have prior approval of the Business Committee or be ruled out of order.
46. There shall be no smoking in the meeting hall during the business meetings of the General Synod.
47. All sessions of the General Synod and its delegate committees are open to the public and the news media while the Synod is in session.
48. The Planning Committee for the Twenty-fourth General Synod, in consultation with the host Conference, will determine the number of offerings to be received at the Twenty-fourth General Synod and shall announce the offering(s) at the spring 2003 meeting of Executive Council.
In the event that an exceptional need arises after the spring meeting of the Executive Council or during the General Synod itself, the Business Committee of the General Synod may authorize an additional offering to meet that need during the General Synod.
49. These General Synod Standing Rules shall be originally adopted as a group by two-thirds vote. Thereafter, any rule(s) may be amended, rescinded, or suspended by a two-thirds vote.
50. When General Synod is not in session, the Executive Council, acting as General Synod *ad interim*, may amend the Standing Rules, as necessary, to facilitate the collection, processing, and distribution of items of business for a subsequent General Synod. Notification must be sent to local churches, Conferences, and delegates regarding such action(s) at least one year prior to the beginning of the subsequent General Synod.
51. Rules governing exhibits at the General Synod are provided in the Standing Rules of the Executive Council.

**APPENDIX B
RESOLUTIONS NOT PASSED**

**PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE
THE UNBORN, THE SUBJECTS OF MEDICAL RESEARCH, THE
DISABLED, AND THOSE CHRONICALLY AND TERMINALLY ILL**

WHEREAS, we in the United Church of Christ have committed to the purpose that “all may have life” as an essential affirmation, and

WHEREAS, our Savior Jesus Christ declared, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy, I have come that they might have life and have it to the full” (Jn. 10:10). He further declared that the criteria of his judgment on the final day would be, “I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me,” and conversely, “Whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me” (Mt. 25:40, 45), and

WHEREAS, new technologies, such as cloning and conception for organ harvesting, applied with-out biblical values and godly restraint represent new risks to human life, and

WHEREAS, increased cost and burden on the healthcare system in a utilitarian society are causing the rationing of health care to the elderly, and

WHEREAS, technological advance is making it possible for us to identify and eliminate those who are physically or mentally impaired, and

WHEREAS, scientific knowledge has over the last three decades effectively resolved any debate about human life beginning at conception, and

WHEREAS, the loss of nearly one-third of all babies conceived since 1973 by premeditated killing has been a national tragedy, particularly recognizing that nearly half of the forty-two million babies killed were African American, and the vast majority were from the poorest among us, and

WHEREAS, reduced size will cause the generation born since 1973 to feel compelled by prevailing social ethics and constraints of increased taxation to systematically eliminate the elderly using similar criteria of choice as that applied to the unborn, and

WHEREAS, socially sanctioned taking of human life creates an environment in which random violence, infanticide, and physical abuse of the vulnerable become commonplace and legitimized;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fourth General Synod affirms the full value of all human life as precious to God, and therefore to us, from conception to natural death, and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that we raise our voices on behalf of all whose lives and well being are at risk from conception to natural death and call on all who have responsibility for their care to protect and sustain their lives.

SEEKING THE MIND OF CHRIST ON ISSUES OF PEACE AND JUSTICE IN PUBLIC POLICY

WHEREAS, we are the United Church of Christ, and therefore our only authentic voice on issues of peace and justice in public policy comes from the mind of Christ who is the sole head of the church, and

WHEREAS, the scripture confirms this, as Isaiah speaks prophetically of Christ, “Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations . . . in faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth” (Is. 42:1, 3, 4). And Jesus Christ in the gospel passes this authority to us, saying, “I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these because I am going to my Father” (Jn. 14:12), and

WHEREAS, we in the United Church of Christ have in the pursuit of peace and justice allied ourselves over the years with various political candidates, campaigns, parties, social movements, and organizations whose values, ideologies, and motivations are not inherently compatible with our faith in Jesus Christ, and

WHEREAS, there is a natural temptation to accept the causes and positions of political fellow travelers with less rigorous Christ-minded examination and reflection than we might otherwise engage, and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has unfortunately come to be publicly perceived by many as the religious instrument of one political party in the United States, even while a majority of its members usually support the candidate of the opposite party in presidential elections, and

WHEREAS, some resolutions on matters of public policy that have been passed by General Synod without full research or reflection have compromised the credibility of the General Synod, and

WHEREAS, some organizations and political leaders we have publicly embraced have come under public scrutiny for malpractice, corruption, or immorality, and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that our public witness be independent of the political and social forces of our culture to be credible;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fourth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, meeting in Minneapolis, calls on the covenanted ministries and Conferences of the United Church of Christ to separate ourselves from the voices of political parties, advocacy organizations, and ideological movements of our time and to independently seek the mind of Christ on issues of peace and justice in public policy.

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

INTEGRITY IN DIVERSITY

WHEREAS, in maintaining our unity in covenant relationship within the United Church of Christ, we “look to the Word of God in the Scriptures, and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to prosper its creative and redemptive work in the world.” And we “claim as our own the faith of the historic church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers.” And we “affirm the responsibility of the Church in each generation to make this faith its own in reality of worship, in honesty of thought and expression, and in purity of heart before God” (Preamble to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ), and

WHEREAS, we “acknowledge as our sole Head, Jesus Christ, Son of God, and Savior,” and

WHEREAS, the polity agreed to by vote of local Congregational Christian congregations and Synods of the Evangelical and Reformed Church in the formation of the United Church of Christ clearly did not abide the imposition of new doctrines or beliefs by denominational bodies on the local church or clergy or individual believers, and

WHEREAS, we hold the freedom of the pulpit to be of high value in the United Church of Christ, and

WHEREAS, our Savior Jesus Christ told us, “I am the way, the truth and the life, no man comes to the Father but by me” (Jn. 14:6), and the scripture further teaches us, “There is one body, and one Spirit-just as you were called to one hope when you were called-one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all” (Eph. 4:4-6), and

WHEREAS, those who would hold strong disagreement with various resolutions, positions, and practices of General Synod, Conferences, and covenanted ministries of the United Church of Christ would see themselves as most authentically incarnating the teaching of scripture, the lordship of Jesus Christ, the preamble to the UCC Constitution, and the historic faith and practice of our church, and

WHEREAS, the resolutions and decisions made by denominational bodies are always liable to the influence and winds of their culture and may not endure the test of faith and time;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fourth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, meeting in Minneapolis, reaffirms that, in speaking to the churches, its resolutions and proclamations are not binding on the beliefs, convictions, consciences, or practices of United Church of Christ clergy, seminarians, congregations, Associations, or Conferences, and

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that the convictions of those in the United Church of Christ that hold various resolutions and proclamations of General Synod to be contrary to the revelation of God’s word and the will of the Holy Spirit will be respected and appreciated as we seek together to serve our Lord Jesus Christ in acknowledgment of our own fallibility and limitations.

APPENDIX C
OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF BOARDS AND COUNCILS ELECTED
AT THE TWENTY-FOURTH GENERAL SYNOD

In order to identify all nominees within the required categories, one or more of the following code numbers immediately follows the name of each nominee:

Clergywoman 1A	Laywoman 2	Minority (any) 4
Clergyman 1B	Layman 3	Under 30 5

Associate General Minister

Four-year term
Edith A. Guffey 2 4 (OHIO)

Executive Minister - Wider Church Ministries

Four-year term
Olivia Masih White 2 4 (OHIO)

Moderator

Two-year term
Norman (Jack) W. Jackson, 1 B 4 CA NV,S, CAIM

Assistant Moderators

Two-year term
Annie Wynn Neal, 2 4, SE
Eric C. Smith, 3 5 ME

Executive Council

Class of 2007

R. Kamaiki Anakalea, 1B 4 HI
Krista Betz, 1A MOMS
Jennifer Craig 2 MASS
Gary Dickens, 2 4 (CAIM)
Sharon Ellis Davis 1A 4 ILL
Brian Holeman 2 4 CAC
Bernard Ingram 2 4 SOC
Robert A Lee 1B VT
Dory Lingo 2 4 UBC
David R. Mears 1B IOWA
J. Michael Rice 2 KO
Kathy Robinson-Nelson 2 4 SE
Edward R. Schadt 1B CA NV,S
Donald J. Treffinger 3 FLA
Iese Tuuao 1B 4 PAAM

Class of 2005 (Serving two-year terms)

Brian Cope 1B Council for Ecumenism
Jennifer Fair 2 5 At-large Youth
Michael Fales 3 Council for Higher Education
Sandra Hulse 1A United Church Foundation
Marcus Lewis 3 4 CYYAM
Elizabeth Nordbeck 1A Historical Council
Bryan Sickbert 1B CHHSM
Jack Sullivan Jr. 1B 4 CC/DC

Justice and Witness Ministries

Class of 2009

Brenda Alton 2 4 PC
Bernice Blackdeer 2 4 WIS
Scott Brown 3 NY
Matha Dayag 2 4 HI
Ashley Ekwem 2 4 5 UBC
Ronald Fujiyoshi 1B 4 COREM
John M. Gregory-Davis 1B NH
Jo Hudson 1A SC
Bert Martin 3 MINN
Paul Osgood 3 MOMS
Larry Parker 3 4 CAIM
Richard Peterson 3 ILL
Ernesto Reyes 1B 4 PAAM
Mike Rowe 3 CPC
Rochelle Stackhouse 1A PNE
Nelson Stone 1B SD
Vilma Thompson 2 4 MASS

Class of 2005 (serving two-year terms)

Martha Ann Baumer 1A PB
Rebecca Chrystal 2 5 CYYAM
T. Eugene Fisher Sr. 1B 4 CC/DC
Kenna Lehmann 2 5 At-large youth
Sharon G. Thornton 1A Council for Theological Education

Local Church Ministries

Class of 2009

Jo Ann Chance 2 KO
Steven Davis 1B SW
D. Mitchell Freeman 3 PacNW
Annie Lynn Hall 2 5 MASS
Edward H. Hall 3 4 CAIM
Bruce David Harrington 1B COALITION
Jason Henderson 3 4 NH
Kenneth Kinton 1B NY
Paul Lance 1B CA NV,S
Holly Miller 2 5 PC
Félix Ortiz-Torres 3 4 5 PR
Marilyn Pagan 1A 4 COREM
Sharyl Peterson 1A RM

Richard Schuster 3 MICH
Siasage Siamu 1B 4 CA NV,N
Michael Simon 3 4 5 PAAM

Class of 2005 (serving two-year terms)

Martha Carroll 1A CC/DC
Larry Johnson 1B 4 Council for Higher Education
Allen Knott 3 At-large youth
Kenneth Ulmer 1B PB
Elizabeth Voight 1A PC
Matthew Zavala 3 4 5 CYYWM

Wider Church Ministries

Class of 2009

Norman Braksick 3 MICH
Andrew Buck 3 5 IS
Nancy Flick Dunmire 2 PW
Ututofo Fiame 1B 4 SW
Wyatt Greenlee Jr. 1B 4 MOMS
Roy Gonzalez Jr. 3 4 FLA
Michael A. Goze 3 4 CAIM
Kevin Henkes 3 ME
Tracy L. Hughes 1A OHIO
Leslie McMillian 2 4 CAC
Robert Molsberry 1B IOWA
Marvin Morgan 1B 4 MRSEJ
Gary Luther Myers 1B 4 SE
Joan O’Gorman 1A VT
Curtis Rueter 3 RM
Faiva Saaga 1B 4 Ca NV,N
Carolyn Thompson 2 UCCDM
Heriberto Martínéz Velázquez 1B 4 PR

Class of 2005 (serving two-year terms)

Steve Aschmann 1B At-Large
Martha Cruz 1A 4 PB
Robbie Gilchrist 3 CYYAM
Gina Sourelis 1A 4 CHHSM