

MINUTES OF THE  
TWENTY-EIGHTH GENERAL SYNOD  
TAMPA, FLORIDA  
JULY 1-5, 2011

EDITH A. GUFFEY, ADMINISTRATOR  
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH GENERAL SYNOD



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**MINUTES  
TWENTY-EIGHTH GENERAL SYNOD**

**IMAGINE WHAT'S POSSIBLE**

**TAMPA, FLORIDA  
JULY 1 - 5, 2011**

**Friday Afternoon, July 1, 2011**

**First Plenary Session**

**1. GENERAL SYNOD CALL TO ORDER**

Moderator James Robertson (CONN) called the first business session of the Twenty-Eighth General Synod to order at 3:42 PM and welcomed delegates, visitors and guests.

Mr. Robertson introduced Assistant Moderators Ms. Patricia Aurand (IOWA) and Ms. Caroline Belsom (HI).

**2. INTRODUCTION OF GENERAL SYNOD LEADERSHIP**

Mr. Robertson introduced the Parliamentarians, Mr. Robert Frieberg (SD) who serves as the Moderator's Parliamentarian, and Mr. Malcolm Bertram (MASS), the delegates Parliamentarian, assisted by Ms. Denise Page Hood (MICH).

Mr. Robertson introduced Mr. Corey Larson, the Agenda Coordinator, and Mr. Lee Foley, the Minister for Governing Body Relations, who would manage the business coming before delegates.

The Parliamentarians advised delegates of appropriate procedural rules as well as the role of the Youth Stewards.

Mr. Robertson explained the committee process, including the composition and roll of the Agenda Committee.

**3. REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Robertson called on Mr. Sham Moteelall (MINN), Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, (see appendix A) who moved the adoption of the Credentials Committee report (see appendix B).

**11-GS-1 VOTED:** The Twenty-eighth General Synod adopts the report of the Credentials Committee by consensus.

**4. QUORUM DECLARED**

Mr. Robertson declared a quorum present and the Twenty-eighth General Synod in session.

## **5. INTRODUCTION OF ELECTRONIC VOTING**

Mr. Robertson described the use of the electronic voting devices and invited delegates to practice with two trial votes. Some delegates were unsure if their devices were working properly. Mr. Robertson assured delegates that prior to an official vote, the matter would be resolved.

## **6. ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD AGENDA**

Mr. Robertson indicated that the Executive Council will serve as the Business Committee during General Synod. He called upon Mr. Pierson Kemp, Chairperson of the Executive Council, who moved the adoption of the agenda as printed and to authorize the Business Committee to make any necessary adjustments.

Mr. Robertson invited delegates to vote again by electronic voting device.

**11-GS-2 VOTED:** The Twenty-eighth General Synod adopts the proposed agenda as printed and authorizes the Agenda Committee to make necessary adjustments.

## **7. ADOPTION OF THE STANDING RULES**

Mr. Kemp moved adoption of the Standing Rules of the Twenty-eighth General Synod (see appendix C) as recommended by the Executive Council.

**11-GS-3 VOTED:** The Twenty-eighth General Synod adopts the Standing Rules as recommended by the Executive Council.

## **8. DESIGNATION OF PERSONS GRANTED VOICE WITHOUT VOTE**

Mr. Kemp moved the adoption of the Executive Council's recommendation that the Twenty-eighth General Synod grants voice without vote to those persons who have been approved by the Business Committee as designated resource persons for the presentation of reports, resolutions or other concerns that are on the agenda of the General Synod. The listing of resource persons to the General Synod is found within the Second Report of the Executive Council (see appendix D).

**11-GS-4 VOTED:** The Twenty-eighth General Synod grants voice without vote, by consensus, to those persons who have been approved by the Business Committee as designated resource persons for the presentation of reports, resolutions or other concerns that are on the agenda of the General Synod.

## **9. DESIGNATION OF GROUPS GRANTED VOICE WITHOUT VOTE**

Mr. Kemp moved on behalf of the Business Committee that the Twenty-eighth General Synod grant voice without vote to designated groups and their stated representatives.

- 1—Focus Renewal Ministries, petition received October 6, 2010
- 2—UCC Professional Chaplains and Counselors, petition received December 14, 2010
- 3—Network for Environmental and Economic Responsibility, petition received January 20, 2011
- 4—Faithful and Welcoming Churches, petition received February 1, 2011
- 5—Ministry for God's Animals, petition received February 1, 2011
- 6—Christians for Justice Action, petition received February 4, 2011
- 7—UCC Military Chaplains, petition received February 7, 2011

8—Association of United Church Educators, petition received February 9, 2011

9—Biblical Witness Fellowship, petition received February 14, 2011

10—Association of United Church of Christ Intentional Interim Ministers, petition received February 27, 2011

11-GS-5 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod grants voice without vote, by consensus, to the designated groups and their stated representatives.

#### **10. FIRST REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL** (see appendix E)

Mr. Kemp offered reflections on the past biennium (see appendix F).

As a Point of Order, Kevin Manz (CA NV, N) offered a recommendation that until the voting devices are validated, delegates use the traditional method of voting by raising their voting cards.

#### **11. CELEBRATION OF NEW CONGREGATIONS**

Mr. David Schoen, Team Leader for the Evangelism Ministry Team, invited members of new congregations to the stage.

Mr. Schoen reported seventy-eight new church starts in the past two years. Ten of those were started in the Central Atlantic Conference. Since 2006, one hundred seventy-five churches have been planned and birthed, mainly in the California Nevada, Southern Conference.

#### **12. INTRODUCTION AND SPEECH OF LCM CANDIDATE**

Mr. Robertson introduced Ms. Diane Bennekamper (ME), Chairperson of the Local Church Ministries Board, to introduce the candidate for Executive Minister.

Ms. Bennekamper introduced the Rev. Dr. J. Bennett Guess, candidate for Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries. Mr. Guess addressed the delegates (see appendix G).

#### **13. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Robertson called on Ms. Edith Guffey, Administrator of the Twenty-eighth General Synod, for announcements.

WiFi questions can be addressed at a table in the Plenary Hall.

Since there is some discomfort with the accuracy of the electronic voting machines, we will begin Monday's plenary fifteen minutes early.

This afternoon's business will be completed at this evening's plenary.

Room changes and times for workshops at "Sun Coast Saturday" were announced.

#### **14. RECESS**

Mr. Robertson declared the First Plenary of the Twenty-eighth General Synod to be in recess at 5:14 PM. The next Plenary will begin at 7:30 PM.

Friday Evening, July 1, 2011  
Second Plenary Session

### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND THE CONTINUED REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Assistant Moderator Caroline Belsom called the Second Plenary Session to order and called on Mr. Pierson Kemp, Chairperson of the Executive Council.

### 2. INITIAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Mr. Kemp presented the nominees for the General Synod Nominating Committee. The Committee report was previously posted on the United Church of Christ website. Nominees are:

Lay Persons:

Cassandra Howe, New Hampshire Conference  
Ralph France, Central Atlantic Conference  
Pamela Cook, Iowa Conference  
Carlos Marquez-Sterling, Florida Conference  
Nancy Wolfe, Kansas-Oklahoma Conference  
Jennifer Blackwell, Michigan Conference

Clergy Persons:

Beth Kennett, Southern Conference  
Edward Davis, Illinois Conference  
Jonathan Lee, Connecticut Conference  
Sharon MacArthur, California Nevada, Northern Conference  
Gary Myers, Southeast Conference  
Dan DeLeon, South Central Conference

Mr. Kemp explained that three clergy and three lay persons will be elected.

Assistant Moderator Belsom asked for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, she declared the nominations closed.

Mr. Kemp presented the following nominations for the Historically Underrepresented Groups:

David Mateo, Council for Racial & Ethnic Ministries  
Bladimer Paeste, Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries

Assistant Moderator Belsom advised that no nominations are permitted from the floor for the positions representing the Historically Underrepresented Groups so the above names will appear on the ballot for election. She reminded delegates that biographical information can be found on the United Church of Christ website. Elections will take place Monday evening.

### 3. REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Assistant Moderator Belsom called on Ms. Eppie Encabo, (CA NV, N), Chairperson of the General Synod Nominating Committee (see appendix H).

Ms. Encabo spoke of the work of the committee (see appendix I). At the conclusion of her

remarks she moved the adoption of the Nominating Committee's report, as previously posted on the United Church of Christ website, and urged its approval (see appendix J).

Assistant Moderator Belsom thanked Ms. Encabo and indicated the report was received.

Ms. Belsom described the procedure for nominations from the floor for Boards of Directors of the Covenanted Ministries and Moderators. Seeing no nominations, she indicated the nominations were closed.

#### 4. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE (see appendices D and E)

Assistant Moderator Belsom called on Ms. Jean Avison (CPC), Chairperson of the Committee of Reference. Ms. Avison moved the Twenty-eighth General Synod adopts the Report of the Committee of Reference and delegates to the Business Committee the referral of new business submitted during the first plenary of this General Synod.

11-GS-6 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod adopts the Report of the Committee of Reference and delegates to the Business Committee the referral of new business submitted during the first plenary of this General Synod.

Assistant Moderator Belsom reminded delegates that this is the only time during the agenda that new business may be introduced. She described the procedure. Seeing no one approaching the microphones, she declared there was no new business.

#### 5. WELCOME FROM THE FLORIDA CONFERENCE

Assistant Moderator Patricia Aurand introduced Mr. Kent Siladi, Conference Minister of the Florida Conference, to bring greetings from the host conference.

Mr. Siladi welcomed the delegates and thanked more than three hundred volunteers from across Florida who were serving at the Twenty-eighth General Synod.

Ms. Aurand thanked the Local Arrangements Committee and all members of the Florida Conference for their hospitality.

#### 6. INTRODUCTION OF FORMER OFFICERS, EXECUTIVES AND MODERATORS

Assistant Moderator Aurand welcomed former officers, executives of instrumentalities, and former moderators of the United Church of Christ.

Former Moderators:

Marvin Morgan, Moderator of the Twenty-seventh General Synod  
Merlyn Lewis, Moderator of the Twenty-sixth General Synod  
Nate A. Lewis Jr., Moderator of the Twenty-fourth General Synod  
Denise Page Hood, Moderator of the Twenty-second General Synod  
John Krueger, Moderator of the Fifteenth General Synod

Former instrumentality executives:

Yvonne Delk, Office for Church in Society

Loey Powell, Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society  
David Hirano and his wife Sandra, United Church Board for World Ministries  
Arthur Cribbs, Office of Communication Former officers:  
Carol Joyce and her husband Neal Luebke, Secretary of the Church  
Charles Lockyear and his wife Catherine, Treasurer of the Church  
Doris Powell, Treasurer of the Church  
Bernice Powell Jackson and her husband Franklyn, Justice and Witness Ministries  
Bennie Whiten and his wife Susan Spote, Wider Church Ministries  
Avery Post, President of the Church  
Paul Sherry and his wife Mary, President of the Church

Assistant Moderator Aurand gave thanks for these saints. With acclamation of the body, she declared these honored guests are granted voice without vote at the Twenty-eighth General Synod and followed the declaration with prayer.

## 7. INTRODUCTION OF ECUMENICAL DELEGATES AND PARTNERS

Assistant Moderator Aurand called upon Ms. Karen Georgia Thompson, Minister for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, to introduce our ecumenical delegates and partners.

- Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, General Minister and President for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Rev. Henry E. Green Jr., Presiding Elder of the Tampa District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church
- Dr. Christopher Dorn, member of the Reformed Church in America's Commission on Christian Unity
- Rev. Cathy Tamsberg, Associate Pastor of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC, from the Alliance of Baptists
- Rev. Russell Meyer, Executive Director for the Florida Council of Churches
- Rev. Deborah C. DeWinter and Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon, representing the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA
- Rev. Michael Blair, Executive Minister, Communities in Mission Unit of the United Church of Canada

Hearing no objection, Assistant Moderator Aurand declared these guests are granted voice without vote at this Twenty-eighth General Synod.

## 8. INTRODUCTION OF OVERSEAS GUESTS AND MISSIONARIES

Assistant Moderator Aurand called upon Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte to introduce and welcome our overseas guests and missionaries.

From Africa:

- Rev. Dr. Prince Dibeela, General Secretary of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa
- Rev. Dr. Johnson Mbillah, General Advisor of the Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa, based in Kenya
- Rev. Semente Serenguana, President of the United Church of Christ in

- Mozambique, and his spouse, Mrs. Cristina Jossias Fernando
- Rev. Samuel Mkhonta of the Kukhany'Okusha Zion Church in Swaziland, and his spouse Mrs. Lethah Mkhonta
- Mrs. Megan Baxter of the Theological Educational by Extension College in South Africa
- Rev. Fungayi Mutsumbei, Eastern Conference Superintendent of the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe

From East Asia and the Pacific:

- Rev. Kim Jong Soung, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea, and his spouse, Mrs. Kim Eun Joo
- Rev. Bae Tae Jim, General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea

From Europe:

- Rev. Balazs Odor, Ecumenical Officer of the Reformed Church in Hungary

From Latin America and the Caribbean:

- Rev. Patrick Villier, President of the National Spiritual Council of Churches of Haiti
- Ms. Nora S. Coloma, Executive Secretary of the Christian Ecumenical Council of Guatemala
- Rev. Dr. Vitalino Similox, General Secretary of the Christian Ecumenical Council of Guatemala

From the Middle East:

- Mr. Mohammad Sammak, General Secretary of the Arab Group for Muslim-Christian Dialogue, from Lebanon

From Southern Asia:

- Rev. Dr. Khamphone Kounthapanya, Executive President of the Laos Evangelical Church
- Rev. Kingphet Thammavong, Tribal Ministry Associate Director of the Laos Evangelical Church

Introductions were followed by applause from the delegates.

Ms. Rogers-Witte moved that these international partner guests be granted voice without vote for the duration of this General Synod.

11-GS-7 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod grants voice without vote for the duration of this General Synod to our overseas guests.

Ms. Rogers-Witte asked other international guests that conferences of local churches have brought to General Synod to stand and be recognized. Guests were greeted with applause by the body.

Ms. Rogers-Witte presented Ms. Nora S. Coloma, Executive Secretary of the Christian Ecumenical Council of Guatemala, to bring greetings on behalf of our global partners.

Ms. Rogers-Witte presented the following missionaries:

- Carmelo Alvarez serving with the Latin American Evangelical Pentecostal Commission, and the Evangelical Pentecostal Union of Venezuela
- Scott Couper and Susan Valiquette serving with the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa at its Inanda Seminary in Durban, South Africa
- Zoltan Szucs and Barbara Szucs serving with the Reformed Church in Hungary
- Casilda Luzares, who is retiring after twenty years of service with the Council on Cooperative Mission, and Doshisha University, in Japan
- Michael Joseph serving in the Restoration, Life, and Peace Commission of the Council of Evangelical Churches in Columbia
- Ryan Turner, who recently completed service as a Global Mission Intern with the Deep Griha Society in Pune, India

Ms. Rogers-Witte thanked these individuals, and all missionaries, for their service on behalf of the United Church of Christ.

11-GS-8 VOTED BY CONSENSUS: Hearing no objection, Assistant Moderator Aurand declared these guests are granted voice without vote at the Twenty-eighth General Synod.

#### 9. INTRODUCTION AND SPEECH OF WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES CANDIDATE

Assistant Moderator Aurand called upon Ms. Deborah Blood (CONN), Chairperson of the Wider Church Ministries Board. Ms. Blood presented Rev. James Moos as the candidate for Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries and Co-Executive of Global Ministries. Mr. Moos addressed the delegates (see appendix K).

Assistant Moderator Aurand thanked Mr. Moos.

#### 10. RECESS

Assistant Moderator Aurand announced that the Twenty-eighth General Synod will stand in recess following worship.

#### 11. WORSHIP

Theme for worship was “Imagine What’s Possible!” Speakers were Rev. Susan K. Smith, Rev. Marilyn Pagan-Banks and Rev. Josh Longbottom.

Saturday Morning, July 2, 2011

Ms. Linda Jaramillo, Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries, welcomed everyone and introduced Mr. Leonard Pitts Jr., Pulitzer-prize winning columnist for the Miami Herald, who gave the keynote address. Following the keynote address, delegates and guests were treated to a performance by “Nuttin’ But Stringz” featuring brothers Tourie and Damien Escobar.

Assistant Moderator Belsom introduced everyone to “Suncoast Saturday” events.

Sunday morning, July 3, 2011

### Committees in Session

Those committees of the General Synod considering proposed resolutions were in session.

Sunday Afternoon, July 3, 2011

The theme for worship was “Imagine What’s Possible!” The speaker was Rev. Dr. Laurinda Hafner, Senior Pastor of Coral Gables Congregational Church, Coral Gables, FL. Soloist was Ms. Sharon E. Scott, singer and actress. Outgoing collegiums members were recognized.

Monday Morning, July 4, 2011

Third Plenary Session

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Moderator Robertson called the Third Plenary Session to order.

### 2. SPEAKOUTS

Mr. Robertson recognized the following Speakout! participants:

1. Dottie Driemeier-Showers (IS) spoke regarding civil unions and foster care.
2. Julie Burkey (NY) highlighted Christians for Justice Action and Open and Affirming issues.
3. Tamara Torres (NY) also spoke regarding Christians for Justice Action.
4. Jamie Romo (CA NV, S) regards the United Church of Christ as a healing community.
5. Gunnar Cerda (OHIO) discussed autism awareness.
6. Jake Joseph (IOWA) reminded everyone about the Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries elections.

### 3. INTRODUCTION AND SPEECH OF ASSOCIATE GENERAL MINISTER CANDIDATE

Moderator Robertson called upon Mr. Pierson Kemp, Chairperson of the Executive Council, and Ms. Anita Bradshaw, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Office of General Ministries, to introduce the candidate for Associate General Minister.

Mr. Kemp and Ms. Bradshaw presented Mr. W. Mark Clark as the candidate for Associate General Minister. Mr. Clark addressed the delegates (see appendix L).

Moderator Robertson thanked Mr. Clark for his comments.

### 4. PRESENTATION OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

Moderator Robertson called upon Ms. Kathy Houston, Chief Financial Officer for the United Church of Christ, for the financial report (see appendix M).

Moderator Robertson thanked Ms. Houston and asked if delegates had questions. David Greenhaw (MOMS) asked if Ms. Houston thought the trend to draw on unrestricted funds was being addressed. Ms. Houston responded that Collegium members have been working to lessen the draw on unrestricted funds.

Moderator Robertson called upon Ms. Jean Avison, Chairperson of the Budget and Finance Committee of the Executive Council. Ms. Avison moved the General Synod adopt a national basic support allocation base of \$7.1 million and \$6.8 million for the budget years 2012 and 2013. Ms. Avison spoke to the motion.

**11-GS-9 VOTED:** The Twenty-eighth General Synod adopts a national basic support allocation base of \$7.1 million and \$6.8 million for the budget years 2012 and 2013.

Ms. Alicia Nebot moved the Twenty-eighth General Synod delegate the determination of the percentage allocation for Our Church's Wider Mission national basic support for the 2012-2013 biennium to the Executive Council.

**11-GS-10 VOTED:** The Twenty-eighth General Synod delegates the determination of the percentage allocation for Our Church's Wider Mission national basic support for the 2012-2013 biennium to the Executive Council.

## **5. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Assistant Moderator Aurand explained the reporting process for committees. She then thanked the Committee Process Facilitators: Ms. Susan Henderson (CAC), Ms. Susan Townley (CONN.) and Mr. Dennis Frische-Mouri (IK). The team was staffed by Mr. David Anderson (PNW). All were asked to stand and be recognized. Ms. Aurand then asked all Committee Chairs to rise and be recognized.

## **6. FORMAL MOTION: COMMON AGREEMENT ON MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF BAPTISM**

Ms. Aurand called upon Mr. Mike Castle, Chairperson of Committee Eleven. Mr. Castle moved affirmation of the formal motion "Common Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Baptism." He then spoke to the resolution. Discussion was held.

The question was called and seconded.

**11-GS-11 VOTED:** The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to end debate on the formal motion "Common Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Baptism."

**11-GS-12 VOTED:** The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to affirm the formal motion "Common Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Baptism."

COMMON AGREEMENT ON MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF BAPTISM  
Roman Catholic-Reformed Church Dialogue

The Twenty-eighth General Synod affirms the *Common Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Baptism* with the United Church of Christ, Presbyterian Church – U.S.A., Reformed Church in America, Christian Reformed Church, and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

1. Together we affirm that, by the sacrament of Baptism, a person is truly incorporated into the body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:13 and 27; Ephesians 1:22-23), the Church. Baptism establishes the bond of unity existing among all who are part of Christ's body and is, therefore, the sacramental basis for our efforts to move towards visible unity.
2. Together we affirm that Baptism is the sacramental gateway into the Christian life, directed toward the fullness of faith and discipleship in Christ.
3. Together we affirm that incorporation into the universal Church by baptism is brought about by celebrating the sacrament within a particular Christian community.
4. Together we affirm that Baptism is to be conferred only once, because those who are baptized are decisively incorporated into the Body of Christ.
5. Together we affirm that baptism is a sacrament of the Church, enacted in obedience to the mission confided to it by Christ's own word. For our baptisms to be mutually recognized, water and the scriptural Trinitarian formula "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28: 19-20) must be used in the baptismal rite.
6. Together we affirm that the validity of Baptism depends on its celebration according to the apostolic witness by the Church and its authorized ministers.
7. Together we affirm, as a sign of our unity and as a witness to ecumenical commitment, the practice of inviting the presence and, where appropriate, the participation of members of our respective communions in the celebration of Baptism. At the same time, we affirm our responsibility to respect the integrity of the distinct baptismal practices of the communions in which the rite of Baptism is administered.
8. Given our mutual recognition of Baptism, we encourage using baptismal registers in the local church community and, when requested by another church for a pastoral need in the life of an individual, providing written attestations of Baptism, including the liturgical formula used. Such cooperation and mutual accountability honors the dignity of the sacrament of Baptism.

We rejoice at the common faith we share and affirm in this document. We understand that the journey toward full, visible unity depends on openness to the grace of God and humility before the initiatives of God's Spirit among us. Because of these convictions, we encourage Roman Catholic and Reformed pastoral leaders to continue their commitment to regular dialogue about theology and pastoral practice from local to international settings. Pastoral leaders engaged in

such dialogue embody our hopes for unity, collaborative effort, and common witness. We believe that respectful dialogue can provide a strong witness to the wider church about our commitment to a relationship in Christ and can stand as a safeguard against the unreflective judgments that have, at certain times in our history, diminished and distorted our relations.

*From “These Living Waters: Baptism Document of the 7<sup>th</sup> Round Reformed-Roman Catholic Dialogue,” page 5-6. Denominations in the dialogue: The United Church of Christ, Presbyterian Church-USA; Reformed Church in America, Christian Reformed Church, and U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).*

## 7. INSTANT RECESS

A flashmob instant recess was held because of the national “Let’s Move” campaign to end childhood obesity and our faith commitment to assist individuals, families and our local churches in this effort. It was done in collaboration with Justice and Witness Ministries and the Youth Ministry of Local Church Ministries. Dr. Antoinette Yancy, author of the book “Building a Fit Nation 10 Minutes at a Time” was introduced. She urged everyone to get moving whenever we gather together – during Sunday worship services, in our Bible study groups, choir rehearsals and Sunday Schools. Physical activity is one of the most potent, yet under-utilized tools in our arsenal to prevent diabetes, cardiovascular disease, Alzheimer’s and cancer. She thanked everyone for joining the Instant Recess movement to make prolonged sitting socially unacceptable.

Doug Fourt and Debbie Manley (WIS) urged the moderator to have delegates raise their hands during votes due to the problems with the electronic voting devices.

Assistant Moderator Aurand indicated a voice vote or show of hands will be requested until all problems are resolved with the electronic voting devices.

## 8. COLLEGIUM REPORT

Ms. Aurand called upon Collegium members for their presentations.

Ms. Linda Jaramillo introduced our core values, continuing testament, extravagant welcome and mission to change lives. Ms. Cally Rogers-Witte detailed our continuing testament. Ms. Edith Guffey detailed our extravagant welcome. Mr. Steve Sterner detailed our mission to change lives. General Minister and President Geoffrey Black indicated we are distinctive. He then took a moment to underscore the importance of a major initiative that will take place this coming November 1 – 11 called “Mission 1.” The initiative is intended to celebrate local mission, but it also pushes us to stretch a bit to connect the dots between compassion and justice, to being in service close to home but also around the world. It enables us to see the greater impact we can have as a church when we take seriously our “oneness” together. Collegium members then explained that between 11/1/11 and 11/11/11 we will collect more than one million items of healthy food items for people in our communities and we will write letters to Congress in collaboration with Bread for the World. We will raise funds for Neighbors in Need with a goal of collecting more than \$111,111. We will be creative in shedding light on food-related injustice through preaching, public forums, public witness and educational events. The “oneness” of our church will determine our success. “Mission 1” is an invitation to come and see what God is

doing in our midst. The collegium presentation was followed by a brief video. Ms. Jaramillo then introduced conversation time among the delegates and visitors and invited feedback on [www.ucc.org/values](http://www.ucc.org/values).

## 9. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT

Assistant Moderator Aurand then called upon Mr. Geoffrey Black, General Minister and President to address the body. Mr. Black commented that this gathering in Tampa, like all General Synods, is a celebration of unity among people and a time to express, in love and covenant, a diversity of opinion and conviction – to share honestly what is on our hearts and minds. We celebrate a profound oneness, something that Christians have been journeying toward ever since Jesus prayed “that they may all be one.”

One of Mr. Black’s first initiatives as General Minister and President was to embark on a listening tour throughout the nation to hear what was on the minds of the people who comprise local churches, conferences and associations. Over the last twenty-one months, he visited twenty-one of our thirty-eight conferences. He expressed deep appreciation to the Conference Ministers of the United Church of Christ for their encouragement, support and help.

The United Church of Christ is beginning to do a new thing. We are beginning to imagine what’s possible and to imagine new possibilities for mission and ministry. We are working on some “Big, Holy, Audacious Goals.” Now is the time to be the church that God has already imagined. Take courage, imagine what’s possible, set big goals, but don’t hesitate to act.

Ms. Aurand thanked Mr. Black for his words and works.

## 10. ELECTRONIC VOTING CHALLENGES

Ms. Aurand called upon Ms. Edith Guffey, Association General Minister, to address the challenges with the voting devices. Ms. Guffey assured everyone that it is important they feel each vote is being counted. Consensus of the delegates was that they wanted to continue using the voting devices. Delegates were asked to use the electronic voting devices to reaffirm the vote they previously made on the resolution “Mutual Recognition of Baptism.” The vote was reaffirmed and devices seemed to be working properly.

## 11. GREETINGS FROM THE COALITION OF IMMOKALEE WORKERS

Ms. Aurand called upon Mr. Lucas Benetez and Ms. Brigitte Gynther to bring greetings and concerns from the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. Following their comments, Ms. Aurand thanked Mr. Beneitez and Ms. Gynther for their comments.

## 12. RECESS

Ms. Aurand declared the Third Plenary of the Twenty-eighth General Synod to be in recess.

Monday Afternoon, July 4, 2011  
Fourth Plenary Session

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Assistant Moderator Belsom called the Fourth Plenary of the Twenty-eighth General Synod to order and opened the session with Speakouts!

1. Earl Menchhofer (IS) urged churches to provide information on how people could be debt free.
2. Thom Haines (MINN) recently returned from a mission trip to Guatemala and advised there is a justice documentary film available at [www.jprojectfilm.org](http://www.jprojectfilm.org)
3. Reebee Girash (MASS) stated the next flash mob for people of faith who are interested in becoming involved in climate action efforts for environmental justice will be September 24 and information is available at [www.moving-planet.org](http://www.moving-planet.org)
4. Jim Antal (MASS) stated that carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is rising, and we should advocate for laws to keep us a sustainable earth.
5. Andrea Cano (CPC) invited everyone to check out the website [www.uccmediajustice.org](http://www.uccmediajustice.org)
6. Laverne Joseph (CA NV, S) stated that the Retirement Housing Foundation has 163 communities in 25 states, District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Demand continues to grow.
7. Barry Russell (PC) advised that his congregation voted to become Open & Affirming.
8. Debbie Gline Allen (NH), a member of UC Educators, stated faith formation is critical to the survival of our Church. Studies show children acquire their spiritual grounding by the age of six. Please extend our welcome to children.
9. Bob Thompson (SOC), leader of Faithful & Welcoming Churches, thanked everyone for the welcome he received at General Synod. His group's primary role is to encourage churches to stay in the United Church of Christ.
10. Jane Fidler-Hoffman, (MOMS) member of the Board of Directors of Church World Service, thanked everyone for supporting CWS.

Ms. Belsom advised that the next Speakout! would be Tuesday Morning.

### 2. MOMENT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. Kent Siladi, Florida Conference Minister advised the body that Rev. Don Hafner passed away. Rev. Hafner's daughter, Reverend Laurie Hafner, preached at the General Synod worship service yesterday. Mr. Hafner had been able to see his daughter preach last evening through the internet. Mr. Siladi led the General Synod in prayer.

### 3. RECOGNITION OF THOSE RECEIVING AWARDS

Ms. Belsom called upon Mr. Geoffrey Black, General Minister and President, Ms. Linda Jaramillo, Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries, and Mr. Steve Sterner, Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries, to introduce the following people receiving awards:

- Ms. Sarah E. Campbell received the Avery D. Post 2011 Ecumenical Achievement Award for excellence in Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations.

- Ms. Marilyn Pagan-Banks received the Burning Bush Award for social justice.
- Mr. Malcolm Himschoot and Ms. Juanita Helphrey received 2011 Justice & Witness Ministries Social Prophet Awards.
- Feed All Regardless of Means (FARM) received the Grassroots Organization Award.
- Gunnison Congregational United Church of Christ, Gunnison, CO received the Local Church Justice and Witness Ministry Award
- Ms. Sarah Bigney, Bangor, ME received the Justice and Witness Ministry Youth/Young Adult Award
- Ms. Patricia Goldberg received the Association of United Church Educators Award
- Mr. John Gundlach received the United Church of Christ Chaplain's Advocacy Award
- Ms. J. Mary Luti and Ms. Suzanne Gangemi received Excellence in Teaching Awards
- Ms. Phil Snider and Ms. Emily Bowen received the Pilgrim Press Mayflower Award for Church and Society
- Mr. Paul Nixon received the Pilgrim Press Mayflower Award for Leadership
- Ms. Nancy Erickson and St. John United Church of Christ, Bellevue, KY received the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministry Awards.
- Mr. Peter Bauer of South Texas Veterans Health Care System, San Antonio, TX received the United Church of Christ Mental Illness Network Bob and Joyce Dell Mental Illness Award.
- Mr. Thomas E. Dipko received the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministry Virginia Kreyer Award.
- Ms. Carole C. Carlson, Ms. Barbara Ann Gerlach and Ms. Bernice Powell Jackson received Antoinette Brown Awards.
- The Southern California Nevada Conference, Pilgrim-St. Luke's United Church of Christ and Iglesia Unida De Cristo El Nuevo Camino of Buffalo, NY received Congregational Vitality Awards.
- Two laywomen from each conference received Honored Lay Women awards.

Award winners were greeted with applause from the delegates, and Ms. Belsom led the General Synod in prayer.

#### 4. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS RELATED TO UNIFIED GOVERNANCE

Assistant Moderator Belsom called upon Diane Bennekamper of Local Church Ministries, Leslie Penrose of Justice and Witness Ministries and Deborah Blood of Wider Church Ministries. Each advised the delegates that the respective Boards of Directors approved the resolution to change the size of their boards. Ms. Belsom indicated that each of these boards intend to change the size of their board even if the Proposal for Unified Governance does not pass. She also noted that the Office of General Ministries has not passed an action because its governing documents do not require it to do so. The Office of General Ministries Board is, however, in full support of the Unified Governance Proposal.

Ms. Belsom reminded the delegates that they previously voted to accept the Committee of Reference Report and that report sent the proposed Constitution and Bylaw amendments directly to Plenary. She also reminded everyone that there was a two-hour hearing Sunday evening on these issues.

Mr. Kwame Osei Reed (CJA) questioned the required date for notice and when notice was given to the mandated settings of the Church. Ms. Edith Guffey, Associate General Minister, advised that notice was given ninety days in advance and all Constitution and Bylaw changes were also posted on the United Church of Christ website.

Ms. Belsom then called on representatives from the following groups: the Unified Governance Working Group, the Organizational Life Committee of the Executive Council, and the Constitution and Bylaws Revision Team.

Ms. Belsom stated that before Synod moves to formal consideration of the proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws, it would be helpful to review the following action that was taken by the Executive Council regarding the process of amending the Constitution and Bylaws. The action states:

*The Executive Council of the General Synod has recently acted to clarify the question of bringing amendments to the proposed revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws after such revisions have been properly posted (two months prior to the start of the General synod), as the current Constitution (2010 Ed.) paragraphs 74 and 75 mandates. On March 18, 2011, the Executive Council provided the following clarification, which the Moderators and Parliamentarians of the Twenty-eighth General Synod will follow;*

*Proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ must be circulated to the delegates well in advance of the General synod. Therefore, proposed amendments from the floor will be in order only if they do not increase the modification of the provision to be amended. Amendments from the floor which seek to correct typographical, spelling or grammar errors and other proposals directed solely to the form of the amendment are likely to be deemed as not increasing the proposed modification and may therefore be considered. Amendments from the floor which seek to make a material change to the amendment are likely to be considered as increasing the proposed modification and may therefore be ruled out of order. Changes to the Constitution require action by the Conferences as well as by General Synod.*

Assistant Moderator Belsom called upon Mr. Pierson Kemp, Chairperson of the Executive Council, who introduced Mr. Bernard Wilson, Team Leader charged with the responsibility for developing the model, A Proposal for Unified Governance of the National Setting of the United Church of Christ. Mr. Wilson advised that the Working Group prayerfully conducted its work and included Church-wide dialogue and feedback from conferences, seminary boards, local churches, associations, associated and affiliated ministries, and individuals. The proposed model was affirmed by the Executive Council and the Covenanted Ministry Boards in the fall of 2010. The finalized proposal was received, reviewed and affirmed by the Executive Council in the

spring of 2011. He advised that two of the twenty-nine Working Group members do not agree with the proposal. But twenty-seven of the twenty-nine Working Group members offer their strong endorsement. Thirty conference ministers urge adoption of the proposal for a unified governance model.

The Proposal for a Unified Governance model is all about mission:

How the Church discerns mission

How the Church lives out its mission

How a governance structure empowers and advances mission

Currently five boards are meeting separately to carry on the mission and ministry of the United Church of Christ. This Unified Governance Proposal creates a single board (to be called the United Church of Christ Board) to provide common planning, development, policies and oversight for the United Church of Christ.

The new Board emphasizes good governance practices.

The new Board will have fifty-two members.

The new Board will be tremendously diverse, but not representational as we presently understand the term.

The new Board's Nominating Committee will offer a slate of candidates based on diversity, skills, expertise and experience.

In closing, Mr. Wilson asked delegates to take ownership of this proposal and to implement it.

Mr. Wilson then moved the adoption of the amendments to the Constitution and the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ and urged its approval.

Assistant Moderator Belsom then called upon Mr. Bernard Wilson for a procedural motion.

Mr. Wilson moved the Twenty-eighth General Synod resolve itself into a quasi-committee of the whole to take under consideration the proposed amendments to the Constitution and the proposed amendments to the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

Ms. Belsom then explained the function of a quasi-committee of the whole. She indicated this is an extraordinary parliamentary procedure aimed at allowing for greater questioning of the proposal than would be the practice under normal General Synod rules.

**11-GS-13 VOTED:** The Twenty-eighth General Synod resolves itself into a quasi-committee of the whole to take under consideration the proposed amendments to the Constitution and the proposed amendments to the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

## **5. QUASI-COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Mr. Mike Denton (PNW) questioned the process for questions and answers during the quasi-committee of the whole. Assistant Moderator Belsom explained the procedure.

Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Greg Bain, Chairperson of the Executive Council's Organizational Life Committee, who reviewed the process and helped draft the proposed Constitution and Bylaw

amendments to join him on stage. Members of the Unified Governance Working Group and the Constitution and Bylaws Review Team also joined him on stage to help respond to questions.

Mr. Bain explained the process used to review the Constitution and Bylaws modifications, in consultation with attorneys Mr. Don Clark and Mr. Ches Sumpter.

Assistant Moderator Belsom thanked Mr. Bain and his team.

Discussion followed:

Q: Bob Atkinson (MOMS) – How will oversight happen and evaluations occur of the sixteen members included as officers of the United Church of Christ if officers are serving with both voice and vote?

A: The United Church of Christ Board will be accountable to the General Synod.

Q: Bob Thompson (Faithful & Welcoming Churches) – Clarification documents are not available. Are all three documents being approved?

A: Background documents are not being approved.

Q: Rick Pulling (IK) – Would like to offer a friendly amendment on Article 5 of the Constitution.

A: Ms. Belsom requested that Mr. Pulling hold the amendment until after the Q & A.

Q: Jim Antal (MASS) – Could someone please comment on the way in which the Holy Spirit was present during the discussions.

A: The process was transformational, complex and very spirit-filled. This experience was the United Church of Christ at its best. It was incredibly powerful.

Q: Enno Limvere (SD) – Is this expanding the powers and authority of the General Minister and President? Why did the Board believe this was necessary?

A: We believed the office needed strengthening.

Q: Madison Schockley (CA NV, S) – Article 5, Line 82 – Would an amendment to delete “Triune God” and return to “Heavenly Father” be in order when we return to Plenary?

A: Legal counsel believes this would be a substantive proposal and out of order at this time due to the required notification process.

Q: Christopher Jenkins (MASS) – The transition to smaller boards has already been acted upon by three boards. Would we have to approve Bylaw amendments to this affect at this or the next General Synod?

A: If this proposal does not pass and boards still want to reduce their numbers, we will need to accept that action. Covenanted Ministry boards do not need a vote of the General Synod to change the composition of their boards. They just need to notify General Synod.

Q: Graylan Hagler (EC) – moved the idea that doing any substantial changes be set aside.

Ms. Belsom ruled the motion out of order due to the notification process for proposed

amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. No motions of a substantive nature can be made without notification.

Mr. Hagler - General Synod has its own collective insight. To say it's limited continues to railroad the issue and deny General Synod the right to make changes. Appealed the Moderator's decision. Motion seconded.

Point of Order: Greg Bain (IK) Can motions be made during the question and answer period of a quasi-committee of the whole discussion?

A. Yes.

Debate was held.

Mr. Hagler – We need the input of the collective reasoning of the General Synod. We should be the democratic body we are called to be.

David Steward (ILL) – When we vote, will it be majority rule?

A: Yes.

Bill Reagan (PNE) called the question.

Moderator requested Mr. Reagan wait to call the question.

Paul Bryant Smith (CONN) – What Mr. Hagler wants to do is abandon the process. I support the Moderator.

Anita Bradshaw (MINN) – If we overrule the Moderator, we are also overruling the Executive Council. The two-month notification process would also be violated.

T. Michael Rock (MINN) – The spirit of overruling the Moderator is that we have authority to make changes.

Bill Reagan (PNE) called the question.

Motion to end debate was approved.

Motion to affirm or sustain the ruling of the Moderator was approved.

Q: (unidentified delegate) – Is it possible to override the rules by a majority vote from the floor?

A. No.

Graylan Hagler (EC) – The voting process is prejudicial. According to the electronic voting devices, the number of votes has changed since General Synod started.

A. Vote totals will vary as some people leave the plenary sessions during General Synod.

Jennifer Bannamon (OHIO) – Could we please hold up voting cards until votes are registered so the Moderator knows when voting is complete?

A. Edith Guffey checked the number of voting delegates with the technicians and the number currently showing is the number of key pads distributed. Not everyone is present every time a vote is taken.

Q: Barbara Kershner Daniels (WCM) – How much time is allotted for this discussion? We are spending way too much time preventing conversation instead of allowing the conversations we had hoped for.

A: Ninety minutes was allotted.

Q: Bob Thompson (Faithful & Welcoming Churches) – Why, in the proposal, is the section on governance relevant to the description of a local church?

A. The Unified Governance Proposal definition of a local church came from the current Constitution and Bylaws.

Q: Ben Motz (PSE) – Appreciate the need to adjust size. As we anticipate five to ten years down the road, how big the organization will be, what range in size of the United Church of Christ do you see and what growth are you perceiving this structure will work for?

A: We looked at other denominations and structures of comparable size. Most have boards smaller than ours. We anticipate this will be appropriate in the future.

Q: Sally Norris (MASS) – What is the nature of expertise on the United Church of Christ Board? As the body of Christ, how or will you include the expertise of those visionaries on the Board? Will the functioning of the Board be different than that of a non-profit board?

A: We desire that the Board will include a broad experience of experts.

Q: Kevin Peterson (LCM) – How will the paradigm shift affect the United Church of Christ in the future?

A: Having knowledge of all assets and liabilities and mandates enables the decision-making body to make decisions with all information available.

Q: Charlene Thompkins (FL) – What is the impact on the local church as it relates to roles of pastor and polity where members govern?

A: This has no effect on the organizational structure of local churches.

Q: Enno Limvere (SD) – Board members will now have to know what's happening in five areas. What kind of time commitments will Board members have and how often will they meet?

A: The smaller the Boards, the more engaged the individuals. The Board will determine the frequency of its meetings.

Q: Miguel Frias (ILL) – Previous structures have failed. If this fails, what is our next step?

A: It's always a work in process. Any organization needs to be able to adapt to different conditions. We probably will be back in another ten years to look at this again. We have not failed in the past. Now is the time to redesign our structure.

Q: Nick Casterling (PNW) – What other denominations did you look at?

A: We looked at Lutheran and Methodist churches.

Q: Ben Motz (PSE) – Article 8 in the Constitution relates to Association and pastoral standing. Could an Association interpret this as loss of standing?

A: Page 6, Article 8, Section 41 was changed to more clearly parallel Page 4, Paragraph 21. Organizational Life requested that the termination clause be left in. We're talking primarily about standing when we're talking about termination.

Q: Robert Hyde (MASS) – Unified Governance is the main form being presented. What other forms were looked at and why is this the best model for us at this time?

A: General Synod Twenty-seven gave us a mandate to bring a proposal for unified governance.

Assistant Moderator Belsom thanked everyone for their questions and answers and suggested everyone stand and stretch before we return to our regular Plenary.

Bernard Wilson moved that the Twenty-eighth General Synod move out of the quasi-committee of the whole. Motion seconded. The motion carried.

## 6. RETURN TO PLENARY AND DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION ON THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS RELATED TO UNIFIED GOVERNANCE

Jennifer Spears (SE) stated she is in full support of the proposal.

John Dorhauer requested a point of personal privilege and expressed anger that going into a quasi-committee of the whole only left twenty minutes for discussion on the proposal.

A prayer for discernment was requested and prayed.

Madison Schockley (CA NV,S) moved to amend Article 5, Line 82, to reduce the modification of "Triune" and leave the amendment at "God."

Moderator Belsom ruled the motion out of order due to the substantive nature of the change.

Mr. Schockley appealed the ruling of the Moderator. Motion seconded.

Mr. Schockley then spoke to his motion, stating that all the elements of the Trinity are still present and his motion simplifies understanding of the section.

Unidentified delegate – This is a moot point.

Jason Donnelley (EC) – Favors the Moderator's ruling.

Susan Sherwood (FL) – If this is cleaning up the language, it is not a substantive motion.

Eon Totwood (MASS) – Objects to this language. This should have been brought earlier.

Supports the Moderator's ruling.

Cathy Colson (NEB) – Requests that the electronic voting devices be used.

11-GS-14 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to affirm the Moderator's ruling that a motion to amend Article 5, Line 82, to reduce the modification of "Triune" and leave the amendment at "God" is out of order.

Monica Newburg (PNE) called the question.

Moderator Belsom advised that since debate just started, the Call of the Question would be considered at a later time.

## 7. RECESS

Assistant Moderator Belsom declared the Fourth Plenary of the Twenty-eighth General Synod to be in recess at 4:55 PM.

Monday Evening, July 4, 2011  
Fifth Plenary Session

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Assistant Moderator Belsom called the Fifth Plenary Session to order at 7:30 PM.

Ms. Belsom reminded everyone that the next Speakout! will be Tuesday morning at 8:30 AM.

## 2. DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS RELATED TO UNIFIED GOVERNANCE

Nozomi Ikuta (OHIO) commented that she appreciates the work everyone has put into this proposal, but moved to change the number of at-large representatives on the Board from 52 to 62 and restore the names of the groups that had been deleted.

Ms. Belsom ruled this proposal out of order because it is a substantive change.

Christopher Jenkins (MASS) – The body does need to be streamlined, but we’re going too far. He does not think the Board of Directors and Executive Council should be combined. He also thinks that a few more seats should be added and wishes the clean-up and governance debate would have been done separately.

Meredith Jackson (LCM) - Who’s in charge of implementation?

Bernard Wilson responded that if the proposal passes, it goes to conferences for approval, and then the Executive Council will implement it.

Meredith Jackson (LCM) - Will there be a discussion guide or resources provided?

Mr. Wilson – There is a process established.

Rob Kujema (HI) – The Hawaii Conference attempted something similar. As our ministry changed, we needed to change our structure. He is in favor of the motion.

Jeff Whitman (MOMS) commended the committee for the fine work done over the last two to four years. He agrees in concept, but is deeply troubled guaranteeing representation on this Board. He is also troubled that large-member, wealthy conferences could dominate this Board. It’s racist and unfair. I’m deeply troubled by the process that denied us to have an honest and open debate. I’m also disappointed with the leadership of this Church. It felt very manipulative.

Ben Motz (PSE) moved an amendment to Line 248, Article VIII, last sentence “Such authorization may be terminated by the Association.” Change to: “Such authorized standing may be terminated by the Association.”

Assistant Moderator Belsom ruled the amendment out of order due to the substantive nature and need for more research.

William Pifer-Foote (PSE) would have made the Board larger with more representatives, but basically supports the proposal.

Ryan Matthews (OHIO and UCC Disabilities Ministry) appreciates the work the group has done, but is deeply troubled by certain groups being left out.

The Moderator asked delegates not to applaud following individual speakers.

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

11-GS-15 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to close debate on the Proposed Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws Related to Unified Governance.

11-GS-16 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to adopt the Proposed Amendments to the United Church of Christ Constitution and Bylaws (See appendices N and O).

### 3. COMMEMORATION OF THE 200<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS

Moderator Robertson introduced the Commemoration of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions – now known as the Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ. Mr. Robertson shared that two hundred years ago, five young men took shelter beneath a haystack during a raging thunderstorm. Together, in that moment, they covenanted to become missionaries. A video was shown entitled “200 Years of Global Ministries.”

### 4. RECESS

Moderator Robertson declared the Fifth Plenary of the Twenty-eighth General Synod to be in recess following worship. He reminded delegates that Tuesday morning’s Plenary would include elections, discussion on the frequency of General Synod and the balance of the committee resolutions.

The theme for worship was “For the Healing of the Nations.”

Tuesday Morning, July 5, 2011  
Sixth Plenary Session

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Assistant Moderator Aurand called the Sixth Plenary Session of the Twenty-eighth General Synod to order at 8:30 AM.

### 2. SPEAKOUTS!

Ms. Aurand acknowledged the following Speakout! participants:

1. Gail Kinney (NH) invited everyone to celebrate the unveiling of the new Economic Justice Covenant Initiative by visiting the booth in the exhibit hall.

2. Brenda Waleff (PC) described the Center for Progressive Renewal Conference to be held in the Penn Central Conference and invited everyone to visit [www.progressiverenewal.org](http://www.progressiverenewal.org) for more information and registration materials.
3. Bonnie Moore (PSE) acknowledged Carl and Marie Beatty. This is only the third General Synod they have not been able to attend.
4. Bill Burns (SC) praised military chaplains who serve as priest, pastor and prophet. These ordained clergy hold the core values of the United Church of Christ in places no one wants to be or go.
5. Kirk Moore (ILL) stated one in four families are affected by mental illness and urged attendance at the “Widening the Welcome” event. Please visit [www.wideningthewelcome.com](http://www.wideningthewelcome.com) for more information.
6. Joe Krabill (PC) stated the Chautauqua Institute is searching for a chaplain administrator for their summer program. Contact 561-714-7074 for more information.
7. Judy Hanlon (MASS) reported a wounded, gay man from Haiti searching for support found her church. To date the church has helped twenty-five persons seeking political asylum. Please visit [www.lgbtasylum.org](http://www.lgbtasylum.org)
8. Vickie Kemper (MASS) stated there are college students searching for an ONA church. Please let her know if your students are coming to Amherst College.
9. Elizabeth Koebel and Betsy Sturbins (SW) represent the Young Adult Service Community in Phoenix, AZ and discussed poverty in America, local service organizations and how churches can get involved.
10. Jennifer Spears (SE) appreciates the extravagant welcome extended to her. She is the first licensed minister and first transgender licensed minister in the Southeast Conference.
11. Stan Duncan (MASS) reported the international flotilla trying to bring aid to Gaza has been stopped. Please pray and contact your congressional representatives to bring this issue to a more humane end.
12. Jenny Barrett Siegal, Beth Bair and Mary Nelson Abbott (MASS) are from the 20-30 Clergy Network and requested support for the Network.

Ms. Aurand thanked all Speakout! participants and advised that the final Speakout! will be this afternoon.

### 3. MOMENT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Sean Weston (LCM) requested a time of prayer for healing following yesterday’s plenary.

Mr. John Dorhauer (SW) wished to take exception to the comment during debate on the Governance Task Force attributing racist motives to those who wrote the document. He felt the statement was out of line.

### 4. ELECTIONS

Assistant Moderator Aurand called on Mr. Doug McClelland, Vice Chair of the Executive Council to present the nominees for Moderators, the Executive Council and the Boards of Directors of Local Church Ministries, Wider Church Ministries, Justice and Witness Ministries and the Office of General Ministries (see appendix J).

Mr. McClelland moved that the Twenty-eighth General Synod elect the nominees for the

Moderators, the Executive Council and the Boards of Directors of Local Church Ministries, Wider Church Ministries, Justice and Witness Ministries and the Office of General Ministries. There was no discussion on the motion.

**11-GS-17 VOTED:** The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to elect the nominees for Moderators, the Executive Council and the Boards of Directors of Local Church Ministries, Wider Church Ministries, Justice and Witness Ministries and the Office of General Ministries.

Ms. Aurand turned to the election of members to serve on the General Synod Nominating Committee Class of 2017. Names were placed in nomination on Friday and biographical information was on the United Church of Christ website since early April. The first vote is for nominees for the Nominating Committee from Historically Underrepresented Groups.

**11-GS-18 VOTED:** The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to elect David Mateo to serve on the General Synod Nominating Committee Class of 2017 from the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries.

**11-GS-19 VOTED:** The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to elect Bladimer Paeste to serve on the General Synod Nominating Committee Class of 2017 from the Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries.

Ms. Aurand indicated the second stage of voting for members of the Nominating Committee is a contested election. Names of these persons were also placed in nomination on Friday. Biographical information was on the website and delegates will now vote for three lay people. Nominees are as follows:

- Cassandra Howe of the New Hampshire Conference
- Ralph France of the Central Atlantic Conference
- Pamela Cook of the Iowa Conference
- Carlos Marquez-Sterling of the Florida Conference
- Nancy Wolfe of the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference
- Jennifer Blackwell of the Michigan Conference

**11-GS-20 VOTED:** The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to elect Pamela Cook of the Iowa Conference, Carlos Marquez-Sterling of the Florida Conference and Jennifer Blackwell of the Michigan Conference.

Ms. Aurand then directed the delegates to the election of the three clergy persons. Nominees are as follows:

- Beth Kennett of the Southern Conference
- Edward Davis of the Illinois Conference
- Jonathan Lee of the Connecticut Conference
- Sharon MacArthur of the California Nevada Northern Conference
- Gary Myers of the Southeast Conference
- Dan De Leon of the South Central Conference

**11-GS-21 VOTED:** The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to elect Beth Kennett of the

Southern Conference, Sharon MacArthur of the California Nevada Northern Conference and Dan De Leon of the South Central Conference.

Ms. Aurand expressed thanks to all who had agreed to be considered for the Nominating Committee and congratulated those who were elected.

#### ELECTION OF NEW COLLEGIUM MEMBERS

Ms. Aurand indicated we will now elect the new Executive Minister for Local Church Ministries, the Executive Minister for Wider Church Ministries and the Associate General Minister.

Ms. Aurand called on Ms. Diane Bennekamper, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Local Church Ministries.

Ms. Bennekamper moved that the Reverend J. Bennett Guess be called by election by the General Synod of the United Church of Christ to an unexpired term of two years as the Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries and an Officer of the United Church of Christ.

Ms. Aurand informed the delegates that sixty percent of those voting must vote in the affirmative for call by election.

11-GS-22 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to elect the Reverend J. Bennett Guess to an unexpired term of two years as the Executive Minister of Local Church ministries and an Officer of the United Church of Christ.

Ms. Aurand called on Ms. Deborah Blood, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Wider Church Ministries.

Ms. Blood moved that the Reverend James Moos be called by election by the General Synod of the United Church of Christ to a four year term as Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries and an Officer of the United Church of Christ.

Ms. Aurand again informed the delegates that sixty percent of those voting must vote in the affirmative for call by election.

11-GS-23 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to elect the Reverend James Moos to a four year term as Executive Minister of Wider church Ministries and an Officer of the United Church of Christ.

Ms. Aurand called on Mr. Pierson Kemp, Chairperson of the Executive Council.

Ms. Kemp moved that Mr. W. Mark Clark be called by election by the General Synod of the United Church of Christ to a four year term as the Associate General Minister of the United Church of Christ.

Ms. Aurand again reminded the delegates that sixty percent of those voting must vote in the affirmative for call by election.

11-GS-24 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to elect Mr. W. Mark Clark to a four year term as the Associate General Minister of the United Church of Christ.

Following a standing ovation from the delegates and visitors, Ms. Aurand invited Ms. Linda Jaramillo and Mr. Geoffrey Black, as well as the outgoing members of the collegiums to join the newly elected members of the Collegium on the stage. Outgoing Collegium members offered a prayer for the new members.

#### 5. PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE BYLAWS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST ON THE FREQUENCY OF THE MEETINGS OF GENERAL SYNOD

Moderator Robertson called upon Mr. Rick Fluechtling, Chairperson of Committee Thirteen to present the Proposed Bylaw Revision regarding the Frequency of General Synod.

Mr. Fluechtling moved the adoption of the resolution “Proposed Change to the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ on the Frequency of the Meetings of General Synod,” as amended. The Committee’s amendment is to strike the word “biennially” and insert in its place the phrase “every three or four years” effective after General Synod Twenty-nine in 2013. Mr. Fluechtling added that the Committee was unable to support the Bylaw change at this time and requested that a working group created by the Executive Council to fully study all aspects and options, as well as the reallocation of financial resources, with a report to General Synod Twenty-nine in Long Beach, CA. He indicated the Committee recommends the defeat of the motion.

Discussion followed.

Ms. Bethany Joy Lang (MICH) called the question and the motion was seconded.

11-GS-25 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to end debate on the resolution “Proposed Change to the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ on the Frequency of the Meetings of General Synod,” as amended.”

11-GS-26 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to defeat the motion to adopt the resolution “Proposed Change to the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ on the Frequency of the Meetings of General Synod,” as amended (see appendix P).

#### 6. A CALL FOR REFLECTION AND ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Moderator Robertson called upon Ms. Melissa Gardner McBride, Chairperson of Committee Eight to present action from that Committee.

Ms. McBride moved the adoption of the resolution “A Call for Reflection and Advocacy on Behalf of the Democratic Republic of the Congo” and spoke to the resolution.

Mr. Robertson reminded delegates that this motion requires a two-thirds majority vote.

A brief discussion followed.

11-GS-27 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to adopt the resolution “A Call for Reflection and Advocacy on Behalf of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.”

A CALL FOR REFLECTION AND ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF  
THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

WHEREAS, throughout the past two centuries, for the United Church of Christ, global presence and witness have been the core of God's mission through the church; and

WHEREAS, the Community of Disciples of Christ in Congo (CDCC), in what today is the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), formerly known as Zaire, was founded in 1889 in relation to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the U.S. and Canada, and is an ecumenical partner today of the United Church of Christ through our Common Global Ministries; and

WHEREAS, the 62 protestant denominations united under the ecumenical umbrella of the Church of Christ in the Congo have consistently decried the brutal and unmitigated exploitation of the Congo's immense resources; and

WHEREAS, since the advent of Congolese independence on June 30, 1960, the continued greed of global corporations for precious and strategic raw materials from the Congo and failure of the international community to respond to the documented human rights abuses of Congolese victims has led to the failure of the Congo state; and

WHEREAS, the series of invasions of the Congo by proxy states Rwanda and Uganda that commenced in 1996 have facilitated unfettered access to Congolese natural resources by international corporations and their collaborators in the Congo; have not only undermined democratic advancements, but have also cost the lives of an estimated 6,000,000 Congolese; have subjected up to a half million Congolese women and girls to rape, including sexual mutilation by multiple armies from Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, and Burundi; and have increased dramatically the incidence for HIV/AIDS among women and girls, thus creating a health time bomb with dire consequences for the Congo; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 1,250 Congolese reportedly perish daily in Eastern Congo as a direct or indirect result of the militarization of mines by elite networks of militia supported by business interests in the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, and the industrialized world, at the detriment of Congolese socio-economic development and liberation (Global Witness report, 2003/2004); and

WHEREAS, these criminal behaviors are orchestrated and maintained by those seeking to profit from unfettered access to Congolese strategic natural resources (notably coltan, cobalt, tungsten, cassiterite, in addition to diamonds, gold, copper, uranium, oil, timber), in order to benefit mostly private wealth in industrialized nations, yet subjugating the Congolese people, despite the wealth of their natural resources, to poverty, suffering, slave labor, and human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, the international community, including the United Nations, has not adequately responded to these documented crimes against humanity, thus demonstrating a double standard in

the application of international justice because of financial greed and disregard for the value of Congolese people,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-eighth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages its members, congregations, and various settings to pray, reflect and advocate on behalf of sisters and brothers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

BE IT RESOLVED that congregations will be encouraged to recognize "Congo Week," the third week in October, in their respective annual worship calendars as a week of commemoration for the millions of victims of the scramble for Congo's resources and a stand for justice in solidarity with the people of the Congo; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that congregations working with Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ carry out advocacy and education across the globe for the Congo, with governments, the United Nations, and other governmental and non-governmental organizations, and with multinational corporations, until Congolese security and sovereignty is obtained. Funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made available in accordance with the overall mandates of the Covenanted Ministries called upon and the funds available.

#### FUNDING

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

#### IMPLEMENTATION

Justice and Witness Ministries is requested to work with Wider Church Ministries to implement this resolution.

#### 7. IN SUPPORT OF THE RELEASE OF PUERTO RICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

Moderator Robertson called upon Ms. Barbara Ferguson-Kamara, Chairperson of Committee Four, for that Committee's presentation.

Ms. Ferguson-Kamara moved adoption of the resolution "In Support of the Release of Puerto Rican Political Prisoners," as amended.

11-GS-28 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod grants voice to Ms. Marilyn Pagan Banks and Ms. Lisa Torres to speak to the resolution.

Discussion followed.

Ms. Bethany Joy Lang (MICH) called the question and the motion was seconded.

11-GS-29 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to close debate on the resolution "In Support of the Release of Puerto Rican Political Prisoners."

Mr. Robertson reminded delegates that this motion requires a 2/3 majority vote.

11-GS-30 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to approve the resolution “In Support of the Release of Puerto Rican Political Prisoners,” as amended.

IN SUPPORT OF THE RELEASE OF PUERTO RICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

WHEREAS, in 1999, President Clinton released eleven of the fifteen prisoners for whom the UCC had advocated; and

WHEREAS, between 1999 and 2009, two of the remaining prisoners were also released from prison, and

WHEREAS, throughout this period, the released prisoners successfully re-integrated into and have been contributing positively to civil society, and

WHEREAS, in July, 2010, one of the two remaining prisoners, Carlos Alberto Torres, was also released from prison, receiving a hero’s welcome both in Chicago and Puerto Rico, and

WHEREAS, the one remaining prisoner of the fifteen for whom the United Church of Christ had advocated, Oscar López Rivera, has now served more than a decade more in prison since the release of the others, is now the longest-held political prisoner in Latin America, and on May 29, 2011, will have been imprisoned 30 years, and

WHEREAS, as a father and grandfather, Mr. López Rivera has watched from behind bars as his daughter and grand-daughter have grown up without him, and

WHEREAS, Mr. López Rivera’s legacy of work for positive social change and community-building is amply attested in the many organizations in Chicago’s Puerto Rican neighborhood of Humboldt Park that trace their origins to his work as a community organizer, and

WHEREAS, Avelino González Claudio was arrested in 2008 and recently sentenced to seven years for his involvement in the Puerto Rican independence movement, and is now suffering from Parkinson’s Disease,

WHEREAS, many members of the United Church of Christ have participated in this ministry with political prisoners throughout these years,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ is a church called to speak against the inhumane treatment in U.S. prisons, including the injustice of long sentences, lack of compassion, and lack of medical care these cases represent, that the Twenty-eighth General Synod affirm its support for the release of Oscar López Rivera for humanitarian reasons and Avelino González Claudio for compassionate reasons, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Synod directs the General Minister and President to write to the President of the United States and request the release of these prisoners.

## FUNDING

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

## IMPLEMENTATION

Justice and Witness Ministries is requested to implement this resolution.

## 8. COVENANT FOR CHURCH YOUTH MINISTRIES

Moderator Robertson called upon Mr. Neill Robinson, Chairperson for Committee Five, for the presentation from that Committee.

Mr. Robinson moved the adoption of the resolution “A Covenant for Church Youth Ministries.”

Mr. Bob Atkinson (MOMS) moved to amend line 136 by adding “to take two full days away.”

11-GS-31 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to amend the resolution by adding the words “to take two full days away” at line 136.

Discussion followed.

Ms. Megan Waleff (PC) moved to close debate and the motion was seconded.

11-GS-32 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to close debate on the resolution “Covenant for Church Youth Ministries.”

11-GS-33 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod voted to adopt the resolution “Covenant for Church Youth Ministries,” as amended.

## A COVENANT FOR CHURCH YOUTH MINISTRIES

WHEREAS, the Twenty-eighth General Synods believes that youth workers need spiritual support in their work with young people;

WHEREAS, gifts and call are best discerned in the context of the faith community;

WHEREAS, taking time to think and pray is just as essential for our youth workers as organizing events and meeting young people;

WHEREAS, maintaining the gifts and skills of the youth workers is an ongoing process and that it is important to continually invest in professional development;

WHEREAS, taking regular time off helps maintain our youth workers’ passion and energy for their work with young people;

WHEREAS, having a youth worker does not release the rest of the church from our responsibilities toward young people;

WHEREAS, it is vital to acknowledge what our youth workers are doing and the commitment they have made to work with young people in our Church;

WHEREAS, it is important to have clear structures and procedures for recruiting and employing youth workers, and to provide supportive management structures which are fair and just;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to the Twenty-eighth General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopt this Covenant for Church Youth Ministries.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-eighth General Synod encourage local churches to adopt this covenant and implement it as policy and practice for employing, nurturing and supporting youth workers - both paid and volunteer - as they minister to and with youth.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that by adopting this Covenant for Church Youth Ministries the Twenty-eighth General Synod encourages local churches to make the following promises:

1. to pray for our youth workers and keep their needs a high priority in church prayer life;
2. to provide our youth workers opportunities for prayerful discernment of gifts and call;
3. to provide opportunities for our youth workers to use part of their schedules for retreat, reflection, worship and personal development;
4. to set aside time and money to provide initial and ongoing training and professional development for our youth workers;
5. to actively encourage our youth workers to take two full days away from their role each week;
6. to encourage the people of the local church to volunteer with, to pray for, and to support youth;
7. to show appreciation for and celebrate the achievements of our youth workers;
8. to follow fair and just practices in the employment of our youth workers.

### FUNDING

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

### IMPLEMENTATION

Local Church Ministries is requested to implement this resolution.

### 9. PUT OUR MONEY WHERE OUR VALUES ARE: EVALUATING CHURCH FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIPS

Moderator Robertson called upon Ms. Pamela Cook, Chairperson of Committee Three, for the presentation of the Committee.

Ms. Cook spoke to the change of name from the originally proposed resolution. She then moved the adoption of the resolution “Put Our Money Where Our Values Are: Evaluating Church Financial Relationships.”

Discussion followed.

On a Point of Personal Privilege, Ms. Julie Labell (MICH) requested we maintain a standard of using the electronic voting devices.

11-GS-34 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod adopts the resolution “Putting Our Money Where Our Values Are: Evaluating Church Financial Relationships.”

PUTTING OUR MONEY WHERE OUR VALUES ARE: EVALUATION CHURCH  
FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIPS

WHEREAS, God calls us to seek justice, care for the poor and love our neighbor, and

WHEREAS, the business practices of some financial institutions have contributed to the deep economic damage done to our families and communities, and

WHEREAS, usury is against our tradition and the traditions of other faiths, and

WHEREAS, our congregations and other church bodies invest in these financial institutions and can thereby exert pressure relative to banking practices by way of collective action, and

WHEREAS, there are alternatives that may be more accountable to small and medium investors and more deeply invested in the communities where they do business,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Twenty-eighth General Synod that all settings of the United Church of Christ (local congregations, Associations, Conferences, the national setting, etc.) are requested to faithfully examine their relationships with financial institutions, and, where practical and prudent, deliberately move toward relating to financial institutions that have records of fair lending, business and investing practices as each body discerns for its setting.

FUNDING

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

IMPLEMENTATION

Justice and Witness Ministries are requested to implement this resolution.

Mr. Paul Bryant Smith (CONN) raised a concern with the way we have left the resolution “Proposed Change to the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ on the Frequency of the Meetings of General Synod.” Mr. Smith suggested we did not formally direct the Executive Council to undertake the resolution. He would like to move an action to that effect.

Mr. Robertson indicated the motion was unnecessary since it is a Bylaw change.

**10. IN SUPPORT OF EFFECTIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE PEACEMAKING BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELIS THROUGH POSITIVE INVESTMENT IN PALESTINE** (see appendix Q)

Mr. Robertson called upon Ms. Carolyn Keilig, Chairperson of Committee Six for the presentation of the Committee.

Ms. Keilig moved the adoption of the resolution “In Support of Effective and Constructive Peacemaking Between Palestinians and Israelis Through Positive Investments in Palestine” and recommended that no action be taken. She then spoke to the resolution.

Following discussion, Mr. Larry Bean (PC) moved to table the resolution.

**11-GS-35 VOTED:** The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to table the resolution “In Support of Effective and Constructive Peacemaking Between Palestinians and Israelis Through Positive Investments in Palestine.

**11. RECOGNITION OF NEW AND RETIRING CONFERENCE MINISTERS**

Mr. Robertson called upon Ms. Marja Coons-Torn (PC), Chair of the Cabinet of Conference Ministers to recognize new and retiring Conference Ministers.

Ms. Coons-Torn introduced the following:

New Conference Ministers

- Jorge Morales, Illinois Conference
- Felix Villanueva, California Nevada, South Conference
- Bela Poznan, Calvin Synod
- John Vertigan, soon to begin in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference

New Interim Conference Ministers

- Rita Root, New York Conference
- Phil Hart, California Nevada, Northern Conference
- David Felton, South Dakota Conference
- John Gantt, Indiana Kentucky Conference
- Vertie Powers, Southern Conference
- Krista Betz, Kansas-Oklahoma Conference
- Chuck Wildman, Connecticut Conference
- Geneva Butz and Nancy Gottshall, Pennsylvania Southeast Conference
- Judith Youngman, soon to begin in the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference

Retired Conference Ministers

- Davida Foy Crabtree, Connecticut Conference
- Russ Mitmann, Pennsylvania Southeast Conference
- Steve Grey, Indiana Kentucky Conference

Mary Susan Gast, California Nevada, Northern Conference  
Karl Ludwig – Calvin Synod

Also retiring is the Cabinet of Conference Ministers' Administrative Coordinator, Robert Witham.

Ms. Coons-Torn then offered prayer for the gifts and service of all of these people. The delegates and guests then thanked these leaders for their service in the life of our beloved denomination with a standing ovation.

Moderator Robertson also thanked all incoming and retiring Conference Ministers for their service.

## 12. AFFIRMING HEALTH CARE COVERAGE FOR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AUTHORIZED MINISTERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Mr. Robertson called upon Mr. T. Michael Rock, Chairperson of Committee One for the presentation of the Committee.

Mr. Rock moved the adoption of the resolution “Affirming Healthcare Coverage for United Church of Christ Authorized Ministers and Their Families” as amended. He indicated the title of the resolution had been changed as well as substantial changes in the resolution itself. He then spoke to the resolution.

Mr. Dvanate Taylor (PNW) moved to amend the resolution by adding the words “We ask that this body report back to General Synod Twenty-nine” at the end of the second therefore. The motion was seconded.

11-GS-36 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod adopts the amendment to add the words “We ask that this body report back to General Synod Twenty-nine” at the end of the second therefore.

Ms. Patti Kenney (MICH) moved to amend the resolution by reinserting the words “removed by the Committee” in lines 117 through 120. The motion was seconded.

11-GS-37 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod adopts the amendment to reinsert the words “removed by the Committee” in lines 117 through 120.

Mr. David Stewart (ILL) moved to amend the resolution to add the words “and to educate” and encourage enrollment.

Discussion followed regarding the significant cost increases to health care premiums if this amendment passes.

Mr. Luther Holland (EC) moved to close debate. The motion was seconded.

11-GS-38 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to close debate on the amendment.

11-GS-39 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod adopts the amendment to add the words “and to educate” at line 120.

Discussion was held on the original resolution, as amended.

Mr. Abraham Mulberry (ILL) moved to close debate. The motion was seconded.

11-GS-40 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to close debate on the resolution, as amended.

11-GS-41 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod adopts the resolution” Affirming Healthcare Coverage for United Church of Christ Authorized Ministers and Their Families,” as amended.

AFFIRMING HEALTHCARE COVERAGE FOR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
AUTHORIZED MINISTERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

WHEREAS, General Synod adopted the resolution, “Access to Health, Dental, and Disability Insurance for United Church of Christ Clergy and Lay Employees and Their Families,” 99-GS-50.

WHEREAS, the Twenty-first General Synod adopted the resolution, “Reclaiming the Church’s Ministry of Health and Healing,” 97-GS-46

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has adopted a *Mission Statement on Health and Human Service* which states: “The mission of the United Church of Christ arises out of faith in God who calls the worlds into being, creates humankind in the divine image, and intends for us the blessing of wholeness and harmony with God, with creation, with other persons, and within ourselves. In health and human service, that mission must serve God’s intent for humankind made fully manifest in Jesus Christ, conquered sin and death and reconciled humanity, nature, and God.

In the life of Jesus and in his ministries of teaching and healing, we learn the way of discipleship.

We rejoice in the power of God to make all things new and in the gift of the Holy Spirit through which the Church is empowered to continue Jesus’ ministries of compassion, justice, and transformation, serving the well-being and wholeness of all God’s people.

The mission of the United Church of Christ in health and human service is rooted in the ministry of Jesus Christ and empowered by God’s spirit.”

WHEREAS, this mission statement calls us to seek justice, “thus informed by scripture, tradition, and human experience, our faith compels us to seek new ways to enable the liberation of the oppressed and reconciliation of the alienated through new acts of love and justice. When

we do so, we must answer the questions: What are the dimensions of that mission? Who is involved in that mission?”

WHEREAS, the process the United Church of Christ uses for pastors and churches rarely provides opportunities for pastors and their families to move from one church to the next without a break between positions, and many of our clergy cannot afford the cost of providing their own insurance through COBRA for the months between ending one position and beginning another.

WHEREAS, the understanding of a minister being “Self-employed” may work well for IRS purposes, in actuality ministers are employed by the church or a related organization or agency.

WHEREAS, the nature of interim ministry does not provide for coordination of placements by churches, conferences, national settings and related organizations agencies, and thus does not provide smooth seamless transitions from one position to the next.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-eighth General Synod of the United Church of Christ reaffirms that offering adequate and equitable health, dental, and vision coverage for United Church of Christ Authorized Ministers and their families through the Pension Boards is an important justice issue, and is part of our covenant together as members of the United Church of Christ.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-eighth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages the Executive Council to create a Task Force including representation from the Executive Council, Conferences, The Pension Boards, Covenanted Ministries, and Affiliated and Associated Ministries to enter into conversation and address issues of providing continuity of coverage for Authorized Ministers of the United Church of Christ and their families as they move among churches and other settings of the United Church of Christ. We ask that this body report back to General Synod Twenty-nine.

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that leaders in the National setting, Conferences, Associations, and Local Churches settings shall seek to encourage the Pension Boards serving the United Church of Christ to offer to make medical coverage available to all clergy and their family members when they are called to, or begin a new position within the life of our church and to educate and encourage enrollment in the United Church of Christ health, dental, and vision plans for the purposes of keeping health care costs affordable, and to assist churches in exploring options for funding their employees’ United Church of Christ health, dental, and vision plans.

#### FUNDING

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

#### IMPLEMENTATION

The Executive Council, Local Church Ministries, the Conferences, Associations of the United Church of Christ, and The Pension Boards are requested to implement this resolution.

### 13. THE RIGHT OF LGBT PERSONS TO ADOPT AND RAISE CHILDREN

Moderator Robertson called upon Ms. Sue Artt, Chairperson of Committee Nine to present the resolution “The Right of LGBT Persons to Adopt and Raise Children.”

Ms. Artt moved the adoption of the resolution, as amended, and recommended approval. She then spoke to the resolution.

Following discussion, Mr. Andrew Warner (WISC) moved to amend the resolution by adding the following language: “Be it further resolved that all UCC health and human services agencies are encouraged to honor the rights of LGBT persons to adopt.”

11-GS-42 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod adopts the amendment to the resolution by adding the following language: “Be it further resolved that all United Church of Christ health and human services agencies are encouraged to honor the rights of LGBT persons to adopt.”

Mr. Spencer Bowles (RM) moved to close debate. The motion was seconded.

11-GS-43 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to close debate on the resolution, as amended.

11-GS-44 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod adopts the resolution “The Right of LGBT Persons to Adopt and Raise Children,” as amended.

### THE RIGHT OF LGBT PERSONS TO ADOPT AND RAISE CHILDREN

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of children in the United States have little hope of adoption, and are moved from foster home to foster home until they finally age out of the system; and

WHEREAS, many lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals and couples are willing and able to provide the stability, nurture and love that all children need in order to grow into emotionally healthy adults; and

WHEREAS, both the American Psychological Association and the American Medical Association have determined that gender identity and sexual orientation do not hinder a person’s capacity to be a good parent; and

WHEREAS, a child whose primary legal parent dies or is incapacitated may in many jurisdictions be removed from the second parent and become a ward of the state; and

WHEREAS, co-parent adoption entitles children to essential benefits, including Social Security, child support, health insurance, inheritance rights and a continuing relationship with one parent in the event of the separation or death of the other parent; and

WHEREAS, LGBT children in the foster-care system need responsible and supportive role models;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-eighth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, call on the United Church of Christ in all of its settings to defend the rights of all children to have loving parents without regard to sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-eighth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on all states to evaluate prospective adoptive parents on the basis of their individual character and ability to parent, not on their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, and to grant second-parent or joint adoptions when it is in the child's best interests; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all United Church of Christ health and human services agencies are encouraged to honor the rights of LGBT persons to adopt; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-eighth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests Justice and Witness Ministries to communicate this resolution to local, state and national legislators, urging them to support the rights of all children to have a loving parent or parents without regard to the parent's sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

#### **FUNDING**

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

#### **IMPLEMENTATION**

Justice and Witness Ministries is requested to implement this resolution.

#### **14. OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION PRESENTATION**

Mr. Robertson spoke about the work, reported in the Stillspeaking Magazine, of Maxwell and Richard Brooks from China Grove United Church of Christ in North Carolina. Maxwell and Richard made a cross-country tour discovering how our gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission are Changing Lives! The Brooks brothers presented a video of their year-long journey and thanked everyone for supporting Our Church's Wider Mission. They invited everyone to log onto their website [www.twinmaps.com](http://www.twinmaps.com) for more information.

#### **15. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Robertson called on Ms. Edith Guffey for announcements.

There is a mistake in the program book, and tonight's worship will take place in the plenary hall. DVD's will be available of all worship services, speeches, and Suncoast Saturday events.

If you have lost something, check in the General Synod office.

Conference Ministers are to collect the electronic keypads following the conclusion of General Synod and turn them in to the General Synod office in Room 3.

Participants for tonight's worship should meet following this plenary session.

If you are a Committee Chairperson, please be ready for your report as we are moving through work quickly.

## 16 RECESS

Moderator Robertson declared the Sixth Plenary of the Twenty-eighth General Synod in recess until 2:30 PM.

Tuesday Afternoon, July 5, 2011  
Seventh Plenary

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Assistant Moderator Aurand called the Seventh Plenary of the Twenty-eighth General Synod to order at 2:30 PM.

### 2. SPEAKOUTS!

Ms. Aurand called upon the following Speakout! participants:

1. Davida Foy Crabtree (CONN) offered thanks to her greater church family for the pastoral care and support extended to her since her breast cancer diagnosis three years ago and her husband's stomach cancer diagnosis two years ago.
2. Sierra Ferguson (CONN) stated that public education is under attack. She called upon everyone to do whatever possible to support public education.
3. Jean Copeland (SOC) challenged everyone to partner with public school administrators to instill a culture of high academic expectations.
4. Elizabeth Schiemann and Lisa Gzul (SOC) invited adults to help children become engaged learners and to take an important role in children's academics.
5. Brenda James (SOC) called on everyone to defend our initiative on education.
6. Ann Emory (CAC) asked everyone to join in celebrating those persons who have built our higher education facilities for African-Americans and to support AMA colleges.
7. Yvonne Delk (SOC) expressed pride in being a student of public schools, thanked God for teachers who touched her life, and recognized all who are involved in teaching our children.
8. Alan Johnson (RM) noted that one in four people are affected by a mental health illness, brain disorder or disability. Please visit [www.wideningthewelcome.com](http://www.wideningthewelcome.com) for information on a conference this September.
9. Jesse Knox (ILL) announced that the Illinois Conference is seeking a new Associate Conference Minister for the Chicago Metropolitan Association. Detailed information is posted in UCC Opportunities.
10. Enno Limvere (SD) encouraged pastors to take Sabbath and care for themselves.
11. Pamela Cheney (OHIO) represents pastors in small congregations and is trying to form a group of clergy who serve members who don't look alike. For more information, contact Charlene J. Smith at [smithc@ucc.org](mailto:smithc@ucc.org)
12. Tiana Boyd (CTS), Pamela Cook (UTS), Josh Ribbon (ETS) and Kyle Roskin (CUE) thanked those Midwest conferences who support theological education.
13. Mike Reeb (IK) announced the July 2012 National Youth Event will be held at Purdue University, Lafayette, IN. Immanuel United Church of Christ members will host lodging for many of the youth and want them to feel welcome.

14. Bob Atkinson (MOMS) requested everyone write letters to help Bradley Manning, a patriot who is incarcerated.

Assistant Moderator Aurand thanked everyone for their Speakout! participation. She also thanked Mr. Dick Sparrow for his work as the Speakout! coordinator.

### 3. RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL STAFF

Ms. Aurand invited all national staff members to the stage so delegates could express their appreciation for the work they do that helps support the work of our local churches, associations, conferences and all of us in so many ways. Delegates responded with a standing ovation of appreciation.

### 4. RECOGNITION OF LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEERS

Ms. Aurand called upon Ms. Edith Guffey to help everyone thank the Local Arrangements Committee and volunteers.

Ms. Guffey reported that over 300 volunteers have been working for several months to prepare for our time together. There were three wonderful co-chairs of this committee, Ms. Mary Nutter, Mr. Rick Carson and Mr. John Syster and Conference Minister Kent Saladi who have been absolutely fabulous. Each person was given a gift of appreciation, along with applause from the delegates.

### 5. U. S. RATIFICATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY

Ms. Aurand called upon Douglas Wooten, Vice Chair of the Committee of Reference of the Executive Council on behalf of the Business Committee, who moved adoption of the resolution entitled "U. S. Ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty." Mr. Wooten then yielded his time to Mr. Gordon Crouch (NH) who spoke to the resolution. Discussion followed.

11-GS-45 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod adopts the resolution "U. S. Ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty."

### U. S. RATIFICATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY

WHEREAS, the United States holds the largest arsenal of weapons of mass destruction and is, in fact, the only country to have used them against another; and

WHEREAS, the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty by the United States Senate would be a major step forward in global efforts to curtail nuclear proliferation and pursue nuclear disarmament; and

WHEREAS, at the 2000 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, the United States made the commitment to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty as one of the thirteen steps towards nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament; and

WHEREAS, at the heart of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty is the obligation “not to carry out any nuclear weapon test explosion of any other nuclear explosion” as well as a rigorous verification regime; and

WHEREAS, the time is long past for the United States to take leadership in calling for the comprehensive, unequivocal, and verifiable ban on all nuclear weapons testing;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-eighth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages its members, congregations, and various settings to call on the United States Senate to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty as one of its most important foreign policy priorities in Congress.

### FUNDING

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

### IMPLEMENTATION

Justice and Witness Ministries is requested to implement this resolution.

### 6. SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS RELATED TO SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY

Assistant Moderator Aurand called upon Adam Tietje, Chairperson of Committee Seven for the presentation of the Committee.

Mr. Tietje moved adoption of the resolution “Supporting International Human Rights Related to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity,” as presented with amendments. Mr. Tietje yielded his time to Ms. Emily Heath (MASS), a member of Committee Seven, who spoke to the resolution.

Ms. Twila Rhodes (FL) moved to amend the resolution to add “gender expression” on line 99 to make the resolution consistent. Ms. Cally Rogers-Witte advised that the language is the United Nations language, not ours. The motion was withdrawn.

11-GS-46 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod adopts the resolution “Supporting International Human Rights Related to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity,” as presented with amendments.

### SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS RELATED TO SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY

WHEREAS, the Tenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ (1975) declared, “In faithfulness to the biblical and historic mandate, we hold that, as a child of God, every person is endowed with worth and dignity that human judgment cannot set aside.” (A Pronouncement: Civil Liberties without Discrimination Related to Affectional or Sexual Preference), and previous General Synod and Executive Council actions have declared faithful support for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (GS2, 1959) and committed to church to seek the full application of international human rights (GS12, 1979);

International human rights standards delineate the positive obligations a nation must fulfill in order for its residents to live fully human lives. Collectively, these liberties and obligations define the “common good” and implicate government to be proactive in the establishment and maintenance of that good; and

International human rights standards can provide common language to describe universal concerns, including promises and claims to justice that transcend any one nation; common vision around which disparate and affected groups can gather and build coalitions to create change; and common measurements that all can use to hold public officials, policymakers, agencies and organizations accountable; and

In order for universal human rights standards to be truly universal, every person, whatever their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, is entitled to the full enjoyment of all human rights; and

The use of criminal law, or proposals to use criminal law, against members of sexual minorities creates a legal and social environment that is discriminatory and violates the human rights endorsed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This is evident in the many cases of harassment, arrest and prosecution of persons based on their real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, and in the inflammatory statements issued by national and local leaders (including religious and other civil society leaders) which vilify sexual minorities and gender non-conforming people and, in extreme cases, call for violence against them; and

Around the world, such discrimination, violence and abuse targeting persons based on their sexual orientation or gender identity often goes unreported, uninvestigated and unpunished; and Around the world, such discrimination, violence and abuse targeting persons based on their sexual orientation or gender identity seriously undermines attempts to provide effective HIV prevention, treatment, care and support; and

In many countries, the work of human rights defenders is opposed, obstructed or banned; and where the right to peacefully gather is denied and actions are taken to silence the voices of human rights supporters; and

The Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) urgently supports countries towards the adoption and implementation of laws and law enforcement that protect sexual minorities from discrimination, harassment, violence, and arrest and prosecution on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity;

The United States continues to address how best legally and socially to protect the human rights of everyone in our own country;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Twenty-eighth General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

Reaffirms the 10th General Synod of the United Church of Christ (1975), “A Pronouncement: Civil Liberties without Discrimination Related to Affectional or Sexual Preference,” and previous General Synod and Executive Council actions in support of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (GS2, 1959) and of denominational advocacy toward the full application of international human rights (GS12, 1979); and

In faithfulness to the biblical and historic mandate, holds that, as a child of God, every person is endowed by God with worth and dignity that human judgment cannot set aside; and

Deplores the use of scripture to generate hatred and the violation of human rights, including human rights violations in relation to sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression; and

Declares its support for the Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI); and

Calls upon the leadership of faith communities to foster discussion and a deeper understanding of the foundations of human rights, so that our churches and the wider community may better understand the source beliefs that undergird fair and just practices for all, including SOGI communities; and

Calls upon the individual members of our churches, lay leaders, clergy, local churches, institution, agencies, and the various geographical and other expressions of the church to advocate for policies and legislation consistent with the Yogyakarta Principles at the United Nations, and at the federal, state and local levels of government of the United States; and

Calls upon the leadership of local churches, geographical expressions of the church, and program ministers in the national settings to identify and distribute materials that describe universal human rights as they have been defined in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights; and

Calls upon the leadership of local churches, geographical expressions of the church, and program ministers in the national settings, to maintain a constant awareness of violations of human rights in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity, through the use of reporting and a wide range of communication outlets, and encourages our affiliated, ecumenical and interfaith partners to do the same; and

Calls upon the national ministries of the United Church of Christ to work collaboratively with Common Global Ministries to identify partners with which to cooperate for the effective implementation of this resolution in ways that are respectful of cultural sensitivities; and Directs that Justice & Witness Ministries, Local Church Ministries, Wider Church Ministries, and the Office of General Ministries will be responsible for developing the strategies, programs, and resources to implement the Resolution.

### FUNDING

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

## IMPLEMENTATION

The Covenanted Ministries of the United Church of Christ are requested to implement this resolution.

Point of personal privilege: Mr. Adam Tietje expressed thanks from LGBT guests. Thank you to delegates and Wider Church Ministries. He requested a moment of silence for the memory of those murdered because of their sexuality and stated angels are rejoicing in heaven because of the impact of this vote.

Point of personal privilege: Mr. Gary Friend (OHIO) stated that the moderator's job is sometimes thankless and all of the moderators have done a fantastic job. The delegates agreed with applause.

## 7. ON ACTIONS OF HOSTILITY AGAINST ISLAM

Assistant Moderator Aurand called on Mr. John Ramos, Chairperson of Committee Twelve, to present the resolution "On Actions of Hostility Against Islam and the Muslim Community."

Mr. Ramos moved adoption of the resolution, as amended, and spoke to it.

Following a brief discussion, Mr. Larry Lannetti (MASS) moved to add "irrational" and remove "Islamaphobia" and add "between fear and ignorance" and strike "Islamaphobic."

Following additional discussion, the question was called.

11-GS-47 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to defeat the proposed amendment.

Mr. David Stewart (ILL) moved to amend the title to "To Counter Actions of Hostility Against Islam and the Muslim Community." Motion was seconded.

11-GS-48 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to amend the title of the resolution to "To Counter Actions of Hostility Against Islam and the Muslim Community."

Ms. Patricia Barnes-McConnell (OGM) moved that "the" be retained and remove "our" in line 88. Motion was seconded.

Discussion followed and Mr. Sean Weston (LCM) moved to call the question. The motion was seconded.

11-GS-49 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to close debate on the amendment to the resolution "To Counter Actions of Hostility Against Islam and the Muslim Community."

11-GS-50 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to defeat the amendment.

Mr. Sean Weston (LCM) then called the question on the amended resolution.

11-GS-51 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to approve the resolution “To Counter Actions of Hostility Against Islam and the Muslim Community,” as amended.

TO COUNTER ACTIONS OF HOSTILITY AGAINST ISLAM AND THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, recent anti-Muslim actions, including but not limited to rhetorically violent demonstrations at a fundraiser of the Islamic Circle of North America in Yorba Linda, CA (February 13, 2011); Congressional hearings entitled “**The Extent of Radicalization in the American Muslim Community and that Community's Response**” (March 10, 2011), sponsored by Rep. Peter King (R-NY); and the burning of a Qur’an by a Christian pastor in Florida (March 20, 2011), have heightened our concern; and

WHEREAS, we are concerned that the approach of the tenth anniversary of September 11, 2001 may witness increased hostility toward the American Muslim community, and that Islam has already become a political issue that could play prominently in the November 2012 elections; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has affirmed its relationships with the Muslim Community (GS 1989) and engages ecumenically in interfaith dialogue with Muslims, including with the Islamic Society of North America and the Islamic Circle of North America, and supports interfaith dialogue and action worldwide, including Christian-Muslim cooperation; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ consistently opposes rhetoric and actions that are based on discrimination or hatred of a race, gender, culture, or faith,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-eighth General Synod of the United Church of Christ expresses its clear support for neighbors in the Muslim community, both in the United States and around the world, who feel the impact of anti-Islamic rhetoric and action; and denounces actions against Islam or Muslims based on ignorance or fear;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Synod encourages all settings of the United Church of Christ to seek ways to learn more about Islam, to engage in relationships with Muslims, and to invite other ecumenical and inter-faith bodies to join with us in this effort;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the national setting of the United Church of Christ make available resources to learn about and engage with people of other faiths, and Muslims in particular, and document and publicize actions taken in support of Muslims and people of other faiths, especially in the face of hatred, fear, ignorance, and what has been labeled Islamophobia.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that members and settings of the United Church of Christ speak out against religiously and racially motivated hatred, violence and actions, such as the desecration of religious symbols and sacred texts, and support and publicize public policies, governmental actions, and public activities that ensure our value of religious diversity.

## FUNDING

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

## IMPLEMENTATION

Wider Church Ministries is requested to be the primary implementer of this resolution.

Assistant Moderator Aurand recognized Ms. Cally Rogers-Witte who introduced Mohammed Sammak to respond to the vote. Mr. Sammak thanked the delegates for sending a clear message of love to the people of the Middle East.

## 8. MINDFUL AND FAITHFUL EATING

Assistant Moderator Belsom called upon Keith Scott, Chairperson of Committee Two to present the resolution “Mindful and Faithful Eating.”

Mr. Scott moved adoption of the resolution as amended and spoke to it.

Mr. Matt Davis (WISC) called attention to a typographical error on line 80. “egological” should be “ecological.” The change was noted by Mr. Scott.

Following discussion, Mr. Carlos Sterling (FL) called the question. The motion was seconded.

11-GS-52 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to end debate on the resolution.

11-GS-53 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to adopt the resolution “Mindful and Faithful Eating,” as amended.

## MINDFUL AND FAITHFUL EATING

WHEREAS, our dietary choices reflect many of these social, environmental, and economic justice issues, and

WHEREAS, modern intensive farming is a leading cause of land, water, and energy consumption; worldwide animal agriculture contributes more to global warming (18% of greenhouse gases) than all forms of transportation combined (14%) (“Livestock’s Long Shadow,” UN Food and Agriculture, 2006); and long-distance transport of food further increases the impact of our diets on the environment; and

WHEREAS, the high injury rates and mistreatment of slaughterhouse workers has been well-documented (*Slaughterhouse* by Gail Eisnitz), and

WHEREAS, the intensive crowding and unhealthy living conditions that typify concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) do not show respect for animals, and

WHEREAS, animal and human welfare issues are intricately linked in numerous other ways, such as 1) pollution problems caused by CAFOs, particularly in Iowa and North Carolina; 2)

bacterial resistance to antibiotics caused by the routine feeding of antibiotics to animals; 3) “Mad Cow Disease,” bird flu, and other human health risks associated with intensive animal agricultural practices; 4) a wide range of medical disorders linked to the typical American diet, including heart disease, obesity, diabetes, arthritis, and certain cancers (*Journal of the American Dietetic Association* 2003;103:748-765); and 5) the negative impact of CAFOs on small family farms and thus on rural life, culture, and community, and

WHEREAS, people have different nutritional needs, financial situations, and degrees of access to food, such that a mindful and faithful diet for one person at one location might be very different from a mindful and faithful diet for another person at another location. For some people, animal agriculture may be an essential component of mindful and faithful eating, and

WHEREAS, Christians are called to make God-centered choices in every aspect of life; and our church communities are most vibrant when we respect the diversity of views, values, beliefs, and ways to address a given social justice concern; and our church communities can help us discern such God-centered living amidst this diversity; and consequently, faithful Christians will make different consumption choices in response to the call for mindful and faithful eating.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-eighth General Synod encourages Conferences, Associations, congregations and individuals to explore ways in which our food choices can be mindful and faithful, so that, to the best of our abilities, what we eat reflects our values and beliefs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UCC Covenanted Ministries identify and/or develop curricula for all ages that compassionately and respectfully explore the ways in which our diets impact our ecological “footprint” on the earth, human and animal welfare concerns, healthy nourishment for our bodies, and the needs and concerns of workers. These curricula would further explore ways that our food choices affect food security and the equitable availability of food for all God’s children.

#### FUNDING

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

#### IMPLEMENTATION

Justice and Witness Ministries is requested to implement this resolution.

#### 9. TO FORM A THEOLOGICAL FORUM

Assistant Moderator Belsom called upon Elizabeth Duffy, Chairperson of Committee Ten to present the resolution “To Form a Theological Forum.”

Ms. Duffy moved adoption of the resolution as amended and spoke to it.

Following discussion, Mr. Zachary Grant (ME) called the question.

11-GS-54 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to end debate on the resolution.

11-GS-55 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes to adopt the resolution “To Form a Theological Forum,” as amended.

### TO FORM A THEOLOGICAL FORUM

WHEREAS, a Seminar Group called together by the Office of Church Life and Leadership, in their document of 1978 “Toward the Task of Sound Teaching”, called us to be “more intentional and disciplined in teaching the faith”; and

WHEREAS, this document, immediately studied in partnership with the Evangelical Church of the Union in Germany and currently being studied anew, is an important milestone in the ongoing theological discussion between our two churches within a process that led to celebrating Kirchengemeinschaft in the Thirteenth General Synod in 1981, exactly 30 years prior to this Synod, – a partnership that has helped us be more faithful and discerning in mission; and

WHEREAS, our partner church in Germany, now the United Evangelical Church, says that it would be helpful for our partnership if there were at the national level of the United Church of Christ a theological commission to which their Theological Commission could relate; and

WHEREAS, our commitment to participate in God's mission to the world would be enriched by intentional and broad-based theological reflection; and

WHEREAS, a letter to the Executive Council from 39 faculty members engaged in theological education, entitled “A Most Difficult and Urgent Time” in 1984 has not yet been fully responded to in its call for “sustained rethinking of our theological tradition (as reflected in the various traditions behind the United Church) to see how that tradition can be reappropriated in faithful and fresh ways as a discipline and resource for our life and faith”, urging the Executive Council “to constitute a body of theological leadership and reflection responsible for assisting the local congregations, associations, conferences, national officers, and instrumentalities in developing teaching consensus”; and

WHEREAS, no mechanism currently exists specifically intended to promote a denomination-wide theological conversation; and

WHEREAS, we have a valuable resource in the *The Living Theological Heritage of the United Church of Christ* that deserves to be more widely shared and used; and

WHEREAS, a theological forum could help in deciding priorities, so that we can use our limited resources more effectively, since theology, as reflection on the good news about what God has done and is doing, can provide guidance about what we need to be doing as partners with God,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to the Twenty-eighth General Synod request the formation of a theological forum, structured so as to engage the widest possible diversity of perspectives within the United Church of Christ, to promote theological reflection and dialogue within our church and with partner churches, and to be a resource for local

churches, local church members, associations, conferences, national leadership, and instrumentalities. This forum would not be a prescriptive council, but a forum for descriptive and diverse theologies across the Church. The delegates request that the structure for such a proposed forum be developed by Local Church Ministries and the Office of General Ministries and brought to the Executive Council, with possible financial details, for approval.

### FUNDING

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

### IMPLEMENTATION

The Office of Local Church Ministries and the Office of General Ministries are requested to implement this resolution.

### 10. INVITATION TO THE TWENTY-NINTH GENERAL SYNOD

Ms. Belsom called upon Mr. Felix Villaneuva, Conference Minister of the California Nevada, Southern Conference for an invitation to the Twenty-ninth General Synod in 2013. Mr. Villaneuva extended a warm invitation to Long Beach, CA, followed by a video presentation.

### 11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moderator Robertson advised there were 3,219 persons registered for General Synod. The Credentials Committee report will be included in the minutes.

### 12. END OF AN AUTHORIZED MINISTRY

Mr. Robertson stated we have taken care to say good-bye to the three outgoing Collegium members by celebrating their ministry on Saturday evening and in worship on Sunday. However, part of the tradition of the United Church of Christ that we encourage all of our local churches and conferences to do is to formally and prayerfully bring to a close the authorized ministry of those who serve in leadership positions. He then invited Cally Rogers-Witte, Edith Guffey and Steve Sterner, along with members of Associations and Ms. Guffey's local church, to the stage. Mr. Pierson Kemp, Chairperson of the Executive Council led delegates and guests in a litany of closure. Mr. Hamilton Coe Throckmorton led the group in prayer.

### 13. INSTALLATION OF NEW MODERATORS

Moderators James Robertson, Patricia Aurand and Caroline Belsom installed the Moderator-elect, Libby Tigner, and Assistant Moderators-elect Dale Bonds and Brian Holeman for the Twenty-ninth General Synod. Delegates responded with applause.

### 14. ADJOURNMENT

Moderator Robertson thanked everyone on behalf of the moderators, for their participation during this General Synod and for their commitment to our denomination and the Church of Jesus Christ.

Mr. Pierson Kemp, Chairperson of the Executive Council, moved to adjourn the Twenty-eighth General Synod at the conclusion of the final worship service.

11-GS-56 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod votes by applause to adjourn the Twenty-eighth General Synod at the conclusion of the final worship service.

Speaker for the closing worship was the Rev. Elizabeth Mitchell Clement of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ. Ms. Clement and her family are members of the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Atlanta, GA.

Respectfully submitted  
December 2, 2011;

Michell Farrow—Recorder  
Chris Noffke—Recorder

Nancy Cope—Chief Recorder

Don Hart—Executive Council Editor  
David Long-Higgins—Executive Council Editor  
Kevin Manz—Executive Council Editor  
Corliss Marsh—Executive Council Editor  
Fred Schwerdt—Executive Council Editor  
Jane Tedder—Executive Council Editor  
Doug Wooten—Executive Council Editor

Denise Shimell—Editing Proofreader

Adopted and approved by the Executive Council of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ on Saturday, November 12, 2011

Lee Foley—Minister for Governing Body Relations

W. Mark Clark—Associate General Minister and Administrator,  
The General Synod of the United Church of Christ

The Minutes of the General Synods of the United Church of Christ are available online at <http://rescarta.ucc.org/jsp/RcWebBrowse.jsp> and are held in perpetuity by the Archivist of the United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115



## TWENTY-EIGHTH GENERAL SYNOD DELEGATES

### Executive Council (91 allotted delegates; 79 sent)

Douglas Anders  
Jane Anderson  
Patricia Aurand  
Jean Avison  
Greg Bain  
Charles Barnes  
Marti Baumer  
Caroline Belson  
Geoffrey Black  
Deborah Blood  
Walter John Boris  
Anita Bradshaw  
Dorinda Broadnax  
Carol Brown  
Reuben Cedino  
Marcia Charles  
Elizabeth Clement  
Megan Culbertson  
John Deckenback  
Jason Donnelly  
Michael Downs  
Harold Drury  
William Epke  
Carlos Floresca  
Kelly Forbush  
Charles Frieberg  
Edith Guffey  
Graylan Hagler  
Barbara Hanks  
Christine Hanson  
Don Hart  
Ruth Harvey  
Kathleen Hoffman  
Luther Holland  
Alice Hunt  
Elizabeth Hyde  
Ann Ito  
M. Linda Jaramillo  
Debra Joseph

### Executive Council (cont.)

Stephen Keithahn  
Pierson Kemp  
Hyo-Jung Kim  
Joe Krabill  
David Long-Higgins  
Campbell Lovett  
Penny Lowes  
Doyle Luckenbaugh  
Elijah MacCullagh  
Ioane Mailo  
James Maki  
Daryl Malena  
Kevin Manz  
Corliss Marsh  
Doug McClelland  
Bob Molsberry  
James Moos  
C. Alicia Nebot  
Mary Ann Neevel  
Ronald Patterson  
Leslie Penrose  
Anita Louise Poole  
James Robertson  
Katherine Rogers  
Cally Rogers-Witte  
Barbara Satin  
Margaret (Peg) Schemmel  
Fred Schwerdt  
Christine Shesler  
Bryan Sickbert  
Kaji Spellman  
Stephen Sterner  
Jane Tedder  
Joseph Vasarhelyi  
Hattie Walker  
Fredd Ward  
A. Rebecca West  
Arlinda Wickland  
Bernard Wilson  
Douglas Wooten

JWM Board of Directors  
(30 allotted delegates; 27 sent)

Aqueelah As-Salaam  
PamelaJune Banks-Anderson  
Geoff Brace  
Linda Campbell  
Pamela Canzater Cheney  
Kenneth Comer  
Gordon Crouch  
James Darnell  
Rosanne Dyce-Anderson  
John Gill  
DeSorrow Golden  
Dian Jackson  
Caitlin Kawaguchi  
Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi  
Phyllis Mitchell  
Christo Owens  
Miguel Rodriguez  
Howard Self  
Amelie Sell  
Lynne Smouse Lopez  
Jeannie Thompson  
William Thwing  
Kiely Todd Roska  
Andrew Warner  
Diane Welhaven  
Jane Willan  
Carolyn Williamson

LCM Board of Directors  
(30 allotted delegates; 29 sent)

Diane Bennekamper  
Karen Curtis-Weakley  
Susannah Davis  
Peggy Wolfe Dunn  
Nancy Erickson  
Rosa Frias  
Jean Golden  
Jill Goodman  
Ted Huffman  
William Imes  
Meredith Jackson  
Renee Jackson  
Trinaka Jamison-Finger  
Richard Kamanu  
Constance King  
Nancy Lawrence  
Janet Leung  
Caroline Martinson  
Steven Mayer  
Monica Newburgh  
Herbert Perkins  
Kevin Peterson  
Inez Reid  
Sheila Rubdi  
Carol Stanley  
Joyce Watson  
Sean Weston  
Carol Williams-Swoope  
R. Joaquin Willis

OGM Board of Directors  
(30 allotted delegates; 24 sent)

Jill Baker  
Pat Barnes-McConnell  
Carol Barriger  
James Ewers  
Kathie Forman  
Donald Gall  
Harold Harmison  
Kayla Kautz  
Richard Leavitt  
Dory Lingo  
Ryan Mathews  
Fredrick Nixon  
David Pantermuehl  
Christopher Ponnuraj  
Esther Rendon-Thompson  
Michiko Reyes  
Susan Rotblat-Walker  
Stella Schoen  
Joseph Sejnoha  
Susan Shands  
Elizabeth Walker  
Felicia Walker-Wilson  
Richard White  
George Worcester

WCM Board of Directors  
(30 allotted delegates; 30 sent)

Angela Menke Ballou  
Joyce Bathke  
Marcia Bentley  
Louie Blue Coat  
Thomas Brooke  
Faye Buttrick  
Charles Carpenter  
William Clark, III  
Robert Craig  
Shernell Edney  
Julio Filomeno  
Thomas Haines  
Oletha Haller  
Patsy Harris  
Mary Frances Hazeltine  
Micah Hessinger  
Barbara Kershner Daniel  
Joy Lacanienta  
Lester Loucks  
Oliver Martin  
Kimberly McKerley  
Drew McLaren  
Elaine Miller  
Katelyn Roedner  
Ariel Royer  
Darla Schafer  
Nancy Staigmilller  
Foai Tanuvasa  
Bing Tso  
Jeanne Tyler

California, Nevada Northern  
(allotted 10 delegates; 10 sent)

Leian Cimarra  
Jack Dawson  
Dennis Duhaylungsod  
Robert Finch  
Patsy Finster  
Melissa Gardner-McBride  
Patrick Lopez  
Blythe Sawyer  
Julia Swayne  
Evelyn Vigil

California, Nevada Southern  
(allotted 11 delegates; 11 sent)

Kathie Blakley  
Sally Buffington  
Debra Buller  
Melissa Fine  
Victoria Freiheit  
Cynthia Wally Hoeger  
Craig Peterson  
Carol Rainey  
Diane Ryder  
Madison Shockley  
Annalise Washburn

Calvin Synod  
(allotted 3 delegates; 2 sent)

Peter Bodor  
Bela Poznan

Central Atlantic  
(allotted 18 delegates; 17 sent)

Mary Barrino-Smith  
Delancy Catlett  
Hilquias Cavalcanti  
Maria Noralis Crompton  
Amy Dunham  
Anne Emery  
Barbara Ferguson Kamara  
William Field

Central Atlantic (cont.)

Karen Lovelace  
Robert Peters  
Robert Rock  
Tianca Sibert  
Scott Stevens  
Adam Tietje  
Stephanie Weiner  
Steve Wood  
Robert Ziegler

Central Pacific  
(allotted 5 delegates; 5 sent)

Dennis Alger  
Elizabeth Oettinger  
Steve Scanlin  
Janet Scott  
Jean Vercouteren

Connecticut  
(allotted 50 delegates; 50 sent)

Ann Aaberg  
Mike Ader  
Jo Ann Battistoni  
Nicole Bernier  
Keith Bolton  
Ian Bryant-Smith  
Paul Bryant-Smith  
Steven Burger  
Diane Carter  
Michael Cho  
Sara Cipot  
Jack Cook  
Madelyn Downer  
Theodore Fecenko  
Eric Fistler  
John Gagel  
Jennifer Gingras  
Tracy Gray  
Brian Hardee  
Paulette Harwood  
Jane Hawken  
Dawn Karlson  
John Kidwell  
Stuart King

Connecticut (cont.)

Jay Krusell  
Kathryn Lewis  
Sarah Libby  
Donna Manocchio  
Elizabeth Miller  
Janice Morton  
Sara Jane Munshower  
Jeanne Murchison  
Erick Olsen  
Craig Patton  
David Peters  
Susan Phipps  
Jacqueline Ramos  
John Ramos  
Ed Rawls  
Keith Roberts  
Deborah Roy  
Ian Sorenson  
Mark Stevenson  
Nancy Strickland  
Howard Thody  
Betsy Tobak  
Edward Turner  
Carrie Watson  
Norean Woodin  
David Young

Florida

(allotted 16 delegates; 16 sent)

Ian Beacon  
Rick Carson  
Ronald Freyer-Nicholas  
Laurinda Hafner  
Bonnie Lipton  
Carlos Marquez-Sterling  
Aaron Mahommed  
James Rapp  
Twila Rhodes  
Neill Robinson  
Susan Sherwood  
Jan Steinberg  
Rebecca Stephenson  
Charlayne Thompkins  
Angela Wells  
Timothy Woodard

Hawaii

(allotted 11 delegates; 11 sent)

Bemry Bunglick  
Rod Chamberlain  
Grale Chong  
Aletha Kaohi  
Joelle Kaupu  
Elwood Kita  
Robb Kojima  
Teddy Llana  
Judith McShane Burke  
Pearl Misa-Lau  
Aileen Trout

Illinois

(allotted 49 delegates; sent 48)

Phoebe Amago  
Rachel Bahr  
Shekinah Bell  
Tiauna Boyd  
Brenda Burney  
Anita Bush  
Leona Cochran  
Mimi Cofoid  
Bertha Condra  
Nan Conser  
Brian Damrow  
Roger Dart  
Julian DeShazier  
Sharon Ellis Davis  
Carmen Flores-Rance  
Judie Foust  
Miguel Frias  
Joe Gastiger  
Malcolm Griffith  
Belinda Gross  
Alice Harper-Jones  
Charles Hill  
Laurie Hill  
Dave Holston  
Jan Johnson  
Gwendolyn Kirkland  
Jesse Knox  
Michael Linder  
Sheryl Magee

Illinois (cont.)

Alyssa Manansala  
Jordan Manansala  
Amanda McEvelly  
Pat Morton  
Abraham Mulberry  
Teamous Newberne  
Bruce Pilcher  
Rich Reinwald  
Don Schmidt  
Keith Scott  
Bob Sherman  
David Stewart  
KyleTade  
Beth Turley  
Harlette Washington  
Jed Watson  
Pat Winckler  
Kim Wood  
Cameron Zelaya

Illinois South

(allotted 15 delegates; 15 sent)

Sue Artt  
Andrea Asselmeier  
Noah Atkins-Harris  
Rosemary Captain  
Sheryl Cross  
Joey Feldmann  
Ivan Horn  
Sonja Ingebritsen  
Gary Kniepkamp  
Tom Kuergeleis  
James Mertz  
Nancy Prather  
Lana Rizzo  
Lucas Sigrist  
Christy Smith

Indiana-Kentucky

(allotted 19 delegates; 19 sent)

Christopher Breedlove  
Christian Decker  
Anisa Evans  
Brian Fillingim  
Peter Frye  
Kent Gilbert  
Altonette Hawkins  
Larry Holderbaum  
John Jackson  
Denise Jacobson  
Richard Pulling  
Mike Reeb  
Natalie Renner  
Michael Roth  
Walter Snowa  
Kathy Solecki  
Karen Stahly  
Ross Tyler  
Valarie Ziegler

Iowa

(allotted 20 delegates; 20 sent)

David Boogerd  
Liz Colton  
Pamela Cook  
Robert David  
Elizabeth Dilley  
Ben Ewert  
Hannah Filkins  
Joyce Fisher  
Samantha Fistler  
Linda Hanson  
Paul Johnson  
Jake Joseph  
Robert Koepcke  
Elizabeth Manning  
Christopher Portero Paff  
Beatrice Rendon  
Jim Ritters  
Marilyn Sargent  
Jess Thomason  
Ken Wells

Kansas-Oklahoma  
(allotted 7 delegates; 7 sent)

Jim Ahrens  
Janis Gian  
Jim Massey  
Lizette Merchan  
James Rix  
Jennie Wachowski  
Nancy Wolfe

Maine  
(allotted 13 delegates; 13 sent)

David Anderman  
William Carter  
Carol Flores  
Timothy Gormley  
Zachary Grant  
Constance Insley  
Darren Morgan  
Briana Morrill  
Douglas Nielsen  
Herbert Oliver  
Elsa Peters  
Jane Rich  
John Woodward

Massachusetts  
(allotted 47 delegates; 47 sent)

Paul Adkins  
Caroline Bail  
Jennifer Barrett Siegal  
Frances Bogle  
Elizabeth Boisvert  
Janet Clarke  
Branwen Cook  
Madeline Cook  
Charles Desmond  
Sylvia Ferrell-Jones  
Shawn Fiedler  
Mary Louise Gifford  
Rebecca Girash  
Roger Goodson  
Frank Groggett  
Jared Hamilton  
Rick Hilliard

Massachusetts (cont.)

Dile Holton  
Robert Hyde  
Lawrence Iannetti  
Christopher Jenkins  
Robert Johansen  
Courtney Jones  
Gabriella Kabiite  
Vicki Kemper  
Richard Lawrence  
Jean Lenk  
John Lombard  
Elsa Marshall  
Raymond Medeiros  
Linda Michel  
Sally Norris  
Kathryn Olmsted  
Stephen Peck  
Sherley Phillips  
Donald Remick  
Jason Remick  
Kaitlyn Remick  
John Riddle  
Steven Savides  
Gregory Schmidt  
Judith Stone  
Vilma Thompson  
Ivy Tillman  
Ian Tosh  
Wendy Vanderhart  
Anne Wildman

Michigan  
(allotted 21 delegates; 21 sent)

Kristin Aardema Faigh  
Dominique Atchison  
Ralph Brown  
Tara Cassidy  
James Curenton  
William Dempsey  
Dan Furman  
James Gutting  
Barbara Henderson  
Patti Kenney

Michigan (cont.)

Lisa Kothe  
Bethany Joy Lange  
Julia LeBrell  
Stephen Lindke  
Mathew Oommen  
Penelope Phelps  
Malik Redding  
Sameerah Shareef  
Dan Smith  
Christine Valentine  
Mike VerMerris

Minnesota

(allotted 19 delegates; 19 sent)

Dan Batson  
David Becker  
Aleta Christopherson  
Sharon Fazel  
Stacy Kehrwald  
Donald Koehn  
Dana Mann  
Alan McNamara  
Debra Meyer  
Sham Moteelall  
Karen Peterson  
T. Michael Rock  
Cecilia Runge  
Hans Simons  
Michael Small  
Brigit Stevens  
Elinor Strandskov  
Bradley Tadlock  
Justin Tucker

Missouri Mid-South

(allotted 22 delegates; 22 sent)

Robert Atkinson  
Carole Barner  
Evelyn Baur

Missouri Mid-South (cont.)

Robert Baur  
Traci Blackmon  
Marie Dargan  
Don Driemeier  
Jill Gillespie  
Martha Hawthorne  
Robert Keller  
Charlen Klein  
Karen Miller  
Andrea Mockridge  
Bruce Moeller  
Andrea Moran  
Sami Pfalzgraf  
Margaret Philip  
Patrick Powers  
Josh Privitt  
Gene Ridder  
Susan Rinne  
Gary Stalling

Montana-Northern Wyoming

(allotted 3 delegates; 3 sent)

Julie Gordon  
Neil Lindorff  
Peter Shober

Nebraska

(allotted 10 delegates; 10 sent)

Jerry Cassidy  
Cathy Ann Colson  
Gerald Eskilsen  
Ken Evitts  
Barry Hemmerling  
Diana Jahn  
Katee Kunzman  
Bill Newman  
Les Parmenter  
Kathy Rahorst

New Hampshire  
(allotted 14 delegates; 14 sent)

Kathryn Blair  
Martha Clement  
Ann Craxton  
Michael Denney  
Kenneth Gould  
Douglas Hatfield  
Heidi Hoskin  
Janice Howe  
Carolyn Keiling  
Constance Littlefield  
Sandra Pontoh  
Jared Rarden  
David Richardson  
Katrin Tharp

New York  
(allotted 24 delegates; 24 sent)

Daniel Beeman  
James Boodley  
Richard Danielson  
Elizabeth Duffy  
Patricia Farr  
Kristina Frenette  
Wayne Fuhrman  
Susan Gibson  
Ervin Graves  
Robert Harsh  
Cynthia Jackson  
Martha Jacobs  
Bill Jones  
Kim Junkins  
Brian Krause  
Karen Maust  
Yves Pierre  
Cynthia Pinder  
Dona Roll  
Arnold Thomas  
Jacob Thomas  
Melva Victorino  
Anne Withers  
Peter Wright

Northern Plains  
(allotted 3 delegates; 3 sent)

Dorothy Borden  
Karen Hartman  
Patrick Hope

Ohio  
(allotted 62 delegates; 62 sent)

Sarah Ahrens  
Sharon Alberson  
Philip Balla  
Jennifer Bannerman  
Elizabeth Blaufuss  
Jim Brehler  
Jenna Brown  
Skylark Bruce  
Samuel Buehrer  
Brian Burke  
Michael Castle  
Gunnar Cerda  
Janice Corbin  
Catherine Costello  
John Cramton  
Ray Deuring  
Donna Dorsch  
Pam Easterday  
Joel Fetter  
Liz Fiene  
Kevan Franklin  
Gary Friend  
Marti Godby  
Kyla Hemphill  
Kenneth Hutchinson  
Sandra Hutchinson  
Nozomi Ikuta  
Mary Karlovec  
Russell Kimmerly  
Nick Knoblauch  
Lenore Kure  
Bob Kutschbach  
Lynn Labs  
Jim Ludwig

Ohio (cont.)

Anne McKarns  
Ted Michalsen  
Nancy Millwater  
Ann Molsberry  
Brian Newcomb  
WRA Delegate 1 Ohio Conference  
WRA Delegate 2 Ohio Conference  
Marguerite Parries  
Nate Parries  
Fred Pfeiffer  
Kendra Pressley  
Cody Rine  
Jeff Roeger  
Elizabeth Schaller Blaufuss  
John Schluep  
Joyce Schroer  
Mark Shock  
Daniel Sickinger  
David Stein  
Adrian Sunday  
Sandra Thieman  
Lori Tisher  
Cynthia Tyson  
Kari Ulrich  
Mike Underhill  
Katie Vivona  
Gail Wells  
Christine Wylie

Pacific Northwest

(allotted 6 delegates; 6 sent)

Nick CastroLang  
Don Hanson  
Tom Miller  
Davante Taylor  
Pam Taylor  
Kristine Zakarison

Penn Central

(allotted 29 delegates; 29 sent)

Julie Beall  
Sarah Grace Beall-Ellersieck  
Larry Bean  
Carol Bender  
Daniel Bock  
Alyssa Boyer  
Robert Brandis  
James Bright  
Stephen Daniels  
Monica Dawkins-Smith  
Frank Deaner  
Patricia Dodds  
Brent Frank  
Paula Gustafson  
Kenneth Heasley  
Matthew Hoover  
Carole Hostetter  
James Hughes  
JoAnn LaRocque  
Patricia Leader  
Jackie Lingelbach  
Michael Loser  
Walter Maust  
Rebecca Namet  
Cathie Oliphant  
Sarah Rentzel-Jones  
LeeAnn Strine  
Nancy Wagner  
Megan Waleff

Penn Northeast

(allotted 25 delegates; 23 sent)

Becky Beckwith  
Heather Brown  
Lori Esslinger  
David Fleming  
Debra Hess  
Jane Hess  
Dawn Hummel  
Joyce Kohler  
Nancy Kramer-Moyer  
Doug Lander

Penn Northeast (cont.)

Keith Lenhart  
Albert Martin  
Frances Merkel  
William Metzger  
William Ragan  
Gary Rarick  
Lee Schleicher  
Dorothy Sechler  
David Charles Smith  
Hannah Snyder-Samuels  
Bruce Stevenson  
William Thomas  
Lisa Weida

Penn West  
(allotted 9 delegates; 9 sent)

Verna Call  
Theresa Cook  
Tony Fields  
Joyce Giebel  
Mary Hendricks  
Trevor Keim  
Rachel McDonald  
Glenn Sadler  
Avis Specht

Pennsylvania Southeast  
(allotted 31 delegates; 31 sent)

Celestine Brooks  
Sandra Cafurello  
Corrine Dautrich  
John Davies  
Kara Druckenmiller  
Janis Edwards  
John Folk  
Douglas Fraley  
Nancy Gottshall  
Selina Hamilton  
Ryan Henderson  
Barbara Hughes  
David Hunsberger  
John Jones  
Karl Jones

Pennsylvania Southeast (cont.)

Leslie Kearney  
Barbara Kershner  
Jane Kropa  
JoAnne McGee  
Bonnie Moore  
Janet Morton  
Benjamin Motz  
Ann-Therese Ortiz  
William Pifer-Foote  
Dwayne Royster  
Arthur Scott  
Chandra Soans  
Patti Thomas  
Candace Walker  
Susan Wendt  
Michele Witmyer

Rhode Island  
(allotted 4 delegates; 4 sent)

Elizabeth Barnum  
Amy Frenze  
George Peters  
Violette Tanguay

Rocky Mountain  
(allotted 9 delegates; 8 sent)

Merv Bangert  
Betty Barnes  
Spencer Bowles  
Steve Hoffman  
Rebecca Kemper Poos  
Beverly Larsen  
Larry McCullough  
Carol White

South Central  
(allotted 10 delegates; 10 sent)

Dennis Bolin  
Wilmer Brown  
Florence Burns  
Jerry Carpenter  
Tricia Earl  
Katherine Fox  
Sally Johnson  
Maggie Motte-Snyder  
Malcolm Richard  
Anne Wehrly

South Dakota  
(allotted 7 delegates; 7 sent)

Kathy Apland  
LeRoy Bobtail Bear  
E. Howard Coker  
Enno Limvere  
Naomi Paulson  
Jill Warner  
Melinda Williams

Southeast  
(allotted 7 delegates; 7 sent)

Jennifer Austin  
James Crobb  
Wesley Farrell-Williams  
Jeremy Rich  
Christophe Ringer  
Jennifer Spears  
Bette Thomas

Southern  
(allotted 20 delegates; 19 sent)

C. Shuford Abernethy, III  
Beatrice Barrow  
Jane Cheek  
Jean Copeland  
Sheila Crump  
Barbara Eilers  
Jacquelyn Freeman  
Tyan Freeman  
Lisa Gaul  
Sharon Hammill  
Brenda James  
Anthony Neff  
Katie Nicholson  
Yvonne Riddick  
Colleen Samson  
Elizabeth Ann Schiemann  
Doug Sink  
Tyler Smith  
Carolyn Williams

Southwest  
(allotted 6 delegates; 5 sent)

Lee Albertson  
Barb Doerrer-Peacock  
Patricia Dunn  
Brian Gruhn  
Len Silvester

Vermont  
(allotted 9 delegates; 8 sent)

Mary Abbott  
Laura Cadmus  
Michael Ford  
Abby Gackenheimer  
Emily Heath  
James Thomas  
Damaris Tyler  
Eric Webster

## APPENDIX A

### Twenty-eighth General Synod Credentials Committee Roster

#### Class of 2011

Joshua Arend (Indiana-Kentucky Conference), Patricia Dunn (Southwest Conference), Karen Hartman (Northern Plains Conference), Sham Moteelall-Chair (Minnesota Conference), Christy Smith (Illinois South Conference),

#### Class of 2013

Tony Fields (Penn West Conference), Kim Junkins (New York Conference), Carlos Marquez-Sterling (Florida Conference), Deris Rice (Wisconsin Conference), Evelyn Vigil (California-Nevada Northern Conference).



## APPENDIX B

Good afternoon; I am Sham Moteelall from the Minnesota Conference and Chair of the Twenty-eighth General Synod Credentials Committee. This morning the committee met for the second time to review demographic information regarding the composition of the 38 Conference delegations.

The committee finds the Delegation-as-a-whole to be in compliance with the spirit of the diversity language found within the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ and certifies the Delegation-as-a-whole to be properly constituted.

The committee is especially proud to report that a full 20 percent of the delegates to the Twenty-eighth General Synod are under the age of 30 and that is a tribute to the hard work of many of the 38 Conferences and the work to bring younger members of the Church to Synod as delegates.

With the exception of a few Conferences which we found to be in non-compliance with the Bylaws language requiring that each delegation be comprised of at least 50 percent lay people, we find the Conferences have sent delegations reflecting the rich diversity of the United Church of Christ.

The committee's findings are based on a meeting this morning where it reviewed the Final Report of the Registrar. The committee first met last February and examined preliminary demographic data coming from Conference registration. It was the first time the Credentials Committee had conducted this preliminary review and it allowed us to contact some Conferences we found to be in non-compliance with the spirit of the diversity language of the Bylaws. When the committee reviewed the Final Report of the Registrar this morning we found a marked improvement from the information we first saw last winter. Accordingly, the committee will now make the late winter review a permanent part of its biennial agenda. We believe this will fairly give the Conferences a chance to change the composition of their delegations when problems are found and we believe it will result in even greater diversity among future General Synods.

Mr. Moderator on behalf of the Credentials Committee I move that the Twenty-eighth General Synod adopt the report of the Credentials Committee.



## APPENDIX C

### STANDING RULES OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH GENERAL SYNOD INCLUDING THE RULES GOVERNING EXHIBITORS

As approved by the Executive Council April 18, 2010 and reissued February 9, 2011 to reflect references to the 2010 Ed. of the Constitution and Bylaws

#### 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 thirty (30) voting members of each of the Boards of Directors of Justice and Witness Ministries, Local Church Ministries and Wider Church Ministries, the Office of General 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 193-194).

#### 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 which are contested will remain vacant until the General Synod Credentials Committee (Bylaw 207) 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 Credentials Committee at least one month prior to the General Synod for appropriate consideration and recommendation to the General Synod.

B. In the event of a challenge to the composition of a delegation, the Credentials Committee shall resolve within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the challenge the matter on the basis of the (1) provisions of the Conference for electing its General Synod delegates, (2) provisions as described in paragraph 189 of the Bylaws for the composition of the Conference delegations.

5. Voting delegates (Bylaws 188-182) 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. Executive Council members representing the Covenanted Ministries shall attend General Synod as part of the Executive Council and shall be seated with the Executive Council.

6. Associate delegates (Bylaw 193) 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. Associate Delegates to General Synod have voice without vote in all aspects and functions of General Synod, including committees.

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

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

8. Any chairperson or chief executive officer of any national program agency, both temporary and permanent, created by General Synod action, or of any of the bodies representing a historically underrepresented constituency (Bylaw 224), who is not either a voting delegate or an associate delegate (Bylaws 187-194) 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 25 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 non-delegate 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 25 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 non-delegate 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 Twenty-seventh General Synod must be sent via email\* to the Office of General Ministries of the United Church of Christ on or before February 15, 2011. A list of at least 25 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, Moderators of past General Synods, Chief Executive Officers of formerly Recognized and Established Instrumentalities, and the Commission of Racial Justice, 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; and Resolutions and Other Formal Motions. All matters submitted by a Conference or Association shall be considered by the Synod (Bylaws 169 and 174). All Formal Motions must be sent via email\* to the Office of General Ministries. The Committee of Reference 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.

- a. Items that are expected to be routine, non-controversial, 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 constitution or Bylaws, statements of commendation, recognition and celebration.
- b. All proposed pronouncements and proposals for action shall be assigned to committee.
- c. Items which are complicated or controversial, which require background discussion and study, which merit and need a hearing process, or which have a system-wide impact will be assigned to a committee. The proposer shall supply a resource person to the committee.
- d. Any proposed business item which reiterates or reaffirms previous action shall normally be referred by the General Synod to the body or bodies implementing such action. A referral for implementation is, in itself, a statement that the General Synod is already on record with the intent of the business item and that the policy base for implementation is already in existence. 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 UCC.

#### 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; and
- (f) the Executive Council.

(3) Procedures for Considering Proposed Pronouncements are:

- (a) A Copy of the Proposed Pronouncement must be sent via email\* to the Office of General Ministries on or before November 1, 2010.
- (b) The Office of General Ministries will send the Proposed Pronouncement to the Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and delegates on or before January 1, 2011. 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 via email\* 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; and
  - 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 which 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 which do not follow this format will be returned for revision.)

- (a) A brief title with an information sheet indicating the source of the Proposed Pronouncement, date of submission, and any other information pertinent to the Proposed Pronouncement.
- (b) A brief summary (an abstract).
- (c) Background statement indicates 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 which will be voted on by the General Synod. Committees functioning for the General Synod, however, shall consider and may amend any portion of the Proposed Pronouncement.

## B. Proposals for Action

(1) Definition: A Proposal for Action is a recommendation for specific directional statements and goals implementing a 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; and
  - (f) the Executive Council.
- (3) Procedures for Considering Proposals for Action are:
- (a) A copy of the Proposal for Action must be sent via Email\* to the Office of General Ministries on or before November 1, 2010.
  - (b) The Office of General Ministries will send the Proposal for Action to the Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, proposed implementor(s), and delegates on or before January 1, 2011. 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 implementor(s) 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 implementor(s).
- (4) Format: A Proposal for Action shall include the following: (Proposals for Action and supporting materials which do not follow this format will be returned for revision.)
- (a) A brief title with an information sheet indicating the source of the 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 2/3rd 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) 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; and
  - (f) the Executive Council.
- (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 via email\* to the Office of General Ministries on or before January 1, 2011. The Office of General Ministries shall make copies available to delegates on or before April 1, 2011.
    - 2. A Resolution or Other Formal Motions which could not have been anticipated or submitted in conformance with the above deadline must be sent via email\* to the Office of General Ministries on or before June 10, 2011.
    - 3. A Resolution or Other Formal Motion which could not have been anticipated or submitted three weeks prior to the opening session of the General Synod may be sent via email\* 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 1200 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. The Resolution or Other Formal Motion must also be provided on a portable electronic device.

4. Resolutions or Other Formal Motions submitted by a Conference or Association (Bylaws 169 and 174) 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 1200 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. The Resolution or Other Formal Motion must also be provided on a portable electronic device.
  - (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. A referral for implementation is in itself a statement that the General Synod is already on record with the intent of the business item and that the policy base for implementation is already in existence. 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 UCC.
  - (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 that accurately reflects the content of the Resolution or 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 three 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. Reports required by previous General Synod action and Reports from Councils must be sent via email\* to the Office of General Ministries on or before April 1, 2011. 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 185).

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 which radically alters the basic intent or direction of the original matter referred to a committee or group shall be regarded as a substitute motion requiring a majority vote of the General Synod for 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 which affect mobility and/or speech.

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. Non-delegates, 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 and/or Bylaw amendment, or Priority is adopted by less than 75% 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 must, 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 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:

Bio.	Floor	Nominating Info.			No.of Noms.	Seconding
		Allowed	(Max.Min)			
	50	Yes	5	2	2	
	50	Yes	3	No	No	
Moderators		(only when contested)				
Executive						
	50	No	No	No	No	
Covenanted						
	15	No	No	No	No	
Nominating						
	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 10 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 10 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 20 minutes prior to the call by election.

40. An affirmative vote of at least 60% 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 non-delegates.

42. Only printed matter and other matter (including commercial) which 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. 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 General Synod 28 in consultation with the host Conference will determine the number of offerings to be received at General Synod 27 and shall announce the offering(s) at the spring 2011 meeting of the 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) by July 1, 2010.

51. The Office of General Ministries will have the authority to change reference, within these rules, to specific paragraphs of the Constitution and Bylaws should paragraph numbering change

in the event of Conference ratification of Synod-adopted amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. Upon such editorial change these rules will be recirculated in the prescribed manner. The Office of General Ministries will also have the authority to make minor editorial corrections to these rules, such as spelling, grammar and punctuation corrections with no additional distribution required.

## Exhibits and Space use at General Synod

52. First priority for space and scheduling needs will be given to the General Synod and those activities that are supportive of its agenda, administration, and business.

53. Exhibits, displays and scheduling of space and time for optional and informal events shall be limited to persons representing the Covenanted, Affiliated and Associated Ministries and Other Bodies as defined by Article VI. of the Bylaws of the UCC, Conferences and Associations, Local Churches, General Synod Recognized Groups and bodies that are listed in the Yearbook of the UCC.

54. Optional activities that are sponsored by officially recognized bodies, but not integral to program, administration and agenda of the General Synod shall be scheduled so as not to conflict with the General Synod.

55. Exhibits and space will be allocated on a first come, first served basis within the above criteria.

56. Exhibit space will be set aside for the Covenanted Ministries and other national bodies, so desiring, to have a common space that might be decorated with a common theme.

57. The following guidelines for General Synod commercial exhibits:

- A. The product or service that they sell or offer is of value to local churches of the UCC.
- B. The exhibits coordinator and/or a committee should screen applications and the give official agreement to the exhibitor.

58. The exhibit fee will be agreed upon for the UCC exhibitors and commercial exhibitors by the exhibits coordinator in consultation with the General Synod Administrator and the facilities coordinator after the actual costs have been assessed for the use of the exhibit hall, decorating expenses and labor.

59. Free time will be reserved for delegates and visitors to visit the exhibit hall.

60. There will be a printed directory of exhibits with a description of each. This will include a map of the exhibit hall.

61. Hours when the exhibits will be open before and during the General Synod will be printed in the advance materials.

62. Exhibits shall open on the first day of General Synod.

\* Email address <synod@ucc.org >



## APPENDIX D

### Second Report of the Executive Council of the Twenty-eighth General Synod

Meeting on Thursday, June 30, 2011 in Tampa, Florida the Executive Council took the following actions;

It was VOTED

11-06-EC-02 to approve the Minutes of the April 2011 Meeting of the Executive Council.

It was VOTED

11-06-EC-04 the Executive Council elects to the corporate membership of the United Church Funds Charles Buck, Edith Guffey, Susan S. Huang, Sandra Smith Hulse and Stella Schoen.

It was VOTED

11-06-EC-05 the Executive Council recommends to the Twenty-eighth General Synod the following resource people be granted Voice without Vote.

#### New Church Start Celebration

David Schoen - Evangelism Team Leader

#### Introduction of Ecumenical Delegates and Partners

Karen Georgia Thompson - Minister for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

Nominees for LCM Executive Minister and AGM and Officers of the Church who do not already have voice at Synod

J. Bennett Guess - Nominee, for Executive Minister LCM and Officer of the Church

W. Mark Clark - Nominee for AGM and Officer of the Church

#### Budget Report

Kathy Houston - Chief Financial Officer

#### Community Building

Melicia Whitt-Glover

Barbara Baylor

#### Coalition of Immokalee Workers

Lucas Benitez.

Brigitte Gynther

Members of the UGov Committee who do not already have voice at Synod

Douglas Andrews

Julia Estrella

Yvette Flunder

Juanita Helphrey  
Bill Land  
Elizabeth Miller  
Marilyn Pagán-Banks  
Phil Porter  
Will Tanner

Members of the Constitution and Bylaws Review Team who do not already have voice at Synod

Brian Holeman  
Kenneth Iha

Attorneys for discussion on Unified Governance and Proposed Constitution and Bylaw Changes

Ches Sumpter - Consulting Attorney, proposed Constitution and Bylaws  
Donald Clark - Nationwide Special Counsel  
Richard Osterberg – Attorney, Wider Church Ministries

OCWM Presentation

Max Brooke  
Richard Brooke

Parliamentarians

Mal Bertram  
Robert Frieberg  
Denise Page Hood

It was VOTED  
11-06-EC-06

the appointment of five delegates from the host Florida Conference to serve as Tellers at the Twenty-eighth General Synod; Bonnie Lipton, Carlos Marquez-Sterling, Aaron Mohammed, Rebecca Stephenson, and Charlayne Thompkins.

It was VOTED  
11-06-EC-07

On Actions of Hostility Against Islam and the Muslim Community, a Resolution of Witness. The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution submitted by Wider Church Ministries to a committee of the General Synod.

It was VOTED  
11-06-EC-08

A Covenant for Church Youth Ministries, Prudential Resolution. The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution submitted by the Eastern Association of the Ohio Conference to a committee of the General Synod.

It was VOTED  
11-06-EC-08

that the Executive Council recommends to the committee of the General Synod considering the resolution, *Putting Money Where Our Values Are* that the title of the resolution be rephrased to more accurately reflect the intent of this motion and that the theological rationale be strengthened.

Respectfully submitted;

Chris Noffke—  
Executive Council Recorder

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

June 30, 2011



APPENDIX E

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORT  
ADMINISTRATION, POLICY AND ECUMENICAL ISSUES

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

APPROVAL OF JUNE 2009 MINUTES

It was VOTED  
09-10-EC-04 to approve the June 2009 Minutes of the Executive Council as corrected.

LETTER OF SUPPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES  
OF PUERTO RICO

It was VOTED  
09-10-EC-23 to send a letter (in the form of an e-mail) of support (as drafted and presented to the Executive Council for approval) to the Council of Churches of Puerto Rico, including a cc: to the governor of Puerto Rico, if deemed appropriate.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH  
GENERAL SYNOD

It was VOTED  
09-10-EC-30 to approve the Minutes of the Twenty-seventh General Synod and authorize the release of those minutes upon the final review by the Executive Council proofreaders. Those members named as proofreaders were Marti Baumer, Carol Brown, Don Hart, Elizabeth Hyde, Anita Louise Poole and Kaji Spellman.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 2009 MINUTES

It was VOTED  
10-04-EC-02 to approve the October, 2009 Minutes of the Executive Council.

RECEIVE MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL

It was VOTED  
10-04-EC-21 to receive the minutes of the telephone conference call meeting (Friday March 5, 2010) of the Executive Committee of the Executive Council.

## AMENDMENT REGARDING HUGS

It was DEFEATED

10-10-EC-02

(10 affirm – 30+ negative – 5 abstention) the amendment as proposed.

Ms. Baumer moved to amend the original UGOV proposed motion by substitution as follows:

The Executive Council receives the work of the Unified Governance Working Group with thanks for their thoughtful process and leadership. After careful, prayerful consideration and discussion, the Executive Council affirms the work of the Unified Governance Working Group. ~~As requested by the action of the previous General Synod, the Executive Council forwards the report entitled A Proposal for Unified Governance of the National Setting of the United Church of Christ to the Twenty-eight General Synod.~~ The Executive Council invites the Boards of Directors of the Covenanted Ministries, after consideration, discussion and comment, to join us in this action. *The Executive Council requests the Unified Governance Working Group to bring to EC spring meeting an amended proposal to be received by the Executive Council and forwarded to the General Synod.*

Mr. Hagler moved to amend the motion by the addition of the following words at the end of the original motion:

*But that the minority (dissenting) reports (2) be forwarded along with UGOV report to EC and Covenanted Ministries.*

## MINORITY (DISSENTING) REPORTS (2) TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND COVENANTED MINISTRIES

It was VOTED

10-10-EC-03

TO AMEND (5 abstentions) the addition of the phrase *But that the minority (dissenting) reports (2) be forwarded along with UGOV report to EC and Covenanted Ministries*, be added at the end of the original motion.

## ADOPTION OF SUBSTITUTE MOTION

It was VOTED

10-10-EC-05

(2 abstentions) to adopt the substitute motion as amended to now read:

The Executive Council receives the work of the Unified Governance Working Group with thanks for their thoughtful process and leadership. After careful, prayerful consideration and discussion, the Executive Council affirms the work of the Unified Governance Working Group. ~~As requested by the action of the previous General Synod, the Executive council forwards the report entitled *A Proposal for Unified Governance of the National Setting of the United Church of Christ to the Twenty-eight General Synod.*~~ The Executive Council invites the Boards of Directors of the Covenanted Ministries, after consideration, discussion and comment, to join us in this action. *The Executive Council requests the Unified Governance Working Group to bring to EC spring meeting an amended proposal to be received by the Executive Council and forwarded to the General Synod. The minority (dissenting) reports (2) will be forwarded along with the UGOV report to the Executive Council and Covenanted Ministries.*

#### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING PRECEDING THE TWENTY-EIGHTH GENERAL SYNOD

It was VOTED  
10-10-EC-19

It moved that the Executive Council meeting preceding the Twenty-eighth General Synod convene at 1:00 pm on Thursday, June 30, 2011 and adjourn at the conclusion of business that evening.

#### MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive Council voted to move to Executive Session for the purposes of considering the nomination of Mr. W. Mark Clark as the next Associate General Minister.

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-03

the Executive Council moves to Executive Session.

### BUDGET AND FINANCE ISSUES

#### CLERGY HOUSING ALLOWANCE

It was VOTED  
09-10-EC-24

Clergy Housing Allowance: The Budget and Finance Committee recommends that the Executive Council approve that the Clergy Housing Allowance under Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code and the regulations promulgated thereunder (“Section 107”) during calendar year 1020 for each ordained minister in good

standing with his or her respective denomination and any other “minister of the gospel” within the meaning of Section 107, who is in the employ of a Covenanted Ministry of the Church of Christ), shall be a sum equal to such employee’s good faith estimate of the amount which will be excludible under Section 107 with respect to the providing of a home by such employee for such year; however, unless and until such employee shall provide in writing the estimate described above, the amount of said Clergy Housing Allowance for such employee shall be a sum equal to one third of such employee’s gross salary compensation.

[Each eligible employee will be instructed to submit, not later than December 16, 2009, a signed statement of his or her designated Housing Allowance for calendar year 2010 that shall conform to the requirements of the above resolution.]

#### NATIONAL BASIC SUPPORT ALLOCATION BASE AND PERCENTAGES

It was VOTED  
09-10-EC-25

(1 abstention) 2010 National Basic Support Allocation Base and Percentages: The Budget and Finance Committee recommends that the Executive Council approve the National Basic Support allocation base of \$8,300,000 for 2010. The resulting funding for each Ministry is EC \$912,160 (10.99%), OGM \$2,110,258 (25.43%), JWM \$1,247,699 (15.03%), LCM \$2,076,682 (25.02%), WCM \$1,443,329 (17.39%), and PB \$509,872 (6.14%)

#### 2010 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BUDGET

It was VOTED  
09-10-EC-26

(1 abstention) that the Budget and Finance Committee recommends that the Executive Council adopts the 2010 Executive Council Budget of \$912,160

#### PLAN OF SUPPLEMENTATION OF SMALL ANNUITIES – PENSION BOARDS 2010 BENEFITS

It was VOTED  
09-10-EC-27

(1 abstention) Plan of Supplementation of Small Annuities – PB 2010 Benefits: The Budget and Finance Committee recommends that the Executive Council authorizes the Pension Boards to pay supplementation of small annuities, effective January 1, 2010, based on an income level of \$24,600 with three-fourths of that amount as the level applicable in determining supplementation for a deceased member’s surviving spouse.

## PEACE CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

It was VOTED  
09-10-EC-28

that the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ assigns the United Church of Christ's beneficial interest in Peace Church United Church of Christ in Bensenville, Illinois to the new church to be created by the consolidation or merger of Peace Church UCC, Immanuel UCC, and St John's UCC, for so long as this new church is a Local Church of the United Church of Christ.

## AUTHORIZATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO RECEIVE DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup> FINANCIAL STATEMENT

It was VOTED  
09-10-EC-29

to authorize the Executive Committee of the Executive Council to receive the December 31<sup>st</sup> Financial Statement and SAS 114 letter, on behalf of the Executive Council when it is available.

## AUTHORIZATION TO REPAY MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

It was VOTED  
10-04-EC-05

The Budget Committee recommends that the Executive Council authorizes Financial Services staff to repay the Michigan Conference their \$43,000 loan to TSI with gratitude from the Basic Support Receipts in excess of the revised budgeted amount (of \$60,324) and to retain the remainder (of \$17,324) in reserves awaiting notification from the Penn West Conference as to the status of their "gift" of \$20,875.

## CONTINUED SUSPENSION OF DRAWS FOR REDUCTION OF TSI DEBT

It was VOTED  
10-04-EC-06

Recognizing that the Executive Council investment account at United Church Funds continues to recover from the downturn in the financial markets, the Budget Committee recommends that the Executive Council authorizes Financial Services staff to continue suspension of any draws for the reduction of the TSI debt and to report on the status of the market value of the fund at the Fall 2010 meeting.

## 2011 GENERAL SYNOD BUDGET

It was VOTED

10-04-EC-07

(1 abstention, 1 no) The Budget Committee recommends that the budget of \$1,263,000 be adopted for the 2011 General Synod. This amount includes an increase in registration fees. The registration fees for 2011 Synod will be:

Adults - Full Registration: \$200 for delegates, associate delegates, all staff, and visitors

Partial Registration: \$150 for visitors who attend Friday, Saturday and Sunday only (available only to visitors)

Youth - \$135 for youth ages 18 and under

Local Registration Fee - \$100 for local area volunteers as designated by Conference staff and planners.

As the cost of the General Synod is supported in large part by the cost of registration, all participants must register for Synod, thus sharing in the support of this event in the life of the Church.

#### ABRIDGE MEETING TIMES FOR SPRING, 2011 MEETINGS

It was VOTED

10-10-EC-06

(30 Yes – 19 Nos – 9 abstentions) - Recommendation Regarding Executive Council Meetings. The Budget & Finance Committee recommends that the Executive Council, in concert with the Covenanted Ministries, abridge the meeting time of their Spring 2011 meeting. Convening Thursday evening and adjourning Saturday morning. Further that the committees conduct their business via conference call prior to the meeting of the Executive Council to the greatest extent possible.

#### DECEMBER 31, 2009 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

It was VOTED

10-10-EC-07

The Budget & Finance Committee recommends that the Executive Council receive the audited December 31, 2009 Financial Statements and the Report to the Audit Coordinating Committee dated August 12, 2010

#### ADOPTION OF THE 2011 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BUDGET

It was VOTED

10-10-EC-08

The Budget & Finance Committee recommends that the Executive Council adopt the 2011 Executive Council Budget of \$785,500.

## 2011 NATIONAL BASIC SUPPORT ALLOCATION BASE AND PERCENTAGES

It was VOTED  
10-10-EC-09

The Budget & Finance Committee recommends that the Executive Council approve the National Basic Support allocation base of \$7,500,000 for 2011. The resulting funding for each Ministry is EC \$785,500 (10.47%), OGM \$1,962,712 (26.17%), JWM \$1,146,177 (15.28%), LCM \$1,870,207 (24.94%), WCM \$1,286,936 (17.16%) and PB \$448,468 (5.98%)

## PLAN OF SUPPLEMENTATION OF SMALL ANNUITIES – PENSION BOARDS 2010 BENEFITS

It was VOTED  
10-10-EC-10

The Budget & Finance Committee recommends that the Executive Council authorizes the Pension Boards to pay supplementation of small annuities, effective January 1, 2011 based on an income level of \$25,000 with three-fourths of that amount as the level applicable in determining supplementation for a deceased member's surviving spouse.

## CLERGY HOUSING ALLOWANCE

It was VOTED  
10-10-EC-11

(2 abstentions)

The Budget & Finance Committee recommends that the Executive Council approve that the Clergy Housing Allowance under Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code and the regulations promulgated thereunder Section 107 during calendar year 2011 for each ordained minister in good standing with his or her respective denomination and any other "Minister of the Gospel" within the meaning of Section 107, who is in the employ of a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ, shall be a sum equal to such employee's good faith estimate of the amount that will be excludible under Section 107 with respect to the providing of a home by such employee for such year. However, unless and until such employee shall provide in writing the estimate described above, the amount of said Clergy Housing Allowance for such employee shall be a sum equal to one third of such employee's gross salary compensation.

[Each eligible employee will be instructed to submit a signed statement of his or her designated Housing Allowance for calendar

year 2011 that shall conform to the requirements of the above resolution to Human Resources by a date determined by that department.]

## ALLOCATION OF SHORTFALL IN BASIC SUPPORT

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-22

The Budget & Finance Committee of the Executive Council recommends that the Executive Council authorize Financial Services staff to allocate the shortfall in Basic Support receipts from the budgeted amount after netting the remaining balance of the excess receipts from 2009 to the Executive Council, the Covenanted Ministries and the Pension Boards based upon the approved percentages as presented at the October, 2009 meeting of the Executive Council (\$431,815.62). The resulting charge to each is EC \$47,456.54 (10.99%), OGM \$109,810.71 (25.43%), JWM \$64,901.89 (15.03%), LCM \$108,040.27 (25.02%), WCM \$75,092.74 (17.39%) and PB \$26,513.48 (6.14%).

## NATIONAL BASIC SUPPORT ALLOCATIONS

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-23

The Budget & Finance Committee of the Executive Council recommends that the Executive Council adopt and recommends to General Synod for adoption: 1) a National Basic Support allocation based on \$7.1 million for the budget year 2012 and \$6.8 million for the budget year 2013; and 2) that the percentage allocations for 2012 and 2013 be based on the recommendation of the Executive Council.

## POLICY OF PER DIEM RATES FOR GENERAL SYNOD

The question was raised to the current per diem rates. The current standardized rates are \$46.00 / day for food, and \$5.00 / day for incidentals.

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-24

The Budget & Finance Committee of the Executive Council recommends that the Executive Council adopt a policy that per diem rates for General Synod be the same as those provided by the United States General Services Administration for the city in which General Synod is being held. Further, if the city is not named in the list provided by the United States General Services Administration, an average of the per diem rates for the cities listed for the state in which General Synod is being held will be used.

## DEVELOPMENT

### INDIVIDUAL GIVING TO THE NATIONAL SETTING OF THE CHURCH

It was VOTED  
10-04-EC-08

(Multiple abstentions) that the Chair and Vice-chair of the Executive Council confer with the fund development staff team about the best way to approach members of the Executive Council for our individual giving to the national setting of the Church.

### FUNDRAISING FOR GENERAL SYNOD

It was VOTED  
10-10-EC-13

The Development Committee recommends that:  
The Executive Council authorizes the national Fundraising Team, in partnership with host conferences, to conduct fundraising for General Synod related activities as part of the General Synod program.

## EVALUATION & PLANNING

### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BEHAVIORAL COVENANT

It was VOTED  
10-04-EC-09

the Executive Council adopts the document “Executive Council Behavioral Covenant” as recommended by the Evaluation Policy and Planning Committee;

#### EC Behavioral Covenants Matthew 18: 15-17 (NRSV)

*“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses...”*

John 15:12 (NRSV)

*“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”*

Isaiah 1:18 (NIV)

*“Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord...”*

Recognizing that we are all Children of God, created in the image of God and therefore deserving of respect and required to have integrity as individual persons, we covenant together to treat each other in our meetings and conversation with the

following commitments:

\_ **Everyone's input is equally important.** Each of us is an expert on our own experience. We all have valuable information to share. Each of us will make every effort to listen carefully and to constructively express personal/group issues as they arise.

\_ **Everyone is invited to participate and no one should dominate.** Actively verbal participants are encouraged to monitor the frequency and length of their contributions. All of us must work to create an atmosphere of trust so that quieter participants feel safe chiming in. Each of us will be mindful of colleagues who may have a more difficult time sharing in a group setting.

\_ **Everyone is encouraged to attentively listen to everyone involved.** Our goal for the conversation is to learn and expand our understanding. Careful listening is how that goal is reached. In discussing sensitive and complex issues, each of us will use reflective listening (i.e., summarize carefully what someone else has said) to ensure what another has said is correctly understood for both intent and meaning.

\_ **When giving feedback, each of us will stick to describing behavior.** Each of us will avoid "awful-izing" situations by keeping to factual data and resisting the temptation to exaggerate. Each of us will avoid adding evaluative comments that may overstep boundaries with our own editorializing. Judgmental language such as "should" and "ought" is discouraged. For example, if someone has been offensive or bullying in a meeting, a respondent might say, "I find I cannot appreciate the point being made when someone yells at me or appears to threaten me," not "You are mean and obviously stupid because you just yell and act like a bully."

\_ **Each of us will speak directly and respectfully to the person with whom we have a concern.** Each of us will resist the temptation to use indirect methods, such as email, anonymous messages, or venting our concerns to other parties. Each of us will not speak negatively (gossip) about others. Each of us will communicate directly with the person with whom we disagree. If someone speaks disrespectfully of another, each of us will listen and supportively re-direct them to the person with whom they are having the difficulty.

\_ **We will encourage people to tell their own stories and speak of their own experiences and avoid representing the grievances or experiences of others.** Each of us will take responsibility for sharing his or her concerns only.

\_ **We encourage collaborative dialogue.** We do not try to outdo one another in showing how much we know about the topic we are discussing. We don't engage in dialogue with the motive of proving others wrong. Each of us will listen carefully and with openness to the views of others so that we might enlarge our understanding of multiple perspectives.

\_ **We respect and honor the confidentiality of all private information.** While we encourage people to own their feedback by voicing it directly and respectfully to the concerned party, we recognize that in the context of our conversations, sensitive or confidential information may be shared. When sensitive and/or confidential information is shared, each of us agree that 'whatever is said here, stays here' unless we first gain the permission to share that information with others. In other words, we may state after a meeting that some felt a particular way, but we do not identify persons with their sentiments, quotes or votes.

## ESSENTIAL CONFERENCE MINISTRIES FUND

It was VOTED  
10-10-EC-12

(\* abstention not called for but noted by request) The Evaluation, Program and Planning Committee recommends that the Executive Council approve the Essential Conference Ministries Fund as revised.

## COMMON AGREEMENT ON MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF BAPTISM

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-20

(2 abstentions) The Evaluation, Policy and Planning Committee recommends that the Common Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Baptism be brought to General Synod 28 for approval.

## MISSION: 1 CAMPAIGN

It was moved by Mr. Frieberg on behalf of the Evaluation, Policy and Planning Committee and jointly with Ms. Lowes on behalf of the Development Committee moved that the joint committees affirm the Mission: 1 Campaign.

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-21

The Evaluation, Policy and Planning Committee and the Development Committee affirms the Mission: 1 Campaign.

## ORGANIZATIONAL LIFE ISSUES

### RESIGNATION OF TONI BUFFALO FROM THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

It was VOTED  
09-10-EC-02

to receive the resignation of Ms. Toni Buffalo from the Executive Council.

### ELECTION OF HATTIE WALKER TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

It was VOTED  
09-10-EC-03

to elect Ms. Hattie Walker to the Executive Council.

### AMENDED ANTI RACISM TRAINING RESOLUTION

It was VOTED

09-10-EC-07 to adopt the resolution as amended which now reads: Anti Racism Training for new members shall be provided prior to the first meeting of each Biennium.

ELECTION OF AMY NORTON TO THE  
GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE

It was VOTED  
09-10-EC-08 that the Executive Council elects Amy Norton to the General Synod Nominating Committee as a representative of the Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries in the Class of 2013.

ELECTION OF ROSA FRIAS TO THE  
LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It was VOTED  
09-10-EC-09 that The Executive Council elects Rosa Frias to the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors as a representative of the Council for Hispanic Ministries

ELECTION OF PEGGY DUNN TO THE  
LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It was VOTED  
09-10-EC-10 that the Executive Council elects Peggy Dunn to the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors as a representative of the UCC Disabilities Ministries.

ELECTION OF SHAM MOTEELALL AS THE CHAIR OF THE  
TWENTY-EIGHTH GENERAL SYNOD CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

It was VOTED  
09-10-EC-11 that the Executive Council elects Sham Moteelall, 50-59, Asian/Asian American male, lay member of St. John's UCC in Norwood Young America, Minnesota, Minnesota Conference as Chair of the Twenty-eighth General Synod Credentials Committee.

ELECTION OF EPIE F. ENCABO AS THE CHAIR OF THE  
TWENTY-EIGHTH GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE

It was VOTED  
09-10-EC-12 that the Executive Council elects Eppie F. Encabo, 60+, Asian/Asian American female, lay member of Faith Community Church UCC in Oakland, California, California Nevada Northern Conference, as Chair of the Twenty-eighth General Synod Nominating Committee.

DISTRIBUTION OF DELEGATES TO THE  
TWENTY-EIGHTH GENERAL SYNOD

It was VOTED  
09-10-EC-13

(1 abstention) that the Executive Council adopts the following distribution of Conference Delegates to the Twenty-eighth General Synod, totaling 678.

EC-09-10-OL-06

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** the Executive Council adopts the following distribution of Conference Delegates to the Twenty-eighth General Synod, totaling 678.

**BACKGROUND:** in compliance with paragraph 186 of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ the distribution of Conference Delegates to the Twenty-eighth General Synod is based on Conference membership, as listed in the 2009 United Church of Christ Yearbook. Although the calculation is based on 675 delegates, the actual total number of Conference Delegates is set at 678. This occurs because paragraph 186 states no Conference shall be allocated fewer than three delegates.

Total UCC membership = 1,111,691 ÷ 675 = 1,646 members = 1 delegate

<u>Conference</u>	<u>Members</u>				<u>Delegates</u>
California-N/Nevada	016,447	÷	1,646	=	09.99
California-S/Nevada	018,839	÷	1,646	=	11.44
Calvin Synod	002,360	÷	1,646	=	01.43
Central Atlantic	029,154	÷	1,646	=	17.71
Central Pacific	007,585	÷	1,646	=	04.60
Connecticut	082,394	÷	1,646	=	50.05
Florida	026,152	÷	1,646	=	15.88
Hawaii	017,634	÷	1,646	=	10.71
Illinois	081,170	÷	1,646	=	49.31
Illinois-South	025,029	÷	1,646	=	15.20
Indiana-Kentucky	031,301	÷	1,646	=	19.01
Iowa	033,501	÷	1,646	=	20.35
Kansas-Oklahoma	010,847	÷	1,646	=	06.58
Maine	020,758	÷	1,646	=	12.61
Massachusetts	076,724	÷	1,646	=	46.61
Michigan	035,277	÷	1,646	=	21.43
Minnesota	030,788	÷	1,646	=	18.70
Missouri-Mid-South	036,534	÷	1,646	=	22.19
Montana-No. Wyo.	004,846	÷	1,646	=	02.94

Nebraska	016,452	÷	1,646	=	09.99	10
New Hampshire	023,566	÷	1,646	=	14.31	14
New York	040,033	÷	1,646	=	24.32	24
Northern Plains	005,113	÷	1,646	=	03.10	03
Ohio	101,978	÷	1,646	=	61.95	62
Pacific Northwest	009,707	÷	1,646	=	05.89	06
Penn Central	047,266	÷	1,646	=	28.71	29
Penn Northeast	041,623	÷	1,646	=	25.28	25
Pennsylvania SE	051,118	÷	1,646	=	31.05	31
Penn West	015,394	÷	1,646	=	09.35	09
Rhode Island	006,821	÷	1,646	=	04.14	04
Rocky Mountain	014,576	÷	1,646	=	08.85	09
South Central	016,098	÷	1,646	=	09.78	10
South Dakota	010,951	÷	1,646	=	06.65	07
Southeast	010,809	÷	1,646	=	06.56	07
Southern	032,819	÷	1,646	=	19.93	20
Southwest	009,619	÷	1,646	=	05.84	06
Vermont	014,297	÷	1,646	=	08.68	09
Wisconsin	056,121	÷	1,646	=	34.09	<u>34</u>
						678

ELECTION OF LAURINDA M. HAFNER AND BRIAN HOLEMAN  
TO THE CORPORATE MEMBER OF THE UNITED CHURCH FUNDS

It was VOTED

09-10-EC-14

that the Executive Council elects Laurinda M. Hafner (class of 2011) and Brian Holeman (class of 2015) to the corporate membership of the United Church Funds.

SPECIAL ELECTION RESULTS, DATED SEPTEMBER 1, 2009

It was VOTED

09-10-EC-15

that the Executive Council receives the results of the special election, dated September 1, 2009, filling vacancies on the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors, Executive Council and General Synod Nominating Committee.

THREE INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE TO SERVE AS  
PENSION BOARDS TRUSTEES

It was VOTED

09-10-EC-16

that the Executive Council approves The Rev. Sheldon W. Culver, The Rev. Dr. Jo Hudson, Mr. Oliver T. Kane, and Mr. Lawrence E. Yunaska as eligible to serve as Pension Boards Trustees.

APPOINTMENT OF UNIFIED GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP (UGOV)

It was VOTED  
09-10-EC-19

that the Executive Council appoints the Unified Governance Working Group (UGOV), with names as listed. This group is responsible for implementing the actions related to Unified Governance approved by General Synod 27.

Unified Governance Working Group (UGOV)  
*Update of 10/18/09*

Douglas Andrews, United Black Christians  
Jim Antal, Council of Conference Ministers  
Marti Baumer, Executive Council  
Diane Bennekamper, Local Church Ministries  
Lynda Bigler, UCC Disabilities Ministries  
Geoffrey Black, Collegium  
Anita Bradshaw, Office of General Ministries  
Deborah Blood, Wider Church Ministries  
Elizabeth Clement, Office of General Ministries  
James Darnell, Justice and Witness Ministries  
Mike Downs, Pension Boards  
Julia Estrella, Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries  
Sylvia Ferrell-Jones, United Church Foundation  
Yvette Flunder, Seminaries of the United Church of Christ  
Edith Guffey, Collegium  
Beau Heyen, Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries  
Linda Jaramillo, Collegium  
Bill Land, Minister for Racial, Social and Economic Justice  
Marilyn Pagán-Banks, Council for Hispanic Ministries  
Rich Pleva, Council of Conference Ministers  
Phil Porter, Coalition for LGBT Concerns  
Inez Reid, Local Church Ministries  
Cally Rogers-Witte, Collegium  
Steve Sterner, Collegium  
Jeannie Thompson, Justice and Witness Ministries  
Bing Tso, Wider Church Ministries  
CAIM, to be announced (Council for American Indian Ministry)  
Bernard Wilson, Executive Council

CYYAM REPRESENTATION TO THE UNIFIED GOVERNANCE WORKING  
GROUP (UGOV)

AUTHORIZATION TO APPOINT PERSONS UNDER 30 TO UNIFIED  
GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP (UGOV)

It was VOTED  
09-10-EC-21

that the chairperson of the Executive Council be authorized to appoint two additional persons under the age of 30 to the Unified Governance Working Group (UGOV).

#### STANDARDIZED PROCESS FOR SELECTING / HIRING CONSULTANTS

It was VOTED AND DEFEATED  
09-10-EC-22

(1 abstention) that a standardized process for selecting / hiring consultants be established.

#### ELECTION OF DOUGLAS ANDERS TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

It was VOTED  
10-04-EC-03

to elect Mr. Douglas Anders to the Executive Council.

#### SPECIAL ELECTION RESULTS, DATED FEBRUARY, 2010

It was VOTED  
10-04-EC-10

The Executive Council receives the results of the special February 2010 election of nominees to fill vacancies on the various Boards of Directors of the Covenanted Ministries.

#### TO THE JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES BOARD

Kenneth Comer, African American, lay male, 60+, as the representative of the New York Conference to the Justice and Witness Ministry Board of Directors in the Class of 2015.

Diane Welhaven, native Hawaiian, lay female, 60+, as a representative of the Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference to the Justice and Witness Ministry Board of Directors in the Class of 2011.

Mr. Jaramillo expressed appreciation for the efforts of the nominating committee in that Justice and Witness Ministry membership is now 60% persons of color. Ms. Jaramillo thanked Mr. Foley for his efforts in securing nominees.

#### TO THE LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES BOARD

Anthony J. Stoik, European American, lay male, 60+, as the representative of the Iowa Conference to the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2013.

#### TO THE OFFICE OF GENERAL MINISTRIES BOARD

Stella Schoen, European American, lay female, 50-59, as the representative of the United Church Funds to the Office of General Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2011.

## TO THE WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES BOARD

Noah Jenson Tabor, European American lay male, 19-29, as a representative of the Iowa Conference to the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2013.

Louie Blue Coat, Native American, lay male, 40-49, as a representative of the Council for American Indian Ministry to the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2015.

Marcia Bentley, African American, lay female, 50-59, as a representative of the Southeast Conference to the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2015.

## ELECTION OF ALICE HUNT TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

It was VOTED

10-04-EC-11

The Executive Council elects Alice Hunt to the Executive Council as a representative of the Council of Theological Education in the Class of 2011.

## ELECTION OF RIESS POTTERVELD TO THE LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It was VOTED

10-04-EC-12

The Executive Council elects Riess Potterveld to the Local Church Ministries Board as a representative from the Seminaries of the United Church of Christ in the Class of 2011.

## ELECTION OF NICK CARTER TO THE JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It was VOTED

10-04-EC-13

The Executive Council elects Nick Carter to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors as a representative from the Seminaries of the United Church of Christ in the Class of 2011.

## ELECTION OF KENT ULERY TO THE WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It was VOTED

10-04-EC-14

The Executive Council elects Kent Ulery to the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors as a representative from the Seminaries of the United Church of Christ in the Class of 2011.

ELECTION OF SHERNELL J. EDNEY TO THE WIDER CHURCH  
MINISTRIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It was VOTED  
10-04-EC-15

The Executive Council elects Shernell J. Edney to the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors as a representative of the Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries in the Class of 2011.

ELECTION OF BRENDA SQUARE TO THE HISTORICAL COUNCIL

It was VOTED  
10-04-EC-16

The Executive Council elects Brenda Square to the Historical Council as a Member-at-Large in the Class of 2013.

ELECTION OF TIMOTHY J. BROWN TO THE HISTORICAL COUNCIL

It was VOTED  
10-04-EC-17

The Executive Council elects Timothy J. Brown to the Historical Council as a Member-at-Large in the Class of 2015.

ELECTION OF CAROL JOYCE TO THE HISTORICAL COUNCIL

It was VOTED  
10-04-EC-18

The Executive Council elects Carol Joyce to the Historical Council as a Member-at-Large in the Class of 2015.

ELECTION OF CAROL JOYCE AS CHAIRPERSON OF THE HISTORICAL  
COUNCIL

It was VOTED  
10-04-EC-19

The Executive Council elects Carol Joyce as Chairperson of the Historical Council for a term of two years, concluding with the Class of 2011.

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE STANDING RULES OF THE  
TWENTY-EIGHTH GENERAL SYNOD

It was VOTED  
10-04-EC-20

(14 opposed ) The Executive Council accepts the recommended changes to the Standing Rules of the Twenty Eighth General Synod with the exception of those changes directly related to the effort to limit the number of resolutions committees will consider to 15.

STANDING RULES OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH GENERAL SYNOD  
INCLUDING THE RULES GOVERNING EXHIBITORS

As approved by the Executive Council April 18, 2010

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 thirty (30) voting members of each of the Boards of Directors of Justice and Witness Ministries, Local Church Ministries and Wider Church Ministries, the Office of General 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 which are contested will remain vacant until the General Synod Credentials Committee (Bylaw 204) makes a recommendation to the Synod and a decision is made by majority vote of the Synod.

- A. A challenge of a delegation shall be made to the Credentials Committee at least one month prior to the General Synod for appropriate consideration and recommendation to the General Synod.
- B. In the event of a challenge to the composition of a delegation, the Credentials Committee shall resolve within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the challenge the matter on the basis of the (1) provisions of the Conference for electing its General Synod delegates, (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. Executive Council members representing the Covenanted Ministries shall attend General Synod as part of the Executive Council and shall be seated with the Executive Council.

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

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

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

8. Any chairperson or chief executive officer of any national program agency, both temporary and permanent, created by General Synod action, or of any of the bodies representing a historically underrepresented 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 25 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 non-delegate 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 25 members of the United Church of Christ and more than one Conference must be represented in its membership.
  - (3) 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 non-delegate 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 Twenty-seventh General Synod must be sent via email\* to the Office of General Ministries of the United Church of Christ on or before February 15, 2011. A list of at least 25 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, Moderators of past General Synods, Chief Executive Officers of formerly Recognized and Established Instrumentalities, and the Commission of Racial Justice, 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; and Resolutions and Other Formal Motions. All matters submitted by a Conference or Association shall be considered by the Synod (Bylaws 166 and 171). All Formal Motions must be sent via email\* to the Office of General Ministries. The Committee of Reference 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.

- a. Items that are expected to be routine, non-controversial, 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 constitution or Bylaws, statements of commendation, recognition and celebration.
- b. All proposed pronouncements and proposals for action shall be assigned to committee.
- c. Items which are complicated or controversial, which require background discussion and study, which merit and need a hearing process, or which have a system-wide impact will be assigned to a committee. The proposer shall supply a resource person to the committee.
- d. Any proposed business item which reiterates or reaffirms previous action shall normally be referred by the General Synod to the body or bodies implementing such action. A referral for implementation is, in itself, a statement that the General Synod is already on record with the intent of the business item and that the policy base for implementation is already in existence. 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 UCC.

### 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; and
- (f) the Executive Council.

(3) Procedures for Considering Proposed Pronouncements are:

- (a) A Copy of the Proposed Pronouncement must be sent via email\* to the Office of General Ministries on or before November 1, 2010.

- (b) The Office of General Ministries will send the Proposed Pronouncement to the Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and delegates on or before January 1, 2011. 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 via email\* 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; and
  - 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 which 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 which do not follow this format will be returned for revision.)

- (a) A brief title with an information sheet indicating the source of the Proposed Pronouncement, date of submission, and any other information pertinent to the Proposed Pronouncement.
- (b) A brief summary (an abstract).
- (c) Background statement indicates 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 which will be voted on by the General Synod. Committees functioning for the General Synod, however, shall consider and may amend any portion of the Proposed Pronouncement.

## B. Proposals for Action

- (1) Definition: A Proposal for Action is a recommendation for specific directional statements and goals implementing a 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; and
  - (f) the Executive Council.
- (3) Procedures for Considering Proposals for Action are:
  - (a) A copy of the Proposal for Action must be sent via Email\* to the Office of General Ministries on or before November 1, 2010.
  - (b) The Office of General Ministries will send the Proposal for Action to the Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, proposed implementor(s), and delegates on or before January 1, 2011. 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 implementor(s) 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 implementor(s).
- (4) Format: A Proposal for Action shall include the following: (Proposals for Action and supporting materials which do not follow this format will be returned for revision.)

- (a) A brief title with an information sheet indicating the source of the 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 2/3rd 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) 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; and
- (f) the Executive Council.

#### (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 via email\* to the Office of General Ministries on or before January 1, 2011. The Office of General Ministries shall make copies available to delegates on or before April 1, 2011.
  2. A Resolution or Other Formal Motions which could not have been anticipated or submitted in conformance with the above deadline must be sent via email\* to the Office of General Ministries on or before June 10, 2011.
  3. A Resolution or Other Formal Motion which could not have been anticipated or submitted three weeks prior to the opening session of the General Synod may be sent via email\* 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 1200 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. The Resolution or Other Formal Motion must also be provided on a portable electronic device.
  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 1200 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. The Resolution or Other Formal Motion must also be provided on a portable electronic device.
- (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)
- (d) 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. A referral for implementation is in itself a statement that the General Synod is already on record with the intent of the business item and that the policy base for implementation is already in existence. 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 UCC.
- (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.
  - (f) A brief summary that accurately reflects the content of the Resolution or Formal Motion.
  - (g) The biblical, theological and ethical rationale; and the expected outcome.
  - (h) The text of the motion.
  - (i) 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 three 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. Reports required by previous General Synod action and Reports from Councils must be sent via email\* to the Office of General Ministries on or before April 1, 2011. 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 which radically alters the basic intent or direction of the original matter referred to a committee or group shall be regarded as a substitute motion requiring a majority vote of the General Synod for 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 which affect mobility and/or speech.

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. Non-delegates, 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 and/or Bylaw amendment, or Priority is adopted by less than 75% 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 must, 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 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:

Bio.	Floor	Nominating Info.	No.of Noms.	Seconding	
(Max.Words)		Allowed	(Max.Min)	Allowed	(Max.Min)
	50	Yes	5	2	2
	50	Yes	3	No	No
Moderators		(only when contested)			
Executive					
	50	No	No	No	No
Covenanted					
	15	No	No	No	No
Nominating					
	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 10 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 10 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 20 minutes prior to the call by election.

40. An affirmative vote of at least 60% 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 non-delegates.

42. Only printed matter and other matter (including commercial) which 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. 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 General Synod 27 in consultation with the host Conference will determine the number of offerings to be received at General Synod 27 and shall announce the offering(s) at the spring 2011 meeting of the 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) by July 1, 2010.

51. The Office of General Ministries will have the authority to change reference, within these rules, to specific paragraphs of the Constitution and Bylaws should paragraph numbering change in the event of Conference ratification of Synod-adopted amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. Upon such editorial change these rules will be recirculated in the prescribed manner. The Office of General Ministries will also have the authority to make minor editorial corrections to these rules, such as spelling, grammar and punctuation corrections with no additional distribution required.

#### Exhibits and Space use at General Synod

52. First priority for space and scheduling needs will be given to the General Synod and those activities that are supportive of its agenda, administration, and business.

53. Exhibits, displays and scheduling of space and time for optional and informal events shall be limited to persons representing the Covenanted, Affiliated and Associated Ministries and Other Bodies as defined by Article VI. of the Bylaws of the UCC, Conferences and Associations, Local Churches, General Synod Recognized Groups and bodies that are listed in the Yearbook of the UCC.

54. Optional activities that are sponsored by officially recognized bodies, but not integral to program, administration and agenda of the General Synod shall be scheduled so as not to conflict with the General Synod.

55. Exhibits and space will be allocated on a first come, first served basis within the above criteria.

56. Exhibit space will be set aside for the Covenanted Ministries and other national bodies, so desiring, to have a common space that might be decorated with a common theme.

57. The following guidelines for General Synod commercial exhibits:

- A. The product or service that they sell or offer is of value to local churches of the UCC.
- B. The exhibits coordinator and/or a committee should screen applications and the give official agreement to the exhibitor.

58. The exhibit fee will be agreed upon for the UCC exhibitors and commercial exhibitors by the exhibits coordinator in consultation with the General Synod Administrator and the facilities coordinator after the actual costs have been assessed for the use of the exhibit hall, decorating expenses and labor.

59. Free time will be reserved for delegates and visitors to visit the exhibit hall.
60. There will be a printed directory of exhibits with a description of each. This will include a map of the exhibit hall.
61. Hours when the exhibits will be open before and during the General Synod will be printed in the advance materials.
62. Exhibits shall open on the first day of General Synod.

ELECTION OF INDIVIDUALS TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, GENERAL  
SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
COVENANTED MINISTRIES

It was VOTED  
10-10-EC-01

to approve the Recommended Action: to elect the following individuals to the Executive Council, General Synod Nominating Committee and various Boards of Directors of the Covenanted Ministries. (See appendix A)

## APPENDIX A

### VACANCIES

The following list of names were re-elected.

**BACKGROUND:** the Executive Council had previously acted to fill vacancies, electing the following individuals through special electronic ballot. Upon completion of balloting for the August 2010 ballot the Office of the Secretary of the Corporation was advised by counsel that the Ohio Code regulating Ohio-incorporated nonprofits includes stringent requirements for conducting electronic balloting, including the requirement that 100% of the Executive Council vote in the affirmative. Because not all members participated in the following elections, the membership is requested to cast a second vote formally affirming the following slates of candidates.

FROM THE AUGUST 2010 SPECIAL BALLOT

FOR ELECTION TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

FORMERLY EC-10-08SPC-01 (Elect Charles Barnes-EC)

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** the election of Charles Barnes, European American ordained male, 60+, as a representative of the Council of Conference Ministers (New England Region) to the Executive Council in the Class of 2011. Mr. Barnes is the Rhode Island Conference Minister. Mr. Barnes is a member of Slatersville Congregational UCC in Slatersville, Rhode Island, Rhode Island Conference. Upon election to the Class of 2011 Mr. Barnes will be eligible to serve one additional two-year term in the Class of 2013.

FORMERLY EC-10-08-SPC-02 (Elect Kate Rogers-EC)

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** the election of Kate Rogers, European American lay female, 20-29, as a representative of the New Hampshire Conference to the Executive Council in the Class of 2011. Ms. Rogers is a member of Congregational Church of Amherst UCC in Amherst, New Hampshire, New Hampshire Conference. She is a theology student at Boston University. She served as a delegate to General Synods in 2007 and 2009. She is a Sunday school teacher and active in her church youth group. She has participated in four youth service projects to Miami, Atlanta, New York and Philadelphia. She volunteers at a community development corporation and a food pantry in the Boston area and is active in the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. Upon election to the Class of 2011 Ms. Rogers will be eligible to serve one additional six-year term in the Class of 2017.

## FOR ELECTION TO THE JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES BOARD

### FORMERLY EC-10-08-SPC-03 (Elect Marcos Aragon-JWM)

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** the election of Marcos Aragon, Hispanic ordained male, 50-59, as the representative of the Southwest Conference to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2013. Mr. Aragon is a member of Desert View UCC in El Paso, Texas, Southwest Conference. He is retired from the El Paso Water Utility. He has been a member of Desert View UCC for the past 30 years and was a delegate to General Synods in 1983 in Pittsburgh and 1985 in Ames, Iowa. Since his retirement, Mr. Aragon has been a volunteer at the Valley Community Food Pantry. Upon election to the Class of 2013 Mr. Aragon will be eligible to serve one additional six-year term in the Class of 2019.

### FORMERLY EC-10-08-SPC-04 (Elect William Thwing-JWM)

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** the election of William Thwing, European American ordained male, 60+, as a representative of the Penn West Conference to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2011. Mr. Thwing is a member of First United Church of Christ in Ebensburg, Pennsylvania, Penn West Conference. He is retired from local church ministry. During his active ministry Mr. Thwing was instrumental in resurrecting the local Salvation Army Unit. He was involved in prison ministry at three local prisons and is active in a Pittsburgh homeless ministry. Mr. Thwing has served as a delegate to two General Synods. He has long been active in ecumenical organizations and led a mission group to assist with the clean-up and rebuilding of the New Orleans area following hurricane Katrina. Mr. Thwing has a passion for environmental justice and is a Certified Residential Energy Auditor. Upon election to the Class of 2011 Mr. Thwing will be eligible to serve one additional six-year term in the Class of 2017.

### FORMERLY EC-10-08-SPC-05 (Elect Phyllis Mitchell-JWM)

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** the election of Phyllis Mitchell, African-American ordained female, 60+, as a representative of the United Black Christians to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2015. Ms. Mitchell is a member of Mt. Zion Congregational UCC in Cleveland, Ohio, Ohio Conference. Ms. Mitchell is a Project Manager for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. At her local church she serves as a member of Paracleo, a bereavement ministry, the Women's Fellowship, the Board of Trustees and is currently a Sunday school teacher, adult Bible study facilitator and serves on the Capital Campaign Committee. For the past eight years she has served as a representative to the Western Reserve Association. In nominating her, the Chair of the UBC says she will bring real estate, development and non-profit management expertise to the board. Upon election to the Class of 2015 Ms. Mitchell will be ineligible to serve another term.

## FOR ELECTION TO THE LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES BOARD

### FORMERLY EC-10-08-SPC-06 (Elect Sue Artt-LCM)

RECOMMENDED ACTION: the election of Sue Artt, European American ordained female, 50-59, as the representative of the Illinois South Conference to the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2011. Ms. Artt is the pastor of St. Paul United Church of Christ in Nashville, Illinois, Illinois South Conference. Ms. Artt was called directly from seminary to St. Paul where she is credited with rebuilding a church in disharmony and creating a vibrant congregation and vital youth ministry. At the request of the Conference Minister Ms. Artt is chairing a special, newly-created, Finance Ministry that is moving the Conference toward financial health. Prior to entering seminary, Ms. Artt worked in the corporate world and is a former Fortune 500 Top 10 Executive with a background in leadership, marketing and engineering-based event planning. Upon election to the Class of 2011, Ms. Artt will be eligible to serve one additional six-year term in the class of 2017.

### FORMERLY EC-10-08-SPC-07 (Elect Sean Weston-LCM)

RECOMMENDED ACTION: the election of Sean Weston, European American lay male, under 18, as the representative of the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference to the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2015. Mr. Weston is a member of First Congregational UCC in Manhattan, Kansas, Kansas-Oklahoma Conference. He will begin college this fall and has discerned a call to the ministry. He serves as a supply preacher throughout his Association (North Central). He is active in the church youth group and is a Sunday school teacher. He served on the 2010 Regional Youth Event Planning Committee and served as a preacher at the 2010 Regional Youth Event. He attended the 2008 National Youth Event. In nominating him, his Conference Minister says Mr. Weston has been a young but strong leader in the Conference during some challenging times. Upon election to the Class of 2015 Mr. Weston will be ineligible to serve another term.

## FOR ELECTION TO THE WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES BOARD

### FORMERLY EC-10-08-SPC-08 (Elect David Gaewski-WCM)

RECOMMENDED ACTION: the election of David Gaewski, European American ordained male, 50-59, as a representative of the Council of Conference Ministers (New England Region) to the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2011. Mr. Gaewski is the Maine Conference Minister. Mr. Gaewski is a member of First Congregational UCC in Farmington, Maine, Maine Conference. Upon election to the Class of 2011, Mr. Gaewski will be eligible to serve one additional two-year term in the Class of 2013.

FOR ELECTION TO THE GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE

FORMERLY EC-10-08-SPC-09 (Elect Chris Rankin-GSNC)

RECOMMENDED ACTION: the election of Chris Rankin, European American ordained male, 30-39, as an at-large representative to the General Synod Nominating Committee in the Class of 2015. Mr. Rankin is the pastor of St. John's UCC in Fredericksburg, Pennsylvania, Penn Central Conference. He has served at St. John's since 2004. He serves as the Chair of the Association (Lebanon) Nominating Committee and the Chair of the Namibia Partnership. He was a member of the Conference Minister Search Committee and has served as a delegate to the 1999, 2001, 2007 and 2009 General Synods. He is President of the Fredericksburg Ministerium. Mr. Rankin is engaged in the D.Min. Program at Lancaster Theological Seminary and serves on its alumni board of directors. Upon election to the Class of 2015, Mr. Rankin will be ineligible to serve another term.

FROM THE MARCH 2010 SPECIAL BALLOT

FOR ELECTION TO THE JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES BOARD

FORMERLY EC-10-03-SPC-01 (Elect Kenneth Comer-JWM)

RECOMMENDED ACTION: the election of Kenneth Comer, African American lay male, 60+, as the representative of the New York Conference to the Justice and Witness Ministry Board of Directors in the Class of 2015. Mr. Comer is a member of Bedford Park Congregational UCC in New York City, New York Conference. He serves on the Board of Trustees of the church and is its past Moderator. He previously served on the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Association and on the Executive Council of the New York Conference. He served on the search committee which called Geoffrey Black as New York Conference Minister. Mr. Comer has served as a delegate to General Synods in Oakland, St. Louis and Grand Rapids. He is retired from the Office of the Mayor of the City of New York. He serves as an Auxiliary Deputy Chief of Police for the Borough of the Bronx and is a volunteer substitute teacher in his local school district. Upon election to the Class of 2015, Mr. Comer will be ineligible for reelection.

FORMERLY EC-10-03-SPC-02 (Elect Diane Welhaven-JWM)

RECOMMENDED ACTION: the election of Diane Welhaven, native Hawaiian lay female, 60+, as a representative of the Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference to the Justice and Witness Ministry Board of Directors in the Class of 2011. Ms. Welhaven is a member of Mayflower Congregational UCC in Billings, Montana, Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference. She is president of the church Women's Fellowship and a delegate to the Conference Annual Meeting. Ms. Welhaven is a volunteer at a local day care center which cares for children of the mentally ill. She serves on the Mayor's (Billings) Council for the Homeless. She is a volunteer at her local food bank and for the

local chapter of Habitat for Humanity. Ms. Welhaven is a retired 42-year 8<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher. She also coached basketball, volleyball and track while teaching. Upon her election to the Class of 2011, Ms. Welhaven will be eligible to serve an additional six-year term in the class of 2017.

#### FOR ELECTION TO THE LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES BOARD

FORMERLY EC-10-03-SPC-03 (Elect Anthony J. Stoik-LCM)

RECOMMENDED ACTION: the election of Anthony J. Stoik, European, American lay male, 60+, as the representative of the Iowa Conference to the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2013. Mr. Stoik is a member of First Congregational UCC in Sioux City, Iowa where he serves on the Board of Trustees, is a member of the Christian Education Committee and is a lay worship leader. Mr. Stoik is a Licensed Minister and serves as an Associate Conference Minister for Western Iowa. He serves as Chair of the Sioux City Chapter of the American Red Cross, is a member of the Sioux City Symphony Board of Directors, and is President of the Sioux City Morning Lions Club. His nomination paperwork further indicates legal and financial expertise. Upon election to the Class of 2013, Mr. Stoik will be eligible to serve an additional six-year term in the class of 2019.

#### FOR ELECTION TO THE OFFICE OF GENERAL MINISTRIES BOARD

FORMERLY EC-10-03-SPC-04 (Elect Stella Schoen-OGM)

RECOMMENDED ACTION: the election of Stella Schoen, European American, lay female, 50-59, as the representative of the United Church Funds to the Office of General Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2011. Ms. Schoen is a member of Bath UCC in Bath, Ohio, Ohio Conference. She currently serves on the Eastern Ohio Association Church and Ministry Committee. She serves on the Board of Directors of the United Church Funds. Ms. Schoen has, for the past five years, served on the Development Committee of the Missouri Religious Coalition for Reproductive Rights. Her nomination paperwork further indicates legal and development expertise. Upon election to the Class of 2011, Ms. Schoen will be eligible for reelection to one two-year term in the class of 2013

#### FOR ELECTION TO THE WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES BOARD

FORMERLY EC-10-03-SPC-05 (Elect Noah Jenson Tabor-WCM)

RECOMMENDED ACTION: the election of Noah Jenson Tabor, European American lay male, 19-29, as a representative of the Iowa Conference to the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2013. Mr. Jenson Tabor is a member of Central City UCC in Central City, Iowa, Iowa Conference. He has taught Sunday school and Bible school for the past eight years. He has attended his Association (Eastern) Annual meeting. Service on the WCM Board of Directors would be his first service at

the national setting of the Church. Mr. Jenson Tabor has served as a precinct captain in Iowa's last two presidential elections, and he currently works as a mentor in the Northfield, Minnesota school system. He is a college student and is considering pastoral ministry. Upon his election to the Class of 2013, Mr. Jenson Tabor will be eligible to serve an additional six-year term in the class of 2019.

FORMERLY EC-10-03-SPC-06 (Elect Louie Blue Coat-WCM)

RECOMMENDED ACTION: the election of Louie Blue Coat, Native American lay male, 40-49, as a representative of the Council for American Indian Ministry to the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2015. Mr. Blue Coat is a member of Messiah UCC in Little Eagle, South Dakota, South Dakota Conference. He currently serves as Moderator of the Dakota Association and on the Board of Directors of the South Dakota Conference. Mr. Blue Coat has been a church youth leader for the past 25 years and has been involved with the Dakota Association Habitat for Humanity Program for the past 15 years. He is a License Minister. Professionally Mr. Blue Coat is an Administrative Assistant for Technical Support. His nomination paperwork further indicates skills in conflict resolution and group process. Upon election to the Class of 2015, Mr. Blue Coat will be ineligible for reelection.

FORMERLY EC-10-03-SPC-07 (Elect Marcia Bentley-WCM)

RECOMMENDED ACTION: the election of Marcia Bentley, African American lay female, 50-59, as a representative of the Southeast Conference to the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2015. Ms. Bentley is a member of First Congregational UCC in Birmingham, Alabama, Southeast Conference. She has been a member of First Congregational her entire life. She has served on the Church Council and the Pastoral Relations Committee and was a long-time member of the Diaconate Board. She is the recipient of the church's Distinguished Service Award. She served as a delegate to the Twenty-sixth General Synod and has served as a delegate to numerous Association and Conference Annual Meetings. She has served as a volunteer for the American Red Cross and has experience in disaster relief. Professionally Ms. Bentley is a social worker. Her nomination paperwork further indicates skills as a church educator, group process and conflict resolution. Upon election to the Class of 2015, Ms. Bentley will be ineligible for reelection.

FROM THE SEPTEMBER 2009 SPECIAL BALLOT

FORMERLY EC-09-09-SPC-01 (Elect Susannah Davis-LCM Class of 2013)

Rev. Susannah Davis; Southeast Conference, age 30-39, European American ordained female pastor of Kirkwood UCC in Atlanta, Georgia as the representative of the Southeast Conference. Ms. Davis has been ordained for the past 14 years and has served as an associate pastor, senior pastor and in new chair development at the Conference level. In her development capacity, she has also worked closely with the national evangelism staff. She attended the Twenty-fifth General Synod in Atlanta. She is active

in local ecumenical groups, engaged in social justice issues. Besides bringing development expertise to the LCM Board, her resume indicates skills in group process and conflict resolution.

FORMERLY EC-09-09-SPC-02 (Elect Madelyn Logan-LCM Class of 2011)

Ms. Madelyn Logan, of the Christian Church (DOC), 60+, European American lay female member of Flash Christian Church DOC in Ashland, Virginia as the Christian Church (DOC). Ms. Logan, as a pastor's wife has been involved in virtually all aspects of church life. She has been particularly involved in women's ministry, formally serving as the Coordinator of Church Women in Pennsylvania and now in a leadership position of the Virginia Christian Women's Fellowship. She was a youth leader and has always served as a member of her local church choir. Ms. Logan has been nominated by the Christian Church (DOC) for a two-year term to the LCM Board and will be eligible to serve one additional two-year term.

FOR ELECTION TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

FORMERLY EC-09-09-SPC-03 (Elect Toni Buffalo-EC Class of 2015)

Ms. Toni Buffalo; South Dakota Conference, age 40-49, American Indian lay female, member of Upper Cheyenne UCC, Eagle Butte, South Dakota as the representative of the Council for American Indian Ministry. Ms. Buffalo previously served on the General Synod Nominating Committee. She is an Education Assistant at her local school district. She serves as Chair of the Board of Directors of CAIM and is active in her local church music ministry; a member of its gospel choir. Ms. Buffalo spends her free time volunteering at agencies engaged in local community and economic development.

FORMERLY EC-09-09-SPC-04 (Elect William Epke-EC Class of 2011)

Mr. William Epke; New York Conference, age 50-59, European American male, member of The Riverside Church in New York, New York as the representative of the United Church Funds. Mr. Epke has recently been selected by the Funds Board to serve his third two-year term on the Executive Council. He is Development Director of the James Lennox House Association, a non-profit organization which operates two affordable house residences for senior citizens in New York. Mr. Epke is a graduate of Oberlin College and pursued advanced studies at Union Theological Seminary, New York University and the American College.

FORMERLY EC-09-09-SPC-05 (Elect Bernard Wilson-EC Class of 2011)

Rev. Bernard R. Wilson; Connecticut Conference, age 50-59, African American male, Senior Pastor of Norfield Congregational Church, Weston, Connecticut, as the representative of the Connecticut Conference. Mr. Wilson has served as Senior Minister at Norfield UCC since 2004. He is a retired Captain, United States Navy, previously

serving as Command Chaplain Naval Station, New York before being appointed Assistant Chaplain of the Marine Corps. He was also assigned as Navy Director of Religious Ministries for eight northeastern states, responsible for budget control, administration and training, just prior to his retirement from the Navy. After his retirement, Mr. Wilson first served as Executive Minister, The Riverside Church in New York, prior to his calling to Norfield.

#### FOR ELECTION TO THE GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE

FORMERLY EC-09-09-SPE-06 (Elect Joe Schulte-GSNC Class of 2013)

Rev. Joe Schulte; South Dakota Conference, age 50-59, European American male, pastor of Yankton UCC in Yankton, South Dakota, as an at-large clergy representative. Mr. Schulte has previously served as an interim Conference Minister for the Penn Northeast Conference, Association Minister in the Ohio Conference and as a local church pastor in Bangor, Maine and Dubuque, Iowa. Mr. Schulte served on the Kentucky Council of Churches and other ecumenical organizations. He currently serves on his local foster care review board and on a suicide prevention board. He plays the guitar and enjoys reading. In nominating Mr. Schulte the South Dakota Conference Minister says he will bring expertise as a church educator, financial expertise and development experience to the Nominating Committee.

#### ELECTION OF ANDREW WARNER TO JWM

It was VOTED  
10-10-EC-14

the election of Andrew Warner, European American ordained male, 30-39, as the representative of the Wisconsin Conference to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2015.

#### ELECTION OF KAREN HARTMAN TO GENERAL SYNOD CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

It was VOTED  
10-10-EC-15

the appointment of Karen Hartman, Native American lay female, 50-59, as a delegate in the Class of 2011 from the Northern Plains Conference to fill a vacancy on the General Synod Credentials Committee in the Class of 2011.

#### APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES TO GENERAL SYNOD CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

It was VOTED  
10-10-EC-16

in accordance with Section 204 of the Constitution and Bylaws the Executive Council appoints the listed delegates to the Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth General Synods to the General Synod Credentials Committee, Class of 2013.

Carlos Marquez-Sterling—Latino lay male, 20-29, from the Florida Conference.

Deris Rice—African American ordained male, 30-39, from the Wisconsin Conference.

Tony Smith—African American ordained male, 50-59, from the Penn West Conference.

Evelyn Vigil—Hispanic ordained female, 40-49, from the California, Nevada North Conference.

Kim Junkins—European American lay female, 20-29, from the New York Conference.

#### ELECTION OF TRUSTEES TO THE PENSION BOARDS

It was VOTED  
10-10-EC-17

to approve the listed persons as eligible for election to serve as Trustees of The Pension Boards UCC

George L. Ochs is an investment management professional with more than 20 years' experience in the areas of portfolio management and real assets.

Paul Hobson Sadler, Sr. is a United Church of Christ minister currently serving as Pastor of Mt. Zion Congregational United Church of Christ in Cleveland, Ohio.

#### ADOPTION OF CHANGES TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL STANDING RULES

It was VOTED  
10-10-EC-18

Changes to EC Standing Rules - the adoption of changes to the Executive Council Standing Rules; proposed new Rule 22 providing standing to the previously-created Committee for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations and proposed new Rule 25 establishing the meeting at which the next class of the General Synod Credentials Committee is selected. Subsequent rules (26-33) are renumbered to maintain chronological order.

## REFER COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT RESOLUTION # 8 BACK TO THE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE

Mr. Deckenback moved that Resolution # 8 from the Report of the Committee of Reference be referred back to the Committee of Reference, and;

It was VOTED

11-03-EC-01

(2 no) to refer Resolution # 8 from the Report of the Committee of Reference back to a committee of the General Synod.

The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution “In Support of Effective and Constructive Peacemaking between Palestinians and Israelis through Positive Investment in Palestine,” a Resolution of Witness submitted by 16 delegates, to a committee of the General Synod. Note: It is assumed that the “Implementation” section should end with the words, “are requested to implement this resolution.”

## ADOPT THE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT AS AMENDED

It was VOTED

11-03-EC-02

the Executive Council adopts the report of the Committee of Reference as amended.

Report of the Committee of Reference

March 17, 2011

The Committee of Reference recommends:

The Executive Council receives items of business submitted to the Twenty-Eighth General Synod and recommends referral as follows:

1. Affirming Health Care Coverage for Clergy Families. *Resolution of Witness.* The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “Affirming Health Care Coverage for Clergy Families,” submitted by the Pacific Northwest Conference, to a Committee of the General Synod. Note: The submitter is asked to revise the title to more specifically reflect the intent of the motion as expressed in the “Therefore” paragraphs.
2. U.S. Ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. *Resolution of Witness.* The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “U.S. Ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty,” submitted by the New Hampshire and Southwest conferences, directly to a plenary session of the General Synod, with the recommendation that it be approved.

3. To Form a Theological Commission. *Prudential Resolution*. The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “To Form a Theological Commission,” submitted by 19 delegates, to a committee of the General Synod. NOTE: The submitter is asked to quote the current version of the Preamble to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ when citing that document.
4. A Covenant for Church Youth Ministries. *Prudential Resolution*. The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “A Covenant for Church Youth Ministries,” submitted by the Eastern Ohio Association of the Ohio Conference. Final disposition still to be determined.
5. That All Children Deserve Loving Parents. *Resolution of Witness*. The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “That All Children Deserve Loving Parents,” submitted by the United Church of Christ Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns, to a committee of the General Synod. Note: The submitter is asked to revise the title to more specifically reflect the intent of the motion as expressed in the “Therefore” paragraphs.
6. Putting Our Money where Our Values Are. *Resolution of Witness*. The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “Putting Our Money where Our Values Are,” submitted by the Central Atlantic Conference, to a committee of the General Synod. Note: The submitter is asked to revise the title to more specifically reflect the intent of the resolution as described in the “Therefore” paragraphs and to strengthen the “Biblical and Theological Rationale” section.
7. For Mindful and Faithful Eating. *Resolution of Witness*. The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution “For Mindful and Faithful Eating,” submitted by the Southern California-Nevada Conference, to a committee of the General Synod.
- ~~8. In Support of Effective and Constructive Peacemaking between Palestinians and Israelis through Positive Investment in Palestine. *Resolution of Witness*. The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution “In Support of Effective and Constructive Peacemaking between Palestinians and Israelis through Positive Investment in Palestine,” submitted by 16 delegates, to a committee of the General Synod. Note: It is assumed that the “Implementation” section should end with the words, “are requested to implement this resolution.”~~
9. In Support of the Release of Puerto Rican Political Prisoners. *Resolution of Witness*. The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution “In Support of the Release of Puerto Rican Political Prisoners,” submitted by the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries, to a committee of the General Synod.
10. Calling for the Application of International Human Rights Principles in Relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. *Resolution of Witness*. The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution “Calling for the Application of International Human Rights Principles in Relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity,” submitted by Wider Church Ministries, to a committee of the General Synod.
11. Calling for a Reflection and Advocacy on Behalf of the Democratic Republic of Congo. *Resolution of Witness*. The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution “Calling for a Reflection and Advocacy on Behalf of the

Democratic Republic of Congo,” submitted by Wider Church Ministries, to a committee of the General Synod.

## ELECTION OF MR. W. MARK CLARK AS CANDIDATE FOR ASSOCIATE GENERAL MINISTER

It was reported that while in Executive Session the Executive Council voted as follows:

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-04

the Executive Council thanks the search committee for their work and recommendation of a candidate for the position of Associate General Minister. The Executive Council confirms the nomination by its search committee of Mr. W. Mark Clark and forwards the nomination for call by election by the Twenty-eighth General Synod meeting in Tampa, Florida in July 2011. The Executive Council further invites the Board of Directors of the Office of General Ministries to celebrate and affirm the nomination of Mr. Clark and requests the Office of General Ministries notify the Executive Council of any such action.

## AMMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

It was APPROVED  
TO AMEND  
BY CONSENSUS

The United Church of Christ Board shall be responsible with the General Minister and President, for the ecumenical and interfaith relationships of the United Church of Christ *in the national setting*.

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-05

the Executive Council accepts the Constitution as amended.

## REVIEW OF MATTERS RELATED TO COMPOSITION OF ENTIRE DELEGATION TO GENERAL SYNOD

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-07

that the Organization Life Committee review all matters related to the composition of the entire delegation of General Synod in order to address our values of diversity.

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-08

that the language regarding compliance in delegations (Par 189 and Par 207) be referred to the Organizational Life Committee for further review and that the committee review all matters related to the composition of the entire delegation of General Synod in order to address our values of diversity.

## ASSIGNMENT OF CONFERENCES INTO REGIONS

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-09

to amend (Pg 22 – Par 246) by deleting the word “six.” To read:  
“The United Church of Christ Board shall make an appropriate  
assignment of the several Conferences into Regions”.

## YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

Ms. Forbush moved to amend (Pg 35 Par 290) in the following manner:

“shall serve to advocate ~~network~~ support *programs and be a resource* for youth and  
young adult ministries...”

“It shall monitor... in all aspects of the life of the Church. *It shall inform, envision, and  
shape national youth and young adult ministry priorities across the Church. The Council  
and its membership will act as a resource regarding youth and young adult ministry  
opportunities across the Church (including but not limited to internships, mission trips,  
Regional Youth Events, National Youth Event, and General Synod).*”

*Add: The Council membership will consist of persons for the majority of their term are  
youth, at least 13 years old through High School graduation or their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday  
whichever comes first. Or young adults who are persons graduating from High School or  
at least 19 years of age whichever comes first through age 30. Terms of office shall be 2  
years with members eligible for re-election twice, for a maximum of six elected years.*

Ms. Tedder moved to divide the question. The first vote to pertain to all changes except  
the last proposed paragraph beginning “Membership shall consist.” The second vote to  
pertain to the paragraph which begins “Membership shall consist.”, and;

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-10

to divide the question.

It was moved to amend the motion to add at the end of the paragraph “*The Council’s  
composition shall reflect the United Church of Christ’s commitment to having a diversity  
of perspectives in church governance.*”, and;

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-11

to approve the amendment.

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-12

to approve the motion as amended to now read:

“shall serve to advocate support *programs and be a resource* for  
youth and young adult ministries...”

“It shall monitor... in all aspects of the life of the Church. *It shall inform, envision, and shape national youth and young adult ministry priorities across the Church. The Council and its membership will act as a resource regarding youth and young adult ministry opportunities across the Church (including but not limited to internships, mission trips, Regional Youth Events, National Youth Event, and General Synod). The Council’s composition shall reflect the United Church of Christ’s commitment to having a diversity of perspectives in church governance.*”

## THE COALITION

Ms. Satin moved to amend in three places at Pg 38 Par 299 by the following changes:  
“good news that all persons of all sexual orientations *and gender identities and expressions* are loved and empowered by God.”

And: “full inclusion and involvement of, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered Christians...”

And: The Coalition is committed to ending exclusion based on sexual orientation, gender, gender identity *and expression*, race, age, size, class and/or ableness, and;

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-14

to adopt the amendments, the paragraph to now read: The United Church of Christ Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns (The Coalition) is composed of members and friends of the United Church of Christ who affirm the good news that all persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions are loved and empowered by God. The Coalition actively works to combat prejudice and seeks justice for, and the full inclusion and involvement of, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Christians in all expressions of the United Church of Christ. In its leadership and outreach, The Coalition is committed to ending exclusion based on sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and expression, race, age, size, class and/or ableness. It promotes mutual ministries of pastoral care, education, and advocacy within the United Church of Christ and society as a whole; encourages Local Churches, Associations and Conferences to become “Open and Affirming” (ONA); and organizes within Conferences to make resources of The Coalition available to all.

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-15

(1 no) to accept the Bylaws as presented by the Organization Life Committee as amended.

**RESOLUTION: “IN SUPPORT OF EFFECTIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE PEACEMAKING BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELIS THROUGH POSITIVE INVESTMENT IN PALESTINE”**

The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution “In Support of Effective and Constructive Peacemaking between Palestinians and Israelis through Positive Investment in Palestine,” a Resolution of Witness submitted by 16 delegates, to a committee of the General Synod. Note: It is assumed that the “Implementation” section should end with the words, “are requested to implement this resolution.”

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-16

to close debate.

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-17

(31 Yes, 21 No, 2 abstentions) The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution “In Support of Effective and Constructive Peacemaking between Palestinians and Israelis through Positive Investment in Palestine,” a Resolution of Witness submitted by 16 delegates, to a committee of the General Synod. Note: It is assumed that the “Implementation” section should end with the words, “are requested to implement this resolution.”

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-18

The Executive Council recommends referral of the proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ directly to a plenary of the Twenty-eighth General Synod, with a hearing to be held in advance of the introduction of this business to afford delegates the opportunity to discuss and ask questions about the proposed amendments.

**REMOVAL OF REPRESENTATIVES**

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-25

the removal of Rudolph Gruenke from the Executive Council as the representative of the Illinois Conference, Class of 2015.

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-26

the removal of Ray Reid from the General Synod Nominating Committee as a representative of the Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice, Class of 2013.

## ELECTIONS AND FILLING OF VACANCIES

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-27

the election of Jason Donnelly, European American lay male, 30-39, to serve on the Historical Council as a Member at Large in the class of 2017.

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-28

the election of Jason Donnelly, to serve as Co-Chairperson of the Historical Council.

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-29

the election of Carol Joyce, European American ordained female, 60+, to serve as Co-Chairperson of the Historical Council. Rev. Joyce currently serves on the Historical Council, Class of 2015.

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-30

the election of Barbara Brown Zikmund, European American ordained female, 60+, to serve on the Historical Council as a Member at Large for the class of 2017.

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-31

the election of Patricia Dunn, African American lay female, 60+, as a Member at Large of the General Synod Credentials Committee, Class of 2011, replacing a member who will not be attending the Twenty-eighth General Synod.

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-32

the election of Robert Brown, European American ordained male, 50-59, as the representative of the Massachusetts Conference to the Executive Council, Class of 2015.

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-33

the election of Gail McAfee, African American lay female, 50-59, as the representative of the Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice to the General Synod Nominating Committee, Class of 2013.

## GRANTING OF VOICE WITHOUT VOTE

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-34

to grant Voice without Vote at the Twenty-eighth General Synod to the following listed groups that petitioned for the privilege in compliance with Rule 10 of the Standing Rules of the Twenty-eighth General Synod;

- 1—Focus Renewal Ministries, petition received October 6, 2010
- 2—UCC Professional Chaplains and Counselors, petition received December 14, 2010
- 3—Network for Environmental and Economic Responsibility, petition received January 20, 2011
- 4—Faithful and Welcoming Churches, petition received February 1, 2011
- 5—Ministry for God’s Animals, petition received February 1, 2011
- 6—Christians for Justice Action, petition received February 4, 2011
- 7—UCC Military Chaplains, petition received February 7, 2011
- 8—Association of United Church Educators, petition received February 9, 2011
- 9—Biblical Witness Fellowship, petition received February 14, 2011
- 10—Association of United Church of Christ Intentional Interim Ministers, petition received February 27, 2011

## 2010 EDITION OF CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN FORCE

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-35

the Executive Council formally declares the 2010 Edition of the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, reflecting the amendments voted by delegates to the Twenty-seventh General Synod, in force.

## MOTION REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Mr. Robertson moved the adoption of the following motion:

It is hereby moved that the Executive Council amend the Standing Rules and Handbook of the Twenty Eighth General Synod to include the following statement:

Proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ must be circulated to the delegates well in advance of the General Synod. Therefore, proposed amendments from the floor will be in order only if they do not increase the modification of the provision to be amended.

Amendments from the floor that seek to correct typographical, spelling or grammar errors and other proposals directed solely to the form of the amendment are likely to be deemed as not increasing the proposed modification and may, therefore, be considered.

Amendments from the floor that seek to make a material change to the amendment are likely to be considered as increasing the proposed modification and may, therefore, be ruled out of order.

Changes to the Constitution require action by the Conferences as well as by General Synod.

Ms. Tedder moved to amend the motion to remove the words “standing rules” from the first sentence of the motion, and;

It was VOTED

11-03-EC-36 (1 no – 1 abstention) to adopt the amendment to remove the words “standing rules” from the first sentence of the motion.

It was VOTED

11-03-EC-37 (1 no 2 abstention) to adopt the proposal as amended to now read:

It is hereby moved that the Executive Council amend the ~~Standing Rules and Handbook~~ of the Twenty Eighth General Synod to include the following statement:

Proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ must be circulated to the delegates well in advance of the General Synod. Therefore, proposed amendments from the floor will be in order only if they do not increase the modification of the provision to be amended.

Amendments from the floor that seek to correct typographical, spelling or grammar errors and other proposals directed solely to the form of the amendment are likely to be deemed as not increasing the proposed modification and may, therefore, be considered.

Amendments from the floor that seek to make a material change to the amendment are likely to be considered as increasing the proposed modification and may, therefore, be ruled out of order.

Changes to the Constitution require action by the Conferences as well as by General Synod.

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-38

(1 abstention) in accordance with Paragraph 200 sections a) and b) of the Constitution and Bylaws, the approval of a slate of candidates to the Twenty-eighth General Synod to the General Synod Nominating Committee, Class of 2017.

Recommended from the Conferences:

Lay persons:

- 1—Cassandra Howe, New Hampshire Conference, age 19-29, European American lay female.
- 2—Ralph France, Central Atlantic Conference, age 60+, European American lay male.
- 3— Pamela Cook, Iowa Conference, age 40-49, African American lay female.
- 4—Carlos Marquez-Sterling, Florida Conference, age 19-29, Hispanic/Latino American lay male.
- 5— Nancy Wolfe, Kansas-Oklahoma Conference, 50-59, European American lay female.
- 6—Jennifer Blackwell, Michigan Conference, age 30-39, European American lay female.

Clergy:

- 1—Beth Kennett, Southern Conference, age 40-49, European American ordained female.
- 2—Edward Davis, Illinois Conference, age 50-59, African American ordained male.
- 3—Jonathan Lee, Connecticut Conference, age 50-59, European American ordained male.
- 4—Sharon MacArthur, California, Nevada Northern Conference, age 60+, Asian/Asian American ordained female.
- 5—Gary Myers, Southeast Conference, age 50-59, African American ordained male.

6—Dan De Leon, South Central Conference, age 30-39, Hispanic/Latino American ordained male.

Recommended for Election from the Historically Underrepresented Groups:

Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries:

1—David Mateo, Southern Conference, age 40-49, Hispanic/Latino American ordained (ordination to take place May 22, 2011) male.

Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries:

1—Bladimer Paeste, California, Nevada Northern Conference, age 40-49, Asian/Asian American ordained male.

### **REFERRAL OF RESOLUTION “COMMON AGREEMENT ON MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF BAPTISM”**

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-39

The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “Common Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Baptism,” a Prudential Resolution submitted by the Executive Council, to a committee of the General Synod.

### **REFERRAL OF PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE BYLAWS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST ON “THE FREQUENCY OF THE MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL SYNOD” PROPOSAL.**

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-40

(multiple nos) The Executive Council recommends referral of the proposed change to the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ on “The Frequency of the Meetings of the General Synod,” a bylaw change proposal submitted by the Illinois South Conference, to a committee of the General Synod.

### **REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Mr. Kemp announced that the nominating committee of the Executive Council was recommending the election of Ms. Lowes and Mr. Wilson respectively as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Executive Council for the 2011-2013 biennium, and;

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-41

to elect Ms. Penny Lowes as Executive Council Chair, and;

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-42  
Chair.

to elect Mr. Bernard Wilson as Executive Council Vice-

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL USE OF “CONSENT AGENDA” FOR THE  
FALL MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.**

It was VOTED  
11-03-EC-43

that the Executive Council experiment with the use of a “consent  
agenda” at the fall meeting of the Executive Council.

Compiled and respectfully submitted by;  
Denise Shimell  
May 23, 2011



## APPENDIX F

Thank you Mr. Moderator; I am Pierson Kemp, Chair of the Executive Council of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

It has been my great honor to serve as Chair of the Executive Council during the past biennium. It has been an incredibly rewarding personal experience which has often been shaped and guided by the Holy Spirit.

Either intentionally or by factors over which we have little control the past two years have seen enormous change in the life and shape of our Church and the next few years to come portend even greater change. Economic factors have forced change. Societal factors have forced change. The calendar and the Church's own term limits on leadership are resulting in unprecedented change at the national setting in Cleveland and therefore across the denomination.

As for the Church as a whole, the past two years have been years of change and impending change for your Executive Council.

No doubt the single biggest change facing the United Church of Christ has its roots in a Church document now nearly a decade old. The Final Report of the 2000 Restructure Evaluation Oversight Committee said additional change to the historic restructure which went into effect in the year 2000 was needed if the Church was to remain relevant and vital, indeed solvent; so the conversation began. Over the next years two successive governance study groups met and proposed various governance models only to find support among members of the Covenanted Ministries and Executive Council insufficient to bring proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws. The conversation never got far enough in Cleveland for a plan to be brought here to you, delegates to General Synod.

Then, two years ago, this body, sitting in Grand Rapids, Michigan took control of the issue and directed its Executive Council to return here to Tampa with a plan for unified governance and present it to you. That's all the delegates in Grand Rapids said; they simply said, "Enough is enough. Enough precious time and effort has already been spent, return here with a plan and let us, the Synod delegates representing those in the pews vote the issue. Bring us a plan." That one directive from the Twenty-seventh General Synod has been the consuming issue before the Executive Council for the past 24 months and it is my profound honor to report to you that we have designed a new governing structure, a fair and equitable structure, diverse and inclusive of all, yet nimble and able to deal with the ever-changing needs of the Church and the society and world in which it must exist.

This is a plan forged by a diverse cross section of all setting of our beloved Church. 30 people representing all settings of the Church, including all nine of the historically under-represented groups sat on the team we put together. The team was led by the Rev. Bernard R. Wilson, Senior Pastor of Norfield UCC in Weston, Connecticut. Bernard and his team started fresh. While grateful for the work of the two previous governance teams, Bernard and his folks went a new direction and fashioned a model that met with

overwhelming approval when it was unveiled in the fall of last year. The Executive Council and all four of the Covenanted Ministries Boards of Directors weighed-in and then they endorsed the plan, including the Board of Directors of the Office of General Ministries which will vote to dissolve itself as part of the actions needed to enable the proposal. Then Bernard and his team took the plan on the road, in a discernment process, to the seminaries and to the Conferences and the Conferences took it to the Associations and local churches and when it was over we heard wide and very nearly unanimous affirmation for this governance model.

Sunday evening there will be a hearing and you will have the opportunity to learn all about this proposed structure and then later in this meeting you will be asked to vote the amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws which will enable its enactment. It is my personal and fervent hope and prayer that this Synod will vote those changes and fulfill the intent of those delegates who spoke which such resolve two years ago, allowing the United Church of Christ to continue its prophetic mission into this still new century unencumbered and untethered from an archaic governance structure which no longer serves our beloved Church.

Earlier I spoke of the change in the make-up of our Collegium of Officers. Executive Ministers Cally Rogers-Witte of Wider Church Ministries and Steve Sterner of Local Church Ministries are concluding terms and have chosen to not see reelection. Edith Guffey, the Associate General Minister and the administrator of the all the recent Synods is prohibited from seeking another term because of term limits; for 20 years my Executive Council colleague and dear friend Edith has served at the national setting. Cally, Steve and Edith are treasured for their wise and faithful leadership of our Church. They will all truly be missed. Each of them is a human asset that cannot easily be replaced, but replaced they must be.

With the announced departure of these three outstanding leaders, Local Church Ministries, Wider Church Ministries and the Executive Council formed search committee to nominate successors. As the Chair of the Executive Council I was privileged to appoint the search committee which nominated Mr. W. Mark Clark for call by election as the Associate General Minister. Like the governance team, the search committee was comprised of a diverse group of people from all backgrounds and all settings of the Church. My Conference Minister, the Rev. John R. Deckenback of the Central Atlantic Conference, who also sits on the Executive Council, chaired the search committee. The effort to find Mr. Clark was another of the successful major accomplishments of your Executive Council over the past two years. Local Church Ministries and Wider Church Ministries are equally blessed by the selections of the Rev. J. Bennett Guess and the Rev. Jim Moos to help lead them, indeed the whole Church, into the future.

The realities of the day have resulted in change to the way the Church pays its bills. Recent economic times have forced us, like many of you at home, to tap into the nest egg. That can't go on, not at home and not here, so working through its Development Committee and the development offices of the Covenanted Ministries the Executive Council has endorsed a unified, ambitious and more aggressive development effort.

Parts of the plan are already in place and netting results. In fact, there's a delightful event tomorrow night, right across the street at the Marriott, a social hour with soft music, a fine dinner and just one short speech; that's a pretty good church meeting by my standards and I'm sure we can still find a few tickets for those who might want to attend. Tomorrow's event is modeled on the first one held a year ago, as part of the celebration of Geoffrey Black's installation. Fundraising dinners are not going to remedy the financial ills of the Church, but it is part of this breakout thinking, moving away from funding sources so susceptible and vulnerable to outside pressures to a more secular and corporate overall development effort which will well-serve the Church.

Your Executive Council listened to its General Synod Program and Planning Committee. At this meeting you will see a change in the way Synod considers proposed resolutions. I hope each of you attended the Educational Intensive connected to the resolution you have been assigned. These Educational Intensives are new this year and change the resolution process to give delegates a good working knowledge of the issue causing the submission of the various resolutions. We hope these Educational Intensives result in delegates returning home with something more than just a sense they merely sat through a three-hour word-smithing session, as the old committee process has sometimes been described. The Program and Planning Committee and the Executive Council hope this Synod offers each and every delegate something substantial, something tangible, to take home for the benefit of their local church. I urge you to take full advantage of all the wonderful workshops, presentations and other events offered tomorrow during our Sun Coast Saturday celebration.

Working with the General Synod Nominating Committee, the Executive Council has fulfilled its responsibilities to fill vacancies on the Ministry Boards and the Executive Council, itself. While always respecting and honoring the diversity requirements set down in the Bylaws, we are now actively recruiting people with specific skill sets. Not only is this the practice as we fill vacancies, but the Nominating Committee is now also looking very hard at skill sets when it solicits potential nominees from the Conferences and Groups as it put together the slate of candidates you will elect to the boards and Executive Council later in this meeting.

Fellow members of the Executive Council I thank you for your sincere, thoughtful and Holy Spirit-filled consideration of the many complex and difficult issues which have come before us during the past two years.

Delegates and guests, I thank you for your time.



## Appendix G

Delegates and visitors, colleagues and friends:

Grace and peace. I greet you in the name of the Loving, Persistent God, whose pursuit of us is greater than our ability to hide, and who lives and breathes in moments of steadfast hope.

It is with excitement, and deep appreciation to the Local Church Ministries board of directors, that I stand before you to be considered for the Office of Executive Minister and as an officer of this great church. I am grateful for the confidence that the search committee and the board of directors have extended to me, and I am honored and humbled by your consideration.

I am more than appreciative of the United Church of Christ; I am indebted to it. The UCC has graced me with opportunities to grow and serve in ways that I could have never imagined, nor ever thought possible, 20 years ago as an openly gay person in ministry.

I came to this church from another tradition, one that first flirted with my emerging wonder of things godly and just, but ultimately one that was incapable of receiving me fully for who God knew me to be.

I came to this church like many of you — searching, a bit wounded perhaps, pondering my own way forward, both spiritually and vocationally. A Pilgrim of another era. And, upon discovering the UCC, I brought with me a lot of “newcomer naiveté” about just how absolutely perfect this church is. All I can say is you have schooled me well, but my enthusiasm for this incredible church has not dampened.

You took me in, like you’ve welcomed countless others. You gave me a home and a faith that I could be proud of. You honored my past at the same time you offered me a future. Over time you counseled me in how to treasure what I brought with me and how to modify or discard what I no longer needed. This is a treasured gift that our church offers thousands of newcomers every single year — 32,000 last year alone — the opportunity to make our worship real, to make room for honesty of thought and expression, to encourage “purity of heart” in our journey toward an authentic faith.

I fell in love with this church – and remain so – because I believe your mission, *our* mission, is God’s mission: To listen for and be open to the continuing testament of God, to be agents of extravagant welcome, justice and hospitality, and to change lives – individually, systemically and globally.

Obviously, it is no secret that this is a time of significant change for the church – in every respect — in local congregations, in our Associations and Conferences, in our colleges and seminaries, for our health and human service institutions, and for the Covenanted Ministries and the partnerships we maintain around the world. The ways in which we thought about being church – 54 years ago, 10 years ago, even six months ago, it seems

— are increasingly at odds with the ways in which we must think about being church in the days and years to come. There is no shortage of dis-ease, just as there are many competing diagnoses and prescriptions for what ails us.

I come to you with no easy answers or quick fixes. But I do understand that new leaders for the United Church of Christ must be willing to speak to the angst that stirs in us, to interpret it and to minister to it, but more than offering analysis, to take practical steps and make creative decisions to welcome the new era of “possibility” that so many of us are yearning for.

The church — no matter how progressive its theological confessions or its social policies — is, by its very nature, a conservator of tradition. It has long-valued remembrance as a sacred trust. It is a preserver of the shared values that we both cherish and aspire. Religion is often called upon to play the role of the “familiar friend.” The shared songs and hymns we’ve unconsciously memorized; the scriptures and prayers we recite, they comfort us. Their predictability accompanies us through unpredictable lives.

And this is why “the new” – the emerging, the thing that is coming – has always rattled the church, it always has — especially when that new thing comes at us more quickly and more radically than our comforts, our budgets, our structures, and our members would prefer.

We wrestle with how to stay true to the institution we have been and to the new mission we sense God is calling us. Our jitters are understandable. But resistance is not a faithful option.

It seems these days that every noteworthy, best-selling book on the state of the mainline church has the word “hope” prominently embedded in the title: “Reframing Hope,” “Liberating Hope,” “Toward a Hopeful Future,” “An Emergent Manifesto of Hope.”

Somehow I don’t think this is a coincidence. We do long for hope.

But, ironically, this frenzy of hope is being driven by a sense of imbalance — a fear that the church, as we have known it, is passing away and a new kind of church is emerging, one that we church people don’t easily recognize or understand. It’s why we’re driven to pick up these books in the first place.

But what we’re learning from these wise thinkers is that, in times and places of wilderness and exile, it is always God’s intention to restore us, but never to the exact place from which we came.<sup>i</sup> As in life, we often must leave places we love in order to reach new places that enable us to mature and grow. We only need look to the family scrapbook for proof it is true. Our great-grandparents Abraham and Sarah first told us to expect it.

Like the differently looking Risen Christ who was only made known to them in the breaking of bread, we are being resurrected into a church where certain structures,

institutions and behaviors no longer serve us as well as they once did. And their breaking apart – and their new “transubstantiating” forms – leave many of us feeling the pain of that new emergence.

But hope is more than a good marketing strategy; hope is a renewing and *refining* presence in the world. It is conceived in desperation but gives birth to *ingenuity*. It has been known to transform abandoned buildings into affordable housing, turning coffee houses into confessionals, waiting rooms into prayer chapels. Hope can throw open the doors of the church so that new immigrant communities might be welcomed in. It makes our gathering places accessible to all, and pushes our comfort zones by the people it invites in. Hope has been known to pack its bags and show up in strange, unsuspecting places: in flooded, tornado-ravaged towns and along hurricane-battered coastlines. Hope opens wallets and check books, and it sets people to singing and praising God again.

Not so long ago, we thought change in the church could be explained away in dualistic terms: the traditional worship service vs. the contemporary one. The formal time when robes were worn, and the casual experience when blue jeans were more acceptable. We thought it basically boiled down to “church” and “church lite.”

But the emerging/emergent church is more sophisticated than that. It takes seriously hope’s generative effect on people and communities; to inspire, motivate and transform.

Described by sociologists as the “greatest entrepreneurial generation in U.S. history,” Gen Xers – those born between 1961 and 1981 – are bringing those entrepreneurial strengths with them into the church and in their search for authentic spirituality.<sup>ii</sup> They are taking apart what we have to offer, examining it from all sides, and questioning whether or not it makes sense. They don’t care if it looks Catholic or feels Baptist or comes from the Book of Common Prayer or the Stillspeaking Daily Devotional. They aren’t looking for new-fangled religion, because they aren’t afraid to retain the old if it’s working ... or to discard it if it’s not.

This is one of the clearer signs, or trends, of the emergent church. It borrows from traditions ancient and modern, sacred and secular, traditional and contemporary, mainline and evangelical, conservative and liberal. It takes the best that Christianity has to offer, while leaving behind the trappings that render it stale, boring, cumbersome or oppressive. This means less emphasis on buildings and more focus on mission. Less coercing of your neighbors, and more concern about engaging in honest conversations with them.

And while this new approach is disruptive to religious institutions, it is doing wonders for the work of the Holy Spirit, because, falling victim to the mindset that membership and committee assignments were the best things that we in the church had to offer, people are actually coming to us with *deeper* spiritual curiosity and intercultural maturity. They are eager for hammers and paint brushes; dialogue and engagement. They want prayer that utilizes mind and muscle. They expect the local church to be more “local” and more “church” than it has ever been before.

Episcopal Bishop Mark Dyer of Pennsylvania observes that every 500 years or so the whole church conducts a great big rummage sale.<sup>iii</sup> And lucky us, we were born into that 500-year cycle. We're in the process, as Christians, of sorting through the church's attic and deciding what to keep and what we shall discard.

“What is a faith worth living?” and “What is a faith worth throwing out?” That's what this exile period is all about.

And we, the United Church of Christ – this great united and uniting church – who better than we to understand this emergence – this *convergence* – of ecumenical, interfaith practice and understanding? Our very own history has prepared and *positioned us* for this moment.

All across the United Church of Christ, I am encouraged by something I see. I sense a strong hunger for an articulation of our envisioned future together, an eagerness to recapture the belief and proclamation that the UCC exists for a reason. There is more to us than legacy and inertia. We have a distinct purpose. And the living out of the Gospel in this country and in the 80 countries where we maintain partnerships would be severely diminished if we were to become anything less than the bold church we have been.

This is why we must acknowledge a new and emerging understanding of what it means to be a denomination. For the past 70 years, we have looked to denominations as the principal resourcing agents in congregational life, and over that time, many excellent resources, programs and curricula have emerged that have strengthened the fabric of our ministries together. But, in coming decades, we will accomplish more of that in collaboration with our local churches and our seminaries, who themselves will drive this content production, and it will be the national church's role to bring the audience, the connections, and perhaps some resources that can enable our most innovative thinkers and brightest minds to share their expertise for the good of the larger body. “To bring wood where there is fire,” as Yvette Flunder says.

This shift takes seriously the idea that the local church is not just the place of “central authority” in the UCC; it is the central place where we look to find and express the vitality of our denomination. We have to face the fact that in our interconnected, tech-driven world, local churches no longer require a big home office to make and maintain relationships with other churches and partners, and accomplish life-changing mission at home or around the globe. But the shift is to claim and bless the enthusiastic work of our local churches as being the lived mission of the whole church.

Given this new reality, we are in desperate need for new data to measure what success really means for us. For far too long, we have relied on only two metrics to determine our success – membership totals and dollars given to national ministries. And we've allowed ourselves (and others) to define for us the impact and effectiveness of the entire United Church of Christ based on these two lone criteria. Don't get me wrong: these statistics matter, but they don't tell the complete story, especially in light of drastic changes in what “membership” really means these days and new patterns of mission-giving that

speak more to the *growth* of local mission and not necessarily a disconnect to our shared values and impact as a denomination.

As I've been saying a lot lately, McDonald's doesn't tell you how many stores they have, or how many employees they have. They tell you what matters in a service industry: "Billions and billions served." The church must learn to do the same.

"Mission: 1" – which we will experience together this November – is a major attempt to live into this new understanding of denominationalism.

"Mission: 1" takes local mission seriously and celebrates it, but it also connects local compassion to justice advocacy and global engagement in ways that can inspire and motivate all of us ... to see, in real time, the impact of our oneness, that we really can and do accomplish more together than we do in our isolation.

But "Mission: 1" also accomplishes something else. It takes seriously the church's need to be transparent and accountable to goals that we set for ourselves. Did we actually achieve what we said we were going to do? I suspect one of the reasons why some are suspicious of any new denominational initiative is that people only hear about it when we launch it and, when we fall short, we just hope that everyone has forgotten what we set out to do in the first place.

Five years ago, Local Church Ministries set an ambitious goal to start 250 new UCC congregations in five years. And just this afternoon, David Schoen reported back on our progress toward reaching that goal by our celebrating and welcoming nearly 180 new or newly aligned congregations. If you're doing the math, that's about 70 short of our stated goal, but there's more math to be told: it's also more new congregations than in any five-year period in the last 40 years. When we hold ourselves accountable to what we say we can and must do, we are reminded that there is, indeed, great power and potential working through us.

As we experienced three years ago during the UCC's "100,000 for Peace" campaign and will feel again during "Mission: 1" this November, we need more unifying moments in mission when we can wildly celebrate something we have accomplished together. One of the emerging roles of a denomination is to cast the vision for these big culture-engaging moments, where mission can be lived out *locally* but tabulated *nationally*.

I don't think this can be overstated: Hope produces more hope, success breeds more success; and new energy only ignites greater vitality. And all of the many challenges and changes we're navigating as a church will prove much more manageable if there are more big moments of shared success, clear victories born of our collective investment of energy, time and talent. This is what people *want* from the church and what will draw ultimately them to us.

I am a firm believer that an organization will live into what it thinks of itself and how it describes itself to others. In the church this means we all try to stand tall enough to reach

that crown of glory that God places just a little bit above our heads. We respond not to diminished (or repeated) expectations of ourselves but to greater expectations of who God believes we can be — and then, in turn, what we imagine is possible for us.

If you show me any thriving, growing congregation, I guarantee you will find both lay and clergy leadership that believes with a passion that they are a certain light in the world and that there is something particularly salty to what they are about. They know their own story, and they believe their own story. And that story makes them a better, stronger church and better, stronger human beings.

I, myself, have experienced the saltiness that is the United Church of Christ. And, like you, I have been beckoned by its light. And because of it, this is why I believe that tens of thousands of new people and many new vital congregations will soon be joining our fellowship. And, for the same reason, many, many more people will be touched, impacted and changed by the ministries we offer. Because our UCC vision, values, and voice, they resonate *profoundly* with the trajectory of this nation, perhaps now more than ever before.

The United Church of Christ is undergoing a period of great change — but *not* of great demise. Get that out of your head! As Christians, we must never allow a defeatist attitude to overcome us. It is a mockery of the resurrection power that the Holy Spirit consistently breathes in us. We must accept this sweeping change as clear mandate, as golden opportunity, as Great Commission.

This is our “come-and-follow-me” moment. Shall we sit only with what we have known? Or shall we rise and discover all that the Lord has invited us to come and see and taste together?

If elected, I pledge to work collaboratively and diligently on behalf of the *whole* church. And within Local Church Ministries particularly, I will attempt to build upon the generative, adaptive leadership that Steve Sterner has so capably demonstrated.

And still, I know, there will be much to sort out: How *will* we leverage the needed resources to pursue and accomplish God’s mission? How will we embrace a post-modern worldview to become church for new generations? How will we live more fully into a demographic reality that reflects our interracial, intercultural commitments? How do we create more-effective patterns and protocols for authorizing and matching pastoral leaders and congregations? How will we enhance our support of chaplaincies and other modes of ministry that aren’t “beyond” the local church, but extensions of it? What will theological education and preparation for ministry look like? And how do we embrace and pursue *excellence* in our worship, preaching, programming and administration? These are big questions that I am eager, with you, to discern some answers.

So it is helpful then to be reminded: “God hath yet more light and truth to break forth from God’s Holy Word.”<sup>iv</sup> This is the promise upon which *our* hope springs forth and the message that *our church* uniquely offers the world.

God is still speaking,

God is still,

God is,

God.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

i Gil Rendle, “Journey in the Wilderness: Hope for the Mainline Church”

ii Carol Howard Merritt, “Reframing Hope”

iii Phyllis Tickle, “The Great Emergence: How Christianity is Changing and Why,”  
quoting Episcopal Bishop Mark Dyer.

Iv Pastor John Robinson to the Pilgrims, 1620



## APPENDIX H

### Twenty-eight General Synod Nominating Committee

Eppie F. Encabo-Chair  
Pacific and Asian American Ministries

Jane Barthell  
At-large (Minnesota)

Sheldon Culver  
At-large (Illinois South)

James Foucher  
At-large (Rocky Mountain)

M. Jane Hess  
At-large (Penn Northeast)

Lindy Holt  
At-large (Northern Plains)

Norma Lopez  
Council for Hispanic Ministries

Normal Mengel  
UCC Disabilities Ministries

Tina Phillips  
At-large (Maine)

Leroy Sanders  
Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries

Eric C. Smith  
Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and  
Transgender Concerns

John Tamilio  
At-large (Ohio)

James Turner  
At-large (Indiana-Kentucky)

J. Matthew Deal-Vice-chair  
At-large (Penn West)

Toni Buffalo  
Council for American Indian Ministries

Jeffrey Dirrim  
At-large (Southwest)

Christina Held  
At-large (California Nevada Southern)

Gail Holmes  
At-large (Wisconsin)

Judy Jones  
At-large (New York)

Gail McAfee  
Ministers for Racial Social and Economic  
Justice

Angela Myers  
United Black Christians

Chris Rankin  
At-large (Penn Central)

Joe Schulte  
At-large (South Dakota)

Chandra Soans  
At-large (Penn Southeast)

Ivy Tillman  
At-large (Massachusetts)

Lori Yamashiro  
At-large (Hawaii)



## APPENDIX I

Good Evening. I am Eppie Encabo, Chair of the General Synod Nominating Committee and I, along with the other members of the committee, are proud to present to you the slate of candidates for election to the Executive Council and Covenanted Ministries Boards of Directors—Class of 2017. The slate has been posted and available to delegates for the past month. We, the members of the committee, believe it to be an outstanding group of people, diverse in all ways and gifted with the skills and abilities to help guide the United Church of Christ.

I would like to personally thank the Conferences and Groups for their effort in recruiting from their memberships all the fine individuals who the committee considered as it put together the slate you will vote later in the Synod. The work of the Nominating Committee is time-intensive and painstaking. It is no easy job trying to find the right individual for just the right spot on one of the boards and the Conferences and Groups have been a great help in this process, offering over 250 individuals who were carefully and thoughtfully considered for the positions available.

Two years ago my predecessor, Carol Shipman stood before you and spoke of heightened efforts on the part of the committee and its staff to solicit the finest cross-section of the UCC membership to our boards and Executive Council. Now, three years into this effort we are enjoying the benefits; the people we are recommending you elect to the boards and Executive Council are truly gifted, devoted and caring people who have made a commitment of time, dollars and love to the job they will begin in the fall.

There are a few positions which the committee has not filled. In most cases the right person has not yet been found. Your Nominating Committee remains fully dedicated to achieving the diversity goals of the Church, in all ways, by race, gender, age, physical ability, sexual preference and skill set. When those criteria cannot be met we have left the position vacant and will continue to work with the Conferences and Groups until we are successful and will then present the nomination and the Executive Council will act.

I would like to thank the staff to the Nominating Committee, Mr. Lee Foley and Ms. Denise Shimell. They are essential to our work and we sincerely appreciate their help, resourcefulness and guidance.

Mr. Moderator, the Report of the Twenty-eighth General Synod Nominating Committee is signed by each of its 26 members. On behalf of the committee I submit the report, as posted on the website, and urge its adoption.



## APPENDIX J

The Twenty-eighth General Synod Nominating Committee unanimously approves and submits for election by delegates to the Twenty-eighth General Synod the following slate of candidates for Moderator and Vice-moderator of the General Synod, for the Executive Council and for the Justice and Witness Ministries, Local Church Ministries, Office of General Ministries and Wider Church Ministries Boards of Directors.

The slate of candidates is presented first by biography and then by demographic data.

Eppie Encabo—Chair  
J. Matthew Deal—Vice-chair  
June 10, 2011

### For Election as Moderator and Assistant Moderators of the General Synod

**Libby Tigner:** has been nominated for Moderator. She is Associate Pastor of First Congregational Church of Long Beach in California. She is a former member of the Executive Council and served on its General Synod Program and Planning Committee for the Twenty-seventh General Synod. Her current responsibilities at First Congregational include pastoral care and counseling, spiritual nurturing and development and adult religious education. She belongs to a Long Beach service club dedicated to improving the lives of women and children.

**Dale Bonds:** is retired from the IBM Corporation. She is a member of Central St. Matthew UCC in New Orleans. She is the past Chair of the General Synod Credentials Committee, serving as a delegate to the Twenty-fifth and Twenty-sixth General Synods. She is active in the Urban Ministry Network, serves on the Board of Directors of the Back Bay Mission, is a former President of her congregation and served on the Conference Minister Search Committee. She is nominated for Assistant Moderator.

**Brian Holeman:** is Judge of the Superior Court-District of Columbia. He is a member of Peoples Congregational UCC in Washington, DC where he has served on its Board of Deacons, Board of Trustees and Pastoral Search Committee. He is a former member of the Executive Council and Co-chaired its Organizational Life Committee. He sits on the Board of Directors of the Chicago Theological Seminary and the Board of Directors of the United Church Funds. He is nominated for Assistant Moderator.

### For Election to the Executive Council

**Douglas Anders:** Conference Minister, South Central Conference. Before becoming Conference Minister in the South Central Conference, Doug served as a local church pastor in the Missouri Mid-South Conference for almost 18 years. In the South Central Conference, one of Doug's priorities is the support of new church development and supporting new church start pastors.

Jane Anderson: Board of Directors Wisconsin Conference; and of the Wisconsin Conference State Women's Committee, as chair for 4 years; Board Member YMCA, Diversity Committee YMCA; Co-chair End-of-Life Coalition for the Fox Valley; Habitat for Humanity; filled unexpired term on Executive Council; this nomination is for a full term.

Douglas Andrews: Member Faith United Church of Christ in Hartford, CT; Men's Ministry Board, Stewardship and Missions Board, Pastoral Search Committee, consensus builder, strong sense of faith and justice; served in the past as Conference moderator, served on Unified Governance Committee; active member of United Black Christians.

Charles Barnes: Conference Minister, Rhode Island Conference since 1995; previously 10 years as Associate Conference Minister in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference for 10 years and as a local church pastor in Massachusetts for 9 years. Experience and skills include group process, financial expertise, conflict resolution, and public speaking.

Walter John Boris: Conference Minister, Central Pacific Conference, Western Region; Conference Minister - Central Pacific Conference - Aug. 2008 to present; President Interfaith Alliance of Washington State - 1996-2001; Church Educator, Group Process, Public Speaking.

Glen Brown: Member Holladay UCC, Salt Lake City, Utah; Rocky Mountain Conference; served as Moderator, Vice Mod, Financial Officer, Youth Group Director of his local church; Conference Board of Directors, Association Moderator, Stewardship Ministry Team; Church Educator, Group Process, Financial Expertise, Organization Skills, Conflict Resolution; UT Pride Interfaith Worship Service, Planning and participating, Steering Com for Coalition of Religious Community.

Marcia Charles: Maine Conference, member and pastor, New Sharon Congregational, UCC; Currently serving as chair of Committee on Ministry; has served on Witness Life Commission and Spiritual Life Commission; as a bi-vocational clergy, she works for the local Adult Education program as an adult ed. advisor currently a member of the Honduras Partnership; currently filling an unexpired term on the Executive Council, nominated for a full term.

Arthur Lawrence Cribbs: nominated as The Pension Board representative; Pastor, San Marino Congregational UCC, San Marino, CA; Liaison to Southern California Nevada Conference; Coordinator of Urban Coalition for Southern California Nevada Conference (SCNC), Los Angeles; Vice Moderator of SCNC; Vice Moderator of SCNC Central Association; Former executive director, Office of Communication; United Black Christians; Member, Task Force on Public Education.

John Deckenback: is the Central Atlantic Conference Minister, one of six Conference Ministers nominated for election to the Executive Council. He is a member of Evangelical Reformed UCC in Frederick, Maryland. He is a member of the Broad of Directors International Relief and Development and a former member school board advisory committee. He brings organizational skills and development expertise to the Executive council.

**Maren Elnes:** Countryside UCC, Omaha, NE; Maren has been active in her church has traveled with their youth choir. She will bring the insights of youth and of growing up in a pastor's home with all the table talk of progressive Christianity.

**Sylvia Ferrell-Jones:** nominated as the United Church Funds representative; Massachusetts Conference; member Pilgrim Cong UCC, Lexington, MA; Local Church Service includes Former Moderator, Choir, Served on Fellowship, Membership, Educational Ministries, Conference service includes, Former Board Member and Chair, MACUCC Conference; Steering Committee of Conference-wide Listening Campaign; Board of Trustees, Andover Newton Theological School, employed professionally as the CEO of a nonprofit organization.

**Carlos Floresca:** Member Cosmopolitan UCC, Carrollton, TX where he has served as Past Church Council President, Member of the Pastor-Parish Committee; he is a member and treasurer of PAAM and professionally is a business owner. Carlos has been filling an unexpired term, now nominated for a full term.

**Kelly Forbush:** nominated by the Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries (CYYAM); UCC Congregational in Burlington, MA; student in discernment; member of the Yale Divinity School curriculum committee and the worship committee; in the national setting, served as Co-chair, Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries; AGM Search Committee; Committee on Reference; nominated for a 2<sup>nd</sup> two year term from CYYAM.

**Gilberto Garcia-Rodriguez:** nominated by the Council for Hispanic Ministries; member, Penn Northeast Conference, Trinity UCC, Bethlehem, PA; In 2003 started to work at First UCC in Bethlehem and he continues the work with the Hispanic ministry; Penn Northeast Conference Board member for 6 years. Work with Youth Mission trip to Puerto Rico and two times Mission Trip to Guatemala; as an ordained Minister and a local church pastor, the emphasis of work had been establishing relations with community services and programs.

**Richard Heiss:** member Penbrook UCC, Harrisburg, PA where he has served as Treasurer vice President and Secretary of the stewardship/finance committee; Sunday School teacher; Conference service includes Board of Directors, Treasurer and Assoc. Treas.; UCC Board for Homeland Ministries; Gen Synod Delegate 1971, 1973, 2007, 2009; retired from PA State government.

**Ron Hildahl:** pastor Salem UCC, Salem, ND; Pastoral Care Director of Medcenter One Mandan Living Center & Mandan Care Center, Mandan, ND 2010-present; Member of the Northern Plains Conference Council; Co-chair of Mission and Outreach Committee; Co-chair of North Dakota Community Planning Group for HIV Prevention 2005-2007; has served as Pastor of three ELCA congregations; Has worked three summers as a counselor at an ELCA Bible Camp; Has worked as Choir Director of a Roman Catholic Church and a UCC congregation.

**Julie Kilmer:** nominated by the Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Concerns (Coalition), member Edgewood United Church UCC, East Lansing, MI; Local Church service includes Open and Affirming Committee, Missions board, work to organize efforts to feed the homeless; Conference service includes Church and Ministry committee member of the

Covenant Association in MI; has served churches in RI, IL and MI; currently employed at Hospice Advantage in Lansing, MI as a Hospice Chaplain and Bereavement Counselor, volunteers for Big Brothers, Big Sisters.

Katherine Lambertson: pastor, St. Johns UCC in Vincennes, IN; Currently serving on the Conference Outdoor Ministries Committee and is the VP of her association; Board member of local YMCA; Women's Advocate for LAM (Life after Meth) group; board member of United Community Social Ministries (local advocacy and assistance group).

David Moyer: nominated by the Cabinet of Conference Ministers, Conference Minister, Wisconsin Conference, member Lake Edge, UCC Madison, WI; Association Minister, Northwest Association, WI 1988-2001. Conference Minister, WI Conference 2001-Present; Association Minister, Council of Conference Ministers (Cabinet and chair); Cornerstone Fund; UCC-UEK Forum; Ecumenical Commission; Council on Theological Education; Partnerships with Evangelical Church of Berlin Brandenburg Oberlausitz.

Marilyn Pagan-Banks: nominated as the representative from Council for Racial Ethnic Ministries (COREM); Associate Minister, Wellington Avenue UCC, serves on church council chairs Stewardship Task Force and Care Network; Currently serves on Illinois Conference Council, chair the nominating committee and recently appointed as representative to the II Conference of Churches; Co-chair of COREM; President of CHM; Unified Governance Committee; immediate past chair of LCM; Executive Director of A Just Harvest, a non-profit in Chicago.

Rich Pleva: nominated by the Cabinet of Conference Ministers; called as Conference Minister, Iowa Conference in 2005, member Ankeny UCC, Ankeny, IA. He previously served as Association Minister in the Illinois Conference; Governance Follow UP Team I & II. Unified Governance Team; Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors; long ago served on a city council, a city planning commission, and then as a school board member.

Anita Louise Poole: member St. John, Maeystown, IL, Illinois South Conference; began a Mission Team, which has gone to various places to do mission work; Stewardship Committee, Visioning Team and Worship Team in previous church, Conference service includes the Ecuador Partnership Committee, chaired the Giving Ministry of the MO Mid-South Conference and former member of CUE; special interest in economic empowerment of women; serving an unexpired term on the Executive Council, nominated for a full term.

Kate Rogers: member Congregational Church of Amherst, UCC, Amherst, NH; local church service includes Sunday school teacher, active member/leader in youth group throughout high school, choir member, speaker in worship, participant in youth service trips; conference youth delegate to General Synods in 2007 and 2009; active in Marsh Chapel at Boston University, participated in the Ecumenical Campus Ministry while a student at the University of New Hampshire; nominated for a full term on the Executive Council.

Thomas Roust: member First Congregational UCC; Sioux Falls, SD; local church service includes mission, deacons, stewardship and trustee committees and senior pastor search

committee; Conference service includes Conference: Stewardship Committee; Assistant Secretary to Board of Directors; current member Board of Directors; General Synod delegate 1995, 1997, 1999; former Board member of Red Cross and United Way; Retired actuary from Midland National Life Ins. Co.

Alfred Schwerdt: member Immanuel UCC, Shillington, PA; retired pastor, in his last he helped the church open its doors to welcome new people into the life of a very active congregation; currently serves on the Credentialing Committee of the Conference, has served as a General Synod delegate and as a delegate and chair of the PA Commission for United Ministry in Higher Education; has worked with Family Promise, homeless ministry, i.e. housing families at the church. He is a member of Theology on Tap, an informal monthly gathering to hear and discuss current issues to which the church needs to address. Currently serving an unexpired term on the Executive Council, now nominated to serve a full term.

Brenda Square: nominated by the Historical Council; member Beecher Memorial Church, New Orleans, LA; local church service includes former Trustee Board Chair, Moderator, Church Council Member; Conference service includes member Board of Directors, South Central Conference, New Orleans Association Executive Committee; served as board member United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, Honored Lay Woman 2007; Founding Member of the Plessy and Ferguson Foundation for Preservation, currently serves as the Archivist, Amistad Research Center.

William Sterrett: member of Amicable, UCC, Tiverton, RI; where he has served as pastor for the last 21 years; has served on the Conference Committee on Church and Ministry as well as numerous other boards and committees; strong community leader in his rural community; active in community ecumenical groups.

Kelly Stone: nominated by the Council for Higher Education; currently serves as Chaplain, Lakeland College; member Bethel UCC in Elkhart Lake, WI; has served local in her church as a member of the worship committee, and served local churches as temporary interim, retreat leader, and guest preacher; member of UCC Council for Higher Education; served as an intern in the national setting in Justice and Witness Ministries; attended General Synod as an intern in 2003 and in 2007 representing Lakeland College.

Bernard Wilson: pastor Norfield Congregational Church, Weston, CT; served at Riverside church prior to Norfield; serves as Police Chaplain for the Town of Weston; Serves on the Board of Directors of Homes for the Brave; is active in the Fairfield West Association, General Synod delegate in 2009; Chair, Unified Governance Team; currently serving an unexpired term on the Executive Council, now nominated for a full term.

#### For Election to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors

Patricia Caldwell: worked as a criminal trial attorney for most of her career so she brings many skills including understanding process, ability to analyze and explain complex issues, ability to build rapport with people, excellent problem solver and motivator; very comfortable speaking to

large crowds. Some of her interests include justice issues, music, travel and history. She pays attention to details, is skilled in leadership and procedure. Patricia is a member of the Michigan Conference Board of Directors and a member of Pilgrim Congregational in St. Joseph.

**Nick Carter:** is the president of Andover Newton Theological School. He previously served as Executive Director of SANE/FREEZE, the nation's largest grass roots peace and justice organization, leading a distinguished delegation to the first Reagan/Gorbachev nuclear summit in 1985; served as Vice-president of a marketing firm, dedicated to building public/private partnerships, which was honored for saving the US Postal Service more than \$10 million a year. He brings skills in Conflict Resolution; Financial Expertise; Development Expertise; Public Speaking. He is a member of Old South Church in Boston.

**Michael Cich-Jones:** is a non-profit administrator. His understanding of non-profits and work on justice concerns will be a gift to JWM. He is an active volunteer, volunteering at the Oklahoma State University Center for Innovation and Economic Development, the Urban League of Nebraska, Planned Parenthood, Cimarron Alliance Foundation and Oklahoma City Youth United. He is a member of First Central Congregational UCC in Omaha, Nebraska. He will bring Development Expertise to the JWM Board.

**Leian Cimarra:** is a Conference Services Manager/Sales Coordinator. She is very active in local church and Conference activities, as a Sunday School Teacher, Youth Group President and Vice-President, Council member, Choir director, Chancel and concert choir member. She serves on the Fundraising Committee. She is pleasant, assertive and energetic. She will bring new breath and new perspective. She has initiated visits to other local PAAM churches and together with other youths and young adults has brought enthusiasm and curiosity in their learning more about the UCC and the church mission. She is a member of Filipino-American UCC in Fremont, California.

**Mike Denton:** is the Pacific Northwest Conference Minister and has been nominated as one of two Conference Ministers to serve on the Justice and Witness Ministries board of Directors, for reelection to a second two-year term. He has previously worked as a street-based outreach advocate for youth, a housing rights advocate, a local pastor and was Co-Minister for the Chicago Metropolitan Association.

**Timothy Downs:** is the Southeast Conference Minister and has been nominated as one of two Conference Ministers to serve on the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors. He is a member of Central Congregational UCC in Atlanta. He has a long history of involvement in justice issues. Tim served as a local church pastor for 22 years before becoming Conference Ministers. He has previously served on the OGM, LCM, WCM boards and the Executive Council. He has a long history of engagement in ecumenical issues.

**Samuel Greening:** is pastor of The Congregational Church of La Jolla, California. In nominating him, his Conference Minister said, "Sam is an outstanding pastor." He served at various churches through Latin America and the Caribbean. He is fluent in English, Spanish and German and fully understands cultural complexities. At the Conference and Association level he serves as Chair, Church and Ministry, on the Committee of the Whole and is a member of the

Conference Board of Directors. Locally he serves as a member of Justice Overcoming Boundaries. He is the President of the La Jolla Kiwanis Club.

**Jake Joseph:** is a college student and soon to be seminarian. He has been active in both the Northeastern Association of the Rocky Mountain Conference and the Central Association of the Iowa Conference. He has been appointed to the advisory board of young adults and clergy to oversee the allocation of a new young adult fund in the Iowa Conference. He has also been involved in the nascent development of young adult outreach in Central Iowa from the Conference. He is a member of Plymouth Congregational UCC in Fort Collins, Colorado.

**Robert Lee:** is a Trustee of The Pension Boards and an ordained UCC clergyperson, retired from First Congregational Church of Burlington, Vermont where he served as pastor beginning in 1973. He remains a member of the church. He served as a member of the Executive Council 2000 to 2008, serving as Vice Chair 2004-2006. He has led work camps to Franklinton Center at Bricks as well as numerous UCC local church settings, both urban and rural, as well as leading work camps to India, Guatemala, Honduras and Haiti. He will bring skills in development, group process, financial expertise, organization skills and public speaking to the Justice and Witness Board.

**Chris Lyman Waldron:** is a young pastor who has already exhibited a commitment to social justice through his willingness to build community with those on the margins and to address issues of justice within the congregations he serves. He is currently birthing Praxis UCC, a new congregation that focuses in large part on justice, including homelessness, GLBTQ rights, and those who are differently-abled due to physical or neurological impediment and/or chronic disease. Working previously with youth in Ohio and currently in Atlanta, Chris has brought attention to hunger, homelessness, sexual orientation and race in creative and hands-on ways that engage youth and the adults who work with them.

**John Myers:** in nominating him, his Conference Minister wrote, “John has his finger on the pulse of younger people and where technology is heading. He will be an asset to the whole United Church as well as the Southern Conference as he emerges as a leader among leaders.” He served as the political action chair of the Chesapeake branch of the NAACP from 2004-2006. He worked with the local community to increase voter registration and issue awareness by hosting political forums. He also, served as 1st and 2nd Vice President of the Chesapeake Branch of the NAAC and attended the national convention in Ohio in 2008. He is pastor of Corinth Chapel UCC in Suffolk, Virginia.

**Beth O'Malley:** has served as Dean of the Chapel at Hood College in Frederick, MD since 2008. She has served as a member of Church and Ministry, several terms 1987 to present at first the Western Reserve Association of the Ohio Conference and more recently the Chesapeake Association of the Central Atlantic Conference. She has been involved in historic UCC justice work including Open and Affirming issues. She is a member of Columbia United Christian Church in Columbia, Maryland.

**Norma Patterson:** in nominating her, her Conference Minister writes, “As an African-American woman who has spent a career in teaching and continues in her retirement to pastor a local church in one of Illinois' poorest communities, Norma is uniquely qualified by experience and

passion to bring her particular insights to the national setting.” He is pastor of East St. Louis Good Shepherd of Faith. She sponsors two health fairs each year for the people in the community. She also distributes free school supplies to the children each year before school starts.

**Darlene Perkins:** Northern Plains Conference, member Parshall United Church of Christ, Parshall, ND; serves as a supply pastor in North Dakota; served on ND Ecumenical Task Force; UCC Substance Abuse Task Force, Volunteer, Executive Secretary Charles Hall Youth Services, has served as interim pastor for several churches in North Dakota.

**Daniel Romero:** is a community organizer in Chicago, where he is a member of Wellington Avenue UCC. He is actively involved with two UCC affiliated organizations. Community Renewal Society and A Just Harvest. He also serves on his church Immigration Task Force. He previously worked as an organizer for the UAW.

**Anthony W. Sullivan, Jr.:** is a Management and Program Analyst for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He is also the Assistant to the Pastor and Adjutant at Pillar of Love at Fellowship United Church of Christ in Chicago. In nominating him, his Conference Minister wrote, “His development and financial expertise and the understandings of social justice concerns related to his profession work are obvious benefits. Sullivan has awareness of labor issues as a result of serving as a union official related to his job.”

**William Thwing:** is a member of First United Church of Christ in Ebensburg, Pennsylvania. He has a passion for enabling the Church to respond creatively and decisively to climate change. He has a national certification as a Residential Energy Auditor (BPI and RESNET) and does "Walk Thru Energy Audits" for UCC Churches in Penn West Conference and for Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light Covenanted congregations. He was involved in Prison Ministry in several local prisons and in a Pittsburgh Homeless Ministry for 3 years.

**Diane Welhaven:** is a member of Mayflower Congregational UCC in Billings, Montana. She is very involved in the life of her local congregation, especially with the women's work and with justice issues. She is a leader for the Women of Mayflower and with that local church group gets involved in a variety of mission efforts. She Volunteers at a local shelter for the homeless and with R.S.V.P.

**Mitchell Young:** is pastor of Montebello Plymouth Congregational Church, UCC in Montebello, California. He has been the pastor at Montebello for the past 6 years. He brought 14 youth and young adults on a Mission trip in Thailand 4 years ago, making connection with the community. He is involved in education Ministry. He is currently planning for another mission trip with 11 members to a church partner in the Philippines. He is a member Board of Directors and Moderator of Southern CA Chapter of PAAM.

#### For Election to the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors

**Sue Artt:** Illinois South Conference. Sue is pastor of St. Paul UCC in Nashville, IL. Sue's

passion is reigniting Christ's mission and ministry at the local church level. She's also a community organizer, church educator, and trained facilitator and skilled in conflict resolution. Sue served on the conference level as chair of the newly formed Finance Ministry that successfully reversed debt-spending thinking and are on the way to financial health.

**Deana Barth:** South Dakota Conference, Deana has served her local church on various ministry teams and committees, including Christian Education, worship and spiritual life, pastor/parish relations board and leadership council. She is a retired teacher and enjoys strategic planning and curriculum development. Deana has been studying how growing churches engage new members in order to retain them and move them into active membership of the congregation.

**Lynda Bigler:** nominated by the UCC Disabilities Ministry; Lynda has been pastor of Congregational UCC of Humboldt, IA for seven years, and is an articulate and committed member of the UCC Disabilities Ministry and has recently served on the UGov Committee.

**Samuel R. Brown:** nominated by the United Black Christians and is a member of the Rocky Mountain Conference. Samuel was "born in the UCC" and is a member of the United Church of Montbello in Denver, CO. Samuel has strong leadership skills, financial acumen and served as chair of the Stewardship Committee of his local church.

**Geneva Butz:** Nominated by the UCC Pension Boards; Associate Conference Minister, Pennsylvania Southeast. Geneva is currently working on the staff of the PSEC in the area of Church Development. Prior to joining the PSEC she served 19 years as pastor of Old First UCC in Center City Philadelphia. Additionally she has served on several committees on the conference, association and national levels.

**Mark Doty:** currently serves as senior pastor of Hammond Street Congregational Church, UCC in Bangor, ME Mark has a long history and passion for social justice and advocating for people on the margins. He has also held various leadership positions in the Maine Conference and ecumenical settings. He was part of the first class of Conference ONA Consultants trained by the UCC national staff in Cleveland.

**Jeffrey Groene:** Missouri Mid-South Conference Jeffrey is pastor of Samuel UCC in St. Louis, MO. He has a passion for local church ministry and for extending the mission of the church into the community. Under his leadership Samuel UCC has initiated a new ministry with the Chinese community and Sunday's scripture is read in both Chinese and English.

**Alan Hilberg:** nominated to serve as representative of the Disciples of Christ, Alan is a good thinker, compassionate about church life, and participates in many community programs. Currently he is a member of the Disciples Home Mission Board of Directors.

**William Imes:** Maine Conference, Bill filled an unexpired term and is now being re-nominated to serve a full term. Bill is the former president of Bangor Theological Seminary and is a member of First Parish Church in Brunswick, ME. Bill is being nominated for the representative for the UCC Council for Higher Education.

**Wilma Manchester:** Penn West Conference. Wilma is a member of First UCC in Pittsburgh, PA. Wilma is enthusiastic and thoughtful about faith and church ministry; Wilma is engaged in all aspects of her church and has served in several capacities on the conference level.

**Timothy Marquez:** South Central Conference Timothy is a member of Grace UCC in Houston, TX where he serves on the Pastoral Relations Committee, Pulpit Supply, Sunday School teacher and assists with Communion. Currently he is serving as Association Minister for the Houston Association.

**Monica Newburgh:** Penn Northeast Conference, Monica is a member of Faith UCC in Hazleton, PA. Monica has completed the vacant term with young energy and a desire to learn. She is being re-nominated to serve a full term. She is very active in her local church as has served on the PNEC Board of Directors and the Youth Action Team.

**Warren Orikasa:** is a member of Iao Congregational Church in Wailuku, HI. Warren is organized, self-motivated person who has in recently years truly come to appreciate the UCC; He is a team player, energetic and creative thinker. He was a General Synod delegate and serves on the Tri-Isle Association Committee on Ministry and various church committees.

**Reiss Potterveld:** is the president of Pacific School of Religion and a former president of Lancaster Theological Seminary. Reiss was senior pastor of Congregational Church of Northridge, CA for 18 years. He has taught comparative religion, religion and literature at the university level. Reiss preaches and speaks widely throughout the mid-Atlantic region on issues of Church and Society.

**Wade Schemmel:** Nominated by the West Central Region of Conference Ministers, Northern Plains Conference. Wade is a member of Bismarck UCC, in Bismarck, ND. Wade is a former conference minister and has a long history in working with churches in rural, small town, and urban centers. This experience gives him a broad understanding of the needs and the gifts of the church.

**Kent Siladi:** is the Florida Conference Minister and serves as the Vice Chair of the Council of Cabinet Ministers. He is a member of Hope UCC in Rockledge, FL. He previously served as Chair of the General Synod Nominating Committee. He serves on the Alternative Futures Task Force and the Building and Loan Fund Board. Ecumenically he serves on the Florida Council of Churches.

**David Spollett:** Connecticut Conference, is being re-nominated for a full term. David has a long history of being committed to the work of the UCC at all levels, local to conference. He is a member of First Church Congregational UCC in Fairfield, CT. David is co-founder of Operation Hope a homelessness prevention program.

**Lisa Stueh:** Indiana-Kentucky Conference; Lisa is a member of Immanuel UCC in Lafayette, IN, where she is a deacon. She has also served as a delegate to the conference annual meeting and a delegate to General Synod in 2009.

Tammy Toepke-Floyd: has served for the past 21 years as pastor of Wishek UCC in Wishek, North Dakota. Before entering seminary she was a registered nurse. In addition to serving her local church she has served for the past 15 years as the Conference Adjunct Staff for Youth Ministry. She also serves as a chaplain at a local hospice.

Elizabeth (Beth) Walker: Pennsylvania Southeast Conference; Beth has considerable skills in conflict resolution, ministry issues, and community ministries. She is an Elder of her local church and Moderator of the Philadelphia Association. Additionally she serves on several committees at the conference level and is very involved in the community.

Susan Watterson: Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference, her local church is First Congregational UCC n Glasgow, MT. Susan has been a local pastor in different settings, with wide range of experiences. She has also been active in leadership at the Conference levels and with the State Association of Churches. She is a pastor of 3 yoked congregations (one UCC and two UMC) and has given good leadership to all three. She has served on several committees on the conference and association levels. Additionally she is very involved in volunteer work in her community.

George Weavill, Jr.: Rhode Island Conference. George is a member of Smithfield Avenue Congregational Church in Pawtucket, RI where he served as its former treasure and is currently the chair of the Board of Trustees. He was a delegate to General Synod and past president of RI State Council of Churches and is their current treasurer.

Nancy Wellman: Ohio Conference and is a member of Sylvania UCC in Sylvania, OH. She was past moderator of her church and past chair of the Toledo Area ministries. She has served on the stewardship committee and the Science/Theology study group of her local church.

#### For Election to the Office of General Ministries Board of Directors

Gilbert Batanga: nominated by the Council for Racial Ethnic Ministries (COREM) member Los Angeles Filipino American UCC, Southern California Nevada Conference; current moderator of the Church Council of his local church; past president and chair of church boards, committees; member of the Board of Directors-Southern California Nevada Conference for the past two years. Past Treasurer of PAAM Southern CA Nevada Chapter; self-employed Independent Mortgage Consultant; active volunteer coach at Soccer games, certified soccer referee.

Betsy Bruaw: pastor Church of the Redeemer, Hershey, PA; Board of Dir. of Conference; Leadership of Conf. Disaster Response/ Readiness Comm. Past service on Board for World Ministries and General Synod Nominating Comm. UCC Homes Board of Directors.

Tom Croner: member Trinity UCC, Berlin, PA; Consistory President, Consistory member, advisor to Consistory, member search committee, wide elder of the church; tither and advocate for generous giving; serving a third term as Conference treasurer, active in Budget/Finance and Stewardship Committees; lead series of OCWM Thank you Dinners for two years; is a dairy farmer and very active in dairy industry organizations serving on the t DFA Board, where he

serves on the Executive and the CEO Compensation.

**Katherine Eyberg:** college student and member Desert View UCC, El Paso TX, Southwest Conference; local church service includes Sunday School teacher, Youth Group Leader/mentor, Children's Moment speaker; in the Southwest Conference she has served on SWC Youth Council, Official Youth Correspondent to Newsletter and Website and has worked with other youth/young adults in New Mexico and Arizona, volunteer services include Micah 6 Food Pantry, Valley Food Pantry, Liberal Arts Honors Program at the Univ. of Texas at Austin, UT Office of Admissions.

**Carla Gregg:** serves as Minister of Christian Education at Pilgrim UCC in Durham, NC, Southern Conference; General Synod Delegate, 2009 Johns River Valley Camp Board; Interfaith Clergy Group Pastoral Care Resources Group Durham Congregations in Action; Urban Ministries Interfaith Hospitality Network Literacy Tutor Jesuit Volunteer Corps, 1999-2001.

**Dile Holton:** member First Congregational Church, UCC, Shrewsbury Massachusetts Conference; Local Church service includes Vice Moderator, Personnel Committee Chair, Board of Deacons, Search Committee Pastoral Relations Committee; Conference service includes Member, Board of Directors, MAUCC Chair, ACM Search and Call Committee, led local church delegation from her church in work with Worcester County Ecumenical Council in discussions concerning same gender marriage; General Synod delegate 2009 and 2011.

**A.J. Lacefield:** nominated by the Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries (CYYAM); member Mount Olivet Church in North Lima, OH; active in church youth program; very involved in CYYAM, served on the search committee for the Minister for Youth Advocacy and Leadership Formation for the National Setting; represents Great Lakes Region for CYYAM, delegate for the Ohio Conference at General Synod.

**Evan Mandigo:** member Mandan UCC, Bismarck, ND; Retired from Utility company; local church service includes, choir member, past member and chair, Deacons, conference service includes serving as Conference Treasurer; served on numerous non-profit boards in community including membership and chair of Charles Hall Youth Services.

**Savannah Mason:** nominated by United Black Christians, member Covenant United Church of Christ, Illinois Conference; local church service includes Course Developer/ Teacher (History of the Black Church, History of the UCC, Sacred Conversation on Race); Organizer/Chairperson - Public Education Ministry; Conference service includes Workshop Organizer/Lecturer: No child Left Behind; Taught NCLB workshops for CMA at various cluster meetings; Member, Illinois Conference Mission Committee. Professionally she is a Management Consultant/Adjunct College Professor.

**Clarence Price:** member First Congregational Church; Binghamton, NY; Local Church service includes member of Board of Deacons and Chair Christian Education Committee; Conference service includes member of Executive Council, Coordinator of Wider Church Ministries and Disaster Response Coordinator; active in Broome County Chamber of Commerce, Guardian Advisory Council of the National Federation of Independent Business/New York; retired small

business owner.

**Stella Schoen:** nominated by United Church Funds (UCF); member Bath UCC, Bath, OH; EOA - currently serves on the Church and Ministry Committee of the Association; Currently serves on the Board of United Church Funds; for the past 5 years – has served on the development committee of the Missouri Religious Coalition for Reproductive Rights; has legal and development expertise.

**Timothy Weible:** pastor Kailua Christian UCC in Kailua, HI; active in the Association and Conference in various capacities; Oahu Association Committee on Ministry; Wider Church Missionary to Japan 1992-2003, participated in StillSpeaking training.

**Karl K. Whiteman:** pastor Union Memorial Church; Milford, Iowa; Karl presently serves a yoked congregation (UCC/UMC), he is ecumenically minded and developed those relationships in the communities he has served; served Churches in OH, IL, FL, TN & IA since 1988; actively serves on the Iowa Conference Board of Directors. Served National UCC Boards (United Church Board for World Ministries/Common Global Ministries 1993-96), & also served as “Liaison Pastor” to Micronesian Council of the UCC as CGM/WCM Overseas Missionary (1996-2003).

#### For Election to the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors

**Richard Behringer:** is a member of First Congregational UCC in Rapid City, South Dakota. He is a retired church pastor. He and his wife were volunteer Missionaries and served in China through the Global Ministries. He is an experienced Pastor. He most recently served the Hermosa UCC and the Keystone UCC. He is currently on the Conference Board of Directors. He will bring skills as a Church Educator, Organization Skills and Public Speaking to the WCM Board.

**Faith Burgess:** is retired from the San Mateo County Office of Education. She is a member of San Carlos Community UCC in San Carlos, California. She has served as the Association coordinator for ecumenical workshops in different faiths (Jewish, Islam, Buddhist). She was a delegate to the General Synod in 2007 and 2009. She was honored as an Honored Laywoman, nominated by PAAM in 2007. She has served on the Nominating Committee of her local church.

**Marja Coons-Torn:** is the Penn Central Conference Minister and a member of Church of the Redeemer UCC in Hershey, Pennsylvania. She will bring development expertise and skills in group process and finance to the WCM Board. She currently serves as President of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches. She serves as a volunteer reading tutor.

**Barbara Kershner Daniel:** is the Senior Pastor at Evangelical Reformed UCC in Frederick, Maryland. She is a member of the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek, the Interfaith Youth Corps and Chaplain of the Junior Fire Company. She has served in numerous capacities at every setting of the Church, including: United Church Board for World Ministries, Board of Directors 1990 - 2000, Vice-Chair 1996 - 1997, Chairperson 1997-2000; Wider Church Ministries of the UCC,

Chairperson 1999-2001 Common Global Ministries Board of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ).

**Alyce Downer:** is a bank program manager and member of Little Farms UCC in suburban New Orleans. She is currently a member of the WCM Board, filling an unexpired term and is a WCM advocate in her Association and Conference. She has been nominated now for a full term on the board. She is a member of her Conference Board of Directors and Moderator of the New Orleans Association.

**Shernell Edney:** is Associate Pastor of First Congregational Christian UCC in Chesterfield, Virginia. She is involved in Homeless Projects in Norfolk, VA and Chesterfield, VA and works with local hospice agencies to advocate proper care for patients. She also volunteers at a local soup Kitchen, is involved with Prison Ministry and grief counseling. She serves on the CYYAM Board of Directors.

**Jane Fadden:** is an interim minister and a member of Plymouth Church in Framingham, Massachusetts. In nominating her, her Conference Minister writes, "Jane has been active in the Conference and in her local church and community. She has demonstrated a particular interest in world-wide mission and justice issues. She has travelled widely and understands the role of the United Church of Christ in the public square."

**David Gaewski:** is the Maine Conference Minister and one of two Conference Ministers nominated to the WCM Board of Directors. He previously served on the Executive Council and teaches UCC polity and history at Bangor Theological Seminary. He is a member of First Congregational UCC in Farmington, Maine.

**Thomas Haines:** is an attorney and member of Mayflower Community UCC in Minneapolis. At his local church he is Chair of the Stewardship Ministry, President of the Mayflower Foundation and choir member. He is actively involved in global ministry. He is a former Lutheran pastor, 1973-1992, and served on the Executive Board of the Minnesota Synod, Lutheran Church in America and as a delegate to LCA and ELCA General Assembly.

**Stephen Holmes:** has been a local church pastor for the past 40 years. He is a volunteer with his local EMS unit. He will bring skills in group process, conflict resolution and public speaking to the Board of Directors.

**Kimberly McKerley:** has served as pastor of Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Brentwood, New Hampshire since 1997. In nominating her, her Conference Minister writes, "She has a passion for Global Ministries, especially our partnership with the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe. Her understanding of the Gospel moves her and those with whom she ministers into the world--a global understanding of what it means to be the Church."

**Carol Merriman:** has long been a leader in her local congregation, serving faithfully in multiple roles. She has brought her considerable management experience and people skills to the church and this has allowed her to be very effective in planning and implementing programs and in helping the church with discerning its vision and mission. She is a member of First Congregational UCC River Falls in River Falls, Wisconsin.

**Karen Moeschberger:** is pastor of St. John's UCC in Allentown, Pennsylvania. She has a deep passion for the United Church of Christ and a love for the wider church in their ministries here and all over the world. She is currently working on the Ecumenical Hispanic Initiative for the Lehigh Valley Associations and on ecumenical worship services, Vacation Bible School and Bible Study for the Association. She is a pastor for 30 years in urban, rural and suburban settings.

**Julie Peebles:** is pastor of Congregational UCC in Greensboro, North Carolina. She has a Long-standing involvement in global justice issues, advocacy and education. She is currently active in local efforts to redesign refugee resettlement. She served on a task force to develop a partnership between the UCC and the Alliance of Baptists. She was a General Synod resolutions committee chair in 2007 and 2009, and was an Antoinette Brown honoree in 2009.

**Dietmar Plajer:** is very active in the local ministerium with colleagues from diverse denominations and non-denominational congregations. He is the Chair of the Conference's UCC - UEK Partnership Committee; when living in Germany, cooperated in many areas of ministry with the Roman Catholic Church. Since 2007 he has served as pastor of St. Paul's UCC in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania. He grew up in Hungary and speaks fluent German.

**Sharon (Shari) Prestemon:** is the Executive Director of the Back Bay Mission and a member of St. Matthew in New Orleans. She is ordained and serves in pulpit supply at St. Matthew. She was a member of the Conference Minister Search Committee in 2006. She currently is filling an unexpired term on the WCM Board and has now been nominated to a full term.

**Suzanne Robinson:** is a nurse case manager and is a member of Faith Congregational Church UCC in Hartford Connecticut. She is the Immediate Past Moderato of Faith Congregational and previously served as a Trustee and on its Missions Committee. She volunteered to help people rebuild and relocate in Biloxi and New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. She volunteers as a student mentor.

**June Rovero:** is a paralegal and member of First Congregational UCC in Great Falls, Montana. In nominating her, her Conference Minister writes, "June has been very active in her local congregation and in the life of the Conference, and she brings with her life experiences as a loan officer and now as a paralegal. She has spoken to me of her interest in the Wider Church and would serve well on WCM." She has been a youth leader and Sunday School teacher as well as serving on a variety of different local church boards. She is a life-long member of the UCC.

**Melva Victorino:** is a retired church educator and chef. She is a Mid-Atlantic Representative to AUCE, a Certified Church Educator, MMI (Ministry & Mission Interpreters) and a member of PAAM. Her Conference Minister calls her, "a very dedicated laywoman." She is a former business owner and volunteers at a local soup kitchen and at her local church, Garden City Community Church in Garden City, New Jersey. She is also a former Bible Camp Director in Jamaica, Queens, New York.

**Omolara Williams:** is a student in Connecticut, but comes from the Southeast Conference where she was the first female youth deacon at her church in Atlanta. She is a member of the Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries and served as the Co-president of the Service of Installation for General Minister and President Geoffrey Black in 2010.

## Elect and Ratify Reports

<b>Dale</b>	<b>Bonds</b>	
MOD./ASS	2013	<b>Other</b>
<b>REPRESNT</b>	ASST MODERATOR	
<b>CONF/ASSO</b>	SC	
Female	LAY	
AFRICAN AMERICAN		
<b>AGE</b>	60+	
<b>Local Church</b>		
Central St. Matthew UCC		

<b>Brian</b>	<b>Holeman</b>	
MOD./ASS	2013	<b>Other</b>
<b>REPRESNT</b>	ASST MODERATOR	
<b>CONF/ASSO</b>	CAC	
Male	LAY	
AFRICAN AMERICAN		
<b>AGE</b>	50 - 59	
<b>Local Church</b>		
Peoples Congregational		

<b>Libby</b>	<b>Tigner</b>	
MOD./ASS	2013	<b>Other</b>
<b>REPRESNT</b>	MODERATOR	
<b>CONF/ASSO</b>	CA NV S	
Female	CLERGY	
EUROPEAN AMERICAN		
<b>AGE</b>	50 - 59	
<b>Local Church</b>		
First Congregational Church of		

## Elect and Ratify Reports

**Douglas Anders**  
 EC 2013 **2 Year 2.2**  
**REPRESNT** CCM  
**CONF/ASSO** SC  
 Male CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 50 - 59  
**Local Church**  
 Slatersville Congregational UCC

**Charles Barnes**  
 EC 2013 **2 Year 2.2**  
**REPRESNT** CCM  
**CONF/ASSO** RI  
 Male CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 Slatersville Congregational UCC

**Marcia Charles**  
 EC 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - ME  
**CONF/ASSO** FRANKLIN  
 Female CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 50 - 59  
**Local Church**  
 New Sharon Congregational UCC

**Jane Anderson**  
 EC 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - WIS  
**CONF/ASSO** WIS  
 Female CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 50 - 59  
**Local Church**  
 First Congregational UCC

**Walter John Boris**  
 EC 2013 **2 Year 2.2**  
**REPRESNT** CCM  
**CONF/ASSO** CPC  
 Male CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 50 - 59  
**Local Church**  
 1st Congregational UCC

**Arthur Cribbs, Jr.**  
 EC 2013 **2 Year 2.2**  
**REPRESNT** PB  
**CONF/ASSO** CA NV S - Central  
 Male CLERGY  
 AFRICAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 San Marino Congregational UCC

**Douglas Andrews**  
 EC 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** UBC  
**CONF/ASSO** CONN  
 Male LAY  
 AFRICAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 Faith United Church of Christ

**Glen Brown**  
 EC 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - RM  
**CONF/ASSO** RM (Utah Association)  
 Male LAY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 40 - 49  
**Local Church**  
 Holladay UCC

**John Deckenback**  
 EC 2013 **2 Year 2.2**  
**REPRESNT** CCM  
**CONF/ASSO** CAC  
 Male CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 Evangelical Reformed UCC

## Elect and Ratify Reports

**Maren Elnes**  
 EC 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - NEB  
**CONF/ASSO** NEB  
 Female LAY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 18 & under  
**Local Church**  
 Countryside UCC

**Kelly Forbush**  
 EC 2013 **2 Year 2.2**  
**REPRESNT** CYYAM  
**CONF/ASSO** MASS  
 Female LAY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 19 - 29  
**Local Church**  
 UCC Congregational Burlington

**Ron Hildahl**  
 EC 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - NOPL  
**CONF/ASSO** NOPL  
 Male CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 40 - 49  
**Local Church**  
 Salem UCC

**Sylvia Ferrell-jones**  
 EC 2013 **2 Year 1.3**  
**REPRESNT** UCF  
**CONF/ASSO** MASS  
 Female LAY  
 AFRICAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 50 - 59  
**Local Church**  
 Pilgrim Congregational, UCC

**Gilberto Garcia-rodriguez**  
 EC 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CHM  
**CONF/ASSO** PNE  
 Male CLERGY  
 HISPANIC AMERICAN  
**AGE** 40 - 49  
**Local Church**  
 Trinity UCC

**Julie Kilmer**  
 EC 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** COALITION  
**CONF/ASSO** MICH - Covenant  
 Female CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 50 - 59  
**Local Church**  
 Engewood United Church, UCC

**Carlos Floresca**  
 EC 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - SC  
**CONF/ASSO** SC  
 Male LAY  
 PACIFIC ISLAND AMERICAN  
**AGE** 40 - 49  
**Local Church**  
 Cosmopolitan UCC

**Richard Heiss**  
 EC 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - PC  
**CONF/ASSO** PC  
 Male LAY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 Penbrook UCC

**Katherine Lambertson**  
 EC 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - IK  
**CONF/ASSO** IK  
 Female CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 40 - 49  
**Local Church**  
 St. John's UCC

## Elect and Ratify Reports

**David Moyer**  
 EC 2013 2 year CCM  
**REPRESNT** CCM  
**CONF/ASSO** WI Conference /  
 Male CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 Lake Edge UCC

**Anita Louise Poole**  
 EC 2017 6 Year  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - IS  
**CONF/ASSO** IS  
 Female LAY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 40 - 49  
**Local Church**  
 St. John's, Maeystown, IL

**Alfred (Fred) Schwerdt**  
 EC 2017 6 Year  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - P SE  
**CONF/ASSO** PSE  
 Male CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 Ammanuel UCC

**Marilyn Pagan-Banks**  
 EC 2017 6 Year  
**REPRESNT** COREM  
**CONF/ASSO** ILL  
 Female CLERGY  
 HISPANIC AMERICAN  
**AGE** 40 - 49  
**Local Church**  
 Wellington Avenue UCC

**Kate Rogers**  
 EC 2017 6 Year  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - NH  
**CONF/ASSO** NH  
 Female LAY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 19 - 29  
**Local Church**  
 Congregational Church of Amherst,

**Brenda Square**  
 EC 2013 2 Year 2.2  
**REPRESNT** HC  
**CONF/ASSO** SC (New Orleans)  
 Female LAY  
 AFRICAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 50 - 59  
**Local Church**  
 Beecher Memorial UCC

**Rich Pleva**  
 EC 2013 2 Year 1.2  
**REPRESNT** CCM  
**CONF/ASSO** IOWA  
 Male CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 50 - 59  
**Local Church**  
 Ankeny UCC

**Thomas Roust**  
 EC 2017 6 Year  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - SD  
**CONF/ASSO** SD - Two Rivers  
 Male LAY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 First Congregational UCC

**William Sterrett**  
 EC 2017 6 Year  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - RI  
**CONF/ASSO** RI  
 Male CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 50 - 59  
**Local Church**  
 Amicable

## Elect and Ratify Reports

**Kelly Stone**  
EC 2013 **2 Year 1.2**  
**REPRESNT** CHE  
**CONF/ASSO** WIS - Northeast  
Female CLERGY  
EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 19 - 29  
**Local Church**  
Bethel United Church of Christ

**Bernard Wilson**  
EC 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - CONN  
**CONF/ASSO** CONN  
Male CLERGY  
AFRICAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 50 - 59  
**Local Church**  
Norfield Congregational Church

## Elect and Ratify Reports

**Patricia Caldwell**  
 JWM 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - MICH  
**CONF/ASSO** MICH  
 Female LAY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 50 - 59  
**Local Church**  
 Pilgrim Congregational

**Leian Cimarra**  
 JWM 2015 **Filling**  
**REPRESNT** PAAM  
**CONF/ASSO** CA NV N  
 Female LAY  
 PACIFIC ISLAND AMERICAN  
**AGE** 19 - 29  
**Local Church**  
 Filipino - American UCC

**Samuel Gree ning**  
 JWM 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - CA NV  
**CONF/ASSO** CA NV S  
 Male CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 50 - 59  
**Local Church**  
 The Congregational Church of La

**Nick Carter**  
 JWM 2013 **2 Year 2.2**  
**REPRESNT** SEM  
**CONF/ASSO** MASS  
 Male CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 Old South Church

**Mike Denton**  
 JWM 2013 **2 Year 2.2**  
**REPRESNT** CCM  
**CONF/ASSO** PNW  
 Male CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 40 - 49  
**Local Church**

**Jake Joseph**  
 JWM 2013 **2 Year 1.2**  
**REPRESNT** CYYAM  
**CONF/ASSO** RM  
 Male LAY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 19 - 29  
**Local Church**  
 Plymouth Congregational UCC

**Michael Cich-jones**  
 JWM 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - NEB  
**CONF/ASSO** NEB  
 Male LAY  
 ASIAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 30 - 39  
**Local Church**  
 First Central Congregational UCC

**Timothy Downs**  
 JWM 2013 **2 Year 2.2**  
**REPRESNT** CCM  
**CONF/ASSO** SE  
 Male CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 Central Congregational UCC,

**Robert Lee**  
 JWM 2013 **2 Year 1.2**  
**REPRESNT** PB  
**CONF/ASSO** VT - Champlain  
 Male CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 First Congregational Church

## Elect and Ratify Reports

**Chris Lyman Waldron**  
 JWM 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - SE  
**CONF/ASSO** SE - Georgia-South  
 Male CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 30 - 39  
**Local Church**  
 First Congregational Church

**Norma Patterson**  
 JWM 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - IS  
**CONF/ASSO** IS  
 Female LAY  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 E St. Louis Good Shepherd of

**Anthony Sullivan, Jr.**  
 JWM 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** COALITION  
**CONF/ASSO** ILL - Chicago  
 Male LAY  
 AFRICAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 40 - 49  
**Local Church**  
 Pillar of Love Fellowship UCC

**John Myers**  
 JWM 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - SOC  
**CONF/ASSO** SOC  
 Male CLERGY  
 AFRICAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 40 - 49  
**Local Church**  
 Corinth Chapel UCC

**Darlene Perkins**  
 JWM 2013 **Filling**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - NOPL  
**CONF/ASSO** NOPL  
 Female CLERGY  
 NATIVE AMERICAN  
**AGE** 50 - 59  
**Local Church**  
 Parshall United Church of Christ

**William Thwing**  
 JWM 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - PW  
**CONF/ASSO** PW  
 Male CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 First United Church of Christ

**Beth O'malley**  
 JWM 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - CAC  
**CONF/ASSO** CAC  
 Female CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 50 - 59  
**Local Church**  
 Columbia United Christian

**Daniel Romero**  
 JWM 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CHM  
**CONF/ASSO** ILL (Chicago Metropolitan  
 Male LAY  
 HISPANIC AMERICAN  
**AGE** 40 - 49  
**Local Church**  
 Wellington Avenue UCC

**Diane We Ihaven**  
 JWM 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - MONT  
**CONF/ASSO** MONT NO WYO  
 Female LAY  
 PACIFIC ISLAND AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 Mayflower Congregation

## Elect and Ratify Reports

<b>Mitchell</b>	<b>Young</b>
JWM	2015 <b>Filling</b>
<b>REPRESNT</b>	COREM
<b>CONF/ASSO</b>	CA NV S (Central
Male	CLERGY
ASIAN AMERICAN	
<b>AGE</b>	40 - 49
<b>Local Church</b>	
Montebello Plymouth	

6/10/2011

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**JUSTICE & WITNESS MINISTRIES**

## Elect and Ratify Reports

**Sue Art**  
 LCM 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - IS  
**CONF/ASSO** IS  
 Female CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 50 - 59  
**Local Church**  
 St. Paul United Church of Christ

**Samuel Brown**  
 LCM 2013 **Filling**  
**REPRESNT** UBC  
**CONF/ASSO** RM  
 Male LAY  
 AFRICAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 40 - 49  
**Local Church**  
 United Church of Montbello

**Jeffrey Groene**  
 LCM 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - MOMS  
**CONF/ASSO** MOMS  
 Male CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 40 - 49  
**Local Church**  
 Samuel UCC

**Deana Barth**  
 LCM 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - SD  
**CONF/ASSO** SD  
 Female LAY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 50 - 59  
**Local Church**  
 Spirit of Peace UCC

**Geneva Butz**  
 LCM 2013 **2 Year 1.2**  
**REPRESNT** PB  
**CONF/ASSO** PSE - Philadelphia  
 Female CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 Tabernacle United

**Alan Hilberg**  
 LCM 2013 **2 Year 1.3**  
**REPRESNT** DOC  
**CONF/ASSO** PSWR CC (DOC)  
 Male CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 Mill Creek Chrtian Church

**Lynda Bigler**  
 LCM 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** UCCDM  
**CONF/ASSO** IOWA  
 Female CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 40 - 49  
**Local Church**  
 Congregational UCC of Humboldt,

**Mark Doty**  
 LCM 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - ME  
**CONF/ASSO** ME -  
 Male CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 Hammond Street Congregational

**William Ims**  
 LCM 2013 **2 Year 2.2**  
**REPRESNT** CHE  
**CONF/ASSO** ME - Cumberland  
 Male CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 First Parish Church in Brunswick,

## Elect and Ratify Reports

**Wilma Manchester**  
 LCM 2013 **Filling**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - PW  
**CONF/ASSO** PW  
 Female LAY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 First UCC

**Warren Orikasa**  
 LCM 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - HI  
**CONF/ASSO** HI  
 Male LAY  
 ASIAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 Iao Congregational

**Kent Siladi**  
 LCM 2013 **2 Year 1.2**  
**REPRESNT** CCM  
**CONF/ASSO** FLA  
 Male CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 50 - 59  
**Local Church**  
 Hope UCC

**Timothy Marquez**  
 LCM 2017 **Other**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - SC  
**CONF/ASSO** SC  
 Male CLERGY  
 PACIFIC ISLAND AMERICAN  
**AGE** 40 - 49  
**Local Church**  
 Grace UCC

**Reiss Potterveld**  
 LCM 2013 **2 Year 2.2**  
**REPRESNT** SEM  
**CONF/ASSO** PC  
 Male CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 First Reformed Church UCC

**David Spollett**  
 LCM 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - CONN  
**CONF/ASSO** CONN (Fairfield East)  
 Male CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 50 - 59  
**Local Church**  
 First Congregational Church

**Monica Newburgh**  
 LCM 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - PNE  
**CONF/ASSO** PNE  
 Female LAY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 19 - 29  
**Local Church**  
 Faith UCC

**Wade Schemmel**  
 LCM 2013 **2 Year 1.2**  
**REPRESNT** CCM  
**CONF/ASSO** NOPL  
 Male CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 Bismarck UCC

**Lisa Strueh**  
 LCM 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - IK  
**CONF/ASSO** IK  
 Female LAY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 19 - 29  
**Local Church**  
 Immanuel UCC

## Elect and Ratify Reports

**Tammy Toepke-floyd**  
LCM 2017 6 Year  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - NOPL  
**CONF/ASSO** NOPL  
Female CLERGY  
EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 50 - 59  
**Local Church**  
Wishek Church

**George Weavill, Jr.**  
LCM 2017 6 Year  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - RI  
**CONF/ASSO** RI  
Male LAY  
EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
Smithfield Ave. Cong. Church

**Elizabeth Walker**  
LCM 2017 6 Year  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - PSE  
**CONF/ASSO** PSE  
Female LAY  
EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 50 - 59  
**Local Church**  
O

**Nancy Wellman**  
LCM 2017 6 Year  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - OHIO  
**CONF/ASSO** OHIO  
Female LAY  
EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
Sylvania UCC

**Susan Watterson**  
LCM 2017 6 Year  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - MONT  
**CONF/ASSO** MONT NO WYO  
Female CLERGY  
EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
First Congregational UCC

## Elect and Ratify Reports

**Gilbert Batanga**  
 OGM 2017 6 Year  
**REPRESNT** COREM  
**CONF/ASSO** CA NV S  
 Male LAY  
 ASIAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 30 - 39  
**Local Church**  
 Los Angeles Filipino American

**Katherine Eyberg**  
 OGM 2017 6 Year  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - SW  
**CONF/ASSO** SW  
 Female LAY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 19 - 29  
**Local Church**  
 Desert View UCC

**A. J. Lacefield**  
 OGM 2013 2 Year 1.2  
**REPRESNT** CYYAM  
**CONF/ASSO** OHIO  
 Male LAY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 19 - 29  
**Local Church**  
 Mount Olivet

**Betsy Bruaw**  
 OGM 2017 6 Year  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - PC  
**CONF/ASSO** PC  
 Female CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 40 - 49  
**Local Church**  
 Church of the Redeemer

**Carla Gregg**  
 OGM 2017 6 Year  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - SOC  
**CONF/ASSO** SOC - ENCA  
 Female CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 30 - 39  
**Local Church**  
 Pilgrim UCC

**Evan Mandigo**  
 OGM 2013 Filling  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - NOPL  
**CONF/ASSO** NOPL  
 Male LAY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 Bismarck Mandan UCC

**Tom Croner**  
 OGM 2017 6 Year  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - PW  
**CONF/ASSO** PW  
 Male LAY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 Trinity UCC

**Dile Holton**  
 OGM 2017 6 Year  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - MASS  
**CONF/ASSO** MASS - Central  
 Male LAY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 First Congregational Church, UCC,

**Savannah Mason**  
 OGM 2017 6 Year  
**REPRESNT** UBC  
**CONF/ASSO** Chicago Metropolitan  
 Female LAY  
 AFRICAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 Covenant United Church of Christ

## Elect and Ratify Reports

<b>Clarence</b>	<b>Price</b>
OGM	2017 <b>6 Year</b>
<b>REPRESNT</b>	CONFERENCE - NY
<b>CONF/ASSO</b>	NY
Male	LAY
EUROPEAN AMERICAN	
<b>AGE</b>	60+
<b>Local Church</b>	
First Congregational Church	

<b>Karl</b>	<b>Whiteman</b>
OGM	2017 <b>6 Year</b>
<b>REPRESNT</b>	CONFERENCE - IOWA
<b>CONF/ASSO</b>	IOWA (Northwestern
Male	CLERGY
EUROPEAN AMERICAN	
<b>AGE</b>	50 - 59
<b>Local Church</b>	
Union Memorial Church	

<b>Stella</b>	<b>Schoen</b>
OGM	2013 <b>2 Year 2.2</b>
<b>REPRESNT</b>	UCF
<b>CONF/ASSO</b>	OHIO
Female	LAY
EUROPEAN AMERICAN	
<b>AGE</b>	50 - 59
<b>Local Church</b>	
Bath UCC	

<b>Timothy</b>	<b>Weible</b>
OGM	2017 <b>6 Year</b>
<b>REPRESNT</b>	CONFERENCE - HI
<b>CONF/ASSO</b>	HI
Male	CLERGY
EUROPEAN AMERICAN	
<b>AGE</b>	40 - 49
<b>Local Church</b>	
Kailua Christian	

## Elect and Ratify Reports

**Richard Behringer**  
 WCM 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - SD  
**CONF/ASSO** SD  
 Male CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 First Congregational UCC

**Barbara Daniel**  
 WCM 2013 **2 Year 1.2**  
**REPRESNT** PB  
**CONF/ASSO** CAC - Catocin  
 Female CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 50 - 59  
**Local Church**  
 Evangelical Reformed UCC

**Jane Fadden**  
 WCM 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - MASS  
**CONF/ASSO** MASS - Central  
 Female CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 Plymouth Church

**Faith Burgess**  
 WCM 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** PAAM  
**CONF/ASSO** CA NV N  
 Female LAY  
 PACIFIC ISLAND AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 San Carlos Community UCC

**Alyce Downer**  
 WCM 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - SC  
**CONF/ASSO** SC  
 Female LAY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 Little Farms UCC

**David Gaewski**  
 WCM 2013 **2 Year 2.2**  
**REPRESNT** CCM  
**CONF/ASSO** ME  
 Male CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 40 - 49  
**Local Church**

**Marja Coons - Torn**  
 WCM 2013 **2 Year 1.2**  
**REPRESNT** CCM  
**CONF/ASSO** PC  
 Female CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 Church of teh Redeemer UCC

**Shernell Edney**  
 WCM 2013 **2 Year 2.2**  
**REPRESNT** CYYAM  
**CONF/ASSO** SOC  
 Female CLERGY  
 AFRICAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 19 - 29  
**Local Church**  
 First Congregational Christian UCC

**Thomas Haines**  
 WCM 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - MINN  
**CONF/ASSO** MINN  
 Male LAY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 Mayflower Congregational UCC

## Elect and Ratify Reports

**Stephen Holmes**  
 WCM 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - NOPL  
**CONF/ASSO** NOPL  
 Male CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 First Congregational Church UCC

**Karen Moeschberger**  
 WCM 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - PNE  
**CONF/ASSO** PNE  
 Female CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 50 - 59  
**Local Church**  
 St. John's UCC

**Sharon ( Shari Prestemon**  
 WCM 2013 **2 Year 2.2**  
**REPRESNT** CHHSM  
**CONF/ASSO** SC  
 Female CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 40 - 49  
**Local Church**  
 St. Matthews UCC

**Kimberly Mckerley**  
 WCM 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - NH  
**CONF/ASSO** NH  
 Female CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 50 - 59  
**Local Church**  
 Pilgrim UCC Brentwood-Kingston

**Julie Peeples**  
 WCM 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - SOC  
**CONF/ASSO** SOC  
 Female CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 50 - 59  
**Local Church**  
 Congregational UCC

**Suzanne Robinson**  
 WCM 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** UBC  
**CONF/ASSO** CONN  
 Female LAY  
 AFRICAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 Faith Congregational Church UCC

**Carol Merriman**  
 WCM 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - WIS  
**CONF/ASSO** WIS  
 Female LAY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
 First Congregational UCC River

**Dietmar Plajer**  
 WCM 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - P C  
**CONF/ASSO** PC - Central Association  
 Male CLERGY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 40 - 49  
**Local Church**  
 St. Paul's UCC

**June Rovero**  
 WCM 2017 **6 Year**  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - MONT  
**CONF/ASSO** MONT NO WYO  
 Female LAY  
 EUROPEAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 50 - 59  
**Local Church**  
 First Congregational UCC

## Elect and Ratify Reports

**Melva Victorino**  
WCM 2017 6 Year  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - NY  
**CONF/ASSO** NY  
Female LAY  
PACIFIC ISLAND AMERICAN  
**AGE** 60+  
**Local Church**  
Garden City Community Church

**Omolara Williams**  
WCM 2017 6 Year  
**REPRESNT** CONFERENCE - CONN  
**CONF/ASSO** CONN (Hartford  
Female LAY  
AFRICAN AMERICAN  
**AGE** 19 - 29  
**Local Church**  
Amistad UCC

## APPENDIX K

*Imagine what's possible.* “Imagine” is a word with wings. “Possible” is a word with weight. In the church, both are essential.

Spirit driven imaginations soar high above current reality. They enable us to envision richer and fuller life for all of God’s people and for all of creation. But those visions can’t be left floating in heaven; they must be brought down to earth. “Possible” moves the ideal into the real. We need both wings and weight.

We are in the midst of the bicentennial celebrations of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Mission. The American Board remains a vital part of the United Church of Christ through Wider Church Ministries. Its founding shows how imagination and possibility, how wings and weight intersect. And it shows an interesting interplay of the generations—between youth and young adults on the one hand, and the church elders on the other.

In 1806, five students at Williams College, Massachusetts got caught in a sudden rainstorm. They took shelter under a haystack in the field where they were walking. There they joined in prayer, and pledged themselves as volunteers in mission. It was the first documented resolution by Americans to do foreign mission work.

Those students at the famous “Haystack Meeting” didn’t have the benefit of the wisdom and experience born of many years. There were in their teens and early 20’s. Just the right age to be part of our Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries. One of their professors later wrote of them: “The brevity of the shower, the strangeness of the place of refuge, and the peculiarity of their topic of prayer and conference all took hold of their imaginations.”

There’s a strong linkage between youth and imagination. The young don’t possess imagination exclusively, but they have a special relationship to it. When Walt Disney drew his first picture of Mickey Mouse, when Picasso developed cubism, when Joan of Arc saved France, when Zora Neale Hurston became a shining star in the Harlem Renaissance, when Martin Luther King, Jr. assumed leadership of the civil rights movement, when Bill Johnson heard his historic call to ministry, when Sakakawea shepherded Lewis and Clark, when Steve Chen co-founded You-Tube, when Mozart composed his first opera, when Benito Juarez raised his voice on behalf of indigenous peoples and when Gandhi began his struggle for justice—when all of these and

many more marked major, innovative accomplishments, they were youth and young adults.

Youth is no barrier to what Walter Bruggeman calls “the prophetic imagination.” To the contrary, it’s an asset. So it’s not surprising that impetus for global mission came from undergraduates.

But imagination by itself isn’t enough. Imagination can easily be disconnected from the reality of life in this world. When it is, it results in fantasy. Fantasy is OK if your aim is to create cartoon characters. But it’s not sufficient basis for effective and faithful action in the church. Those gathered at the Haystack Meeting knew that. If their vision was to be realized, it had to be embodied. Their wings needed weight. So a few years later, an approach was made to the elders of the General Association of Congregational Ministers of Massachusetts.

The elders could have responded by saying, “But we’ve never done it that way before.” But their imaginations sprouted wings. They helped refine and define the vision of a global community of faith. And they helped give that vision institutional weight.

We live in an era in which mistrust and neglect of institutional life is entering the danger zone. Over the past generation, government has increasingly been viewed not as vehicle for realizing the common good; it’s been seen as a barrier to progress and an obstacle to liberty. And the 2008 financial crisis left many of us wondering how much financial institutions actually know about money. In much of our structural life there is a crisis of confidence, and often of competence.

Obviously, religious bodies haven’t been sailing in calm waters. A recent Gallop poll indicates that trust in religious institutions is near an all time low. The population at large has more confidence in the military and in police forces than they have in the church of Jesus Christ.

All institutions fall short of God’s realm, and that includes church structures. Therefore all are subject to prophetic criticism. But imperfection does not mean they are uniformly dispensable. Various kinds of institutions are necessary, and they are redeemable.

We diminish and downgrade and ignore church structures at great peril. They are essential if we are to engage in faithful action and realize some measure of true community. Apart from them loftiest ideals cannot be brought to bear on present existence. Structures have weight.

And the students with passion for global ministry didn’t walk away from the institutional concerns. Working with the General Association of Congregational Ministers, a new structure

came into being: the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Mission. And existing structures were recreated to accommodate new realities, and the fresh callings of the still-speaking God.

*Imagine what's possible.* “Imagine” is a word with wings. “Possibility” is a word with weight. Wings lift us above current reality. Weight keeps us connected to real needs of God’s people and of all creation. Wings without weight is fantasy. Weight without wings is despair. Both are essential if peace and justice are to be established.

The church continually needs to be reformed, and transformed. It takes faithful imagination to do that. I’ve noted the special relationship the young to the imagination. Our youth and young adults, our clergy in their 20’s and 30’s aren’t future leaders, not leaders in training. Your gifts and graces are active and needed now. The whole church needs your help in re-imagining what we can become, what God calls us to be.

Again, faithful imagination isn’t the sole domain of the young. Simeon and Anna had it when they recognized God’s realm drawing near when the Christ child was brought to the temple. We need both young and old to imagine, to see visions and dream dreams.

And the fruits of the faithful imagination need to be implemented, they need to come to bear on real people and situations. Those with the wisdom of years bear institutional memory and understanding. Those are essential to finding our way forward. We need those gifted with long experience.

Again, that isn’t to say that the young have no calling to or responsibility for institutional life. They do. David was a youth when he was anointed as the next king of Israel. And Esther was a young woman when she became queen and saved her people from an evil plot.

Different parts of the body of Christ are gifted in ways that are distinctive, but not exclusive. Wings and weight are the calling of the whole church of Jesus Christ in all of its diversity. Young and old, male and female, those with different levels of ability and different orientations and identities, different racial and cultural and economic backgrounds—all are gifted in ways that are essential if we are to faithfully move into the future.

In light of this, what do you need to know about Jim Moos? I’ll highlight two things. First, I see myself as a hard-nosed realist. In many ways, our church is in a painfully difficult situation. Our resources aren’t what they once were.

Major drops in OCWM, cuts in program and personnel in all settings of the church,

waning influence in many quarters—all of that is very real and painful, and it cannot be ignored. Twenty years ago we might have consoled ourselves with the thought that we were in a garden variety institutional slump; we just needed to ride out the storm and we'd eventually enjoy smooth sailing. Today, the all too often brutal facts leave no room for an easy going optimism. Like Nehemiah said to those returning from exile in Babylon, so we can also say to ourselves, “You see the trouble we are in.” There are very difficult challenges before us and no easy choices. I want you to know that I feel the burden of our challenges.

But I also want you to know that I am not in despair. I have confidence that the journey ahead will be filled not only with challenges, but also with joy and expectation. Hard-nosed realism is not the enemy of a lofty idealism. As a matter of fact, it necessitates it. Although Nehemiah understood the magnitude of the disaster in his day, he could imagine a new day. So he said, “Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem.” United Church of Christ, come, let us build ministries of welcome, of faith and fellowship, of peace and justice.

I understand that leadership has special responsibilities. I accept that responsibility. I've often been asked what my vision for the ministry is. I certainly come with lots of ideas, but they will not be dropped down like tablets of stone. It will take the faithful imagination of the whole church in all of its diversity to discern the way forward. And it will take the efforts not of the few but of the many to make it happen. It is my commitment to engage new responsibilities both collegially and covenantally, and in the recognition that God is still speaking to the whole church.

In his work *The Cure at Troy*, Irish poet Seamus Heaney wrote these celebrated lines: “History says, ‘Don't hope on this side of the grave.’ But then, once in a lifetime the longed for tidal wave of justice can rise up, and hope and history rhyme.”

Will ours be a time when justice sweeps over the land? Will hope and history rhyme for us? The answer will not be found in the stars. The answer will be found in imaginations set on fire by the spirit of God, and in the faithful stewardship of all our capacities. *Imagine what's Possible*. In order for hope and history to rhyme we must have wings, and we must have weight.

## Appendix L

Address to the Twenty-Eighth General Synod  
United Church of Christ  
Monday, July 4, 2011  
W. Mark Clark

Good Morning sisters and brothers. I am so pleased to see so many of you here this morning. My dear mother, who is out there somewhere, instilled in me at a very early age, the importance of saying thank you. So would please join me (again) in expressing the appreciation we all feel for the hard work of these wonderful folks that served on this Search Committee.

I am first and foremost a child of the United Church of Christ. My parent, Betty (who is here with us today, as is my brother Chris and his wife Carol) and Sheldon Clark joined First Congregational UCC Church in Phoenix Arizona when I was one year old, that was 1955 for those of you who like to do the numbers. While I am not a cradle Congregationalist, I am pretty close. I come (on my mother's side) from at least three generations of Presbyterian ministers, both of her grandfathers, her father and her brother. But as sometimes happens, my grandfather had a parting of the ways with the Presbytery in Phoenix and my family needed to find a new church home. Several years later my grandfather would also be welcomed into the UCC and served as the last full-time pastor of Union Congregational Church in Phoenix and later joined the staff of the Church of the Beatitudes.

I am proud to stand before you as a living testament to the value of youth and young adult ministries. I was a youth group leader both at the local church and association levels. I got my first leadership training at church camp and regional youth events. I learned so many really important lessons at First Church, lessons like the importance of not wearing white socks with black pants when accolyting. (See they match, Mr. Whitney, wherever you are). My first lessons in public speaking came at that church's lectern. (Messers

Howell and Douglas, can you hear me speaking distinctly wherever you are.) So much of who I am today is a result of the time and energy of many caring, supportive and nurturing adults. Those wonderful Sunday School teachers, youth group advisors, camp counselors and clergy, (including Penn Southwest Conference Minister Alan McLarty, who's first call was to First Church where I was his first youth group President, imagine the fun he had). Those adults whose commitments to local church and regional youth work were so important to me, just as they are to children and youth today.

I went on to College where for four years I interned at the Campus Christian Center, and served for a year on the staff of the Flagstaff Congregational Church. I had been taken In Care of the Association (as we used to say) and planned to go on to Seminary but God had a different plan for me. The interests I had developed in substance abuse prevention and treatment and politics, both the result of youth group activities, led me to a career in healthcare and human services with a healthy side-line in reproductive rights politics and community organizing.

I have been married for 23 years to Stacy Parrish-Clark, a former healthcare executive and Real Estate agent who is anxiously looking forward to returning to a land of four seasons where the temperature rarely exceeds 100 degrees. Stacy has two sons, Collin who is 42 and Jerrud who is 40. Collin is a chef in Nebraska and Jerrud provides therapy and in-home support to young children living with Autism in Tucson. They have brought more to my life than I ever could have imagined.

Let me talk a little about what I think I can bring to the Collegium table. I hope by now you can tell I bring an undying love and lifelong commitment to the United Church of Christ. Our beloved church has been the central institution in my life, as many who know me will attest. My former pastor loved to call me a "Church Geek." And I have to admit it; I can easily get geeked up about the UCC.

But I am not in any way alone in my geeky UCCness. Certainly the Search Committee saw something more.

Professionally, my entire career has been spent working in non-profit healthcare and human service organizations. I currently serve as the President of a non-profit behavioral health prevention and treatment agency, whose budget is just over \$34 million with a staff of 325. In the early 1990s for six years I led a Washington, DC-based national human service association. It was work not unlike that of our smaller conferences (of course without all the ecclesiastical stuff). We had 52 member agencies that voluntarily paid significant dues; for which they received technical assistance, collegial support, advocacy information, national standards, and an annual conference, (you may see the connection). Over the years I have led mergers of agencies, and both grown and downsized organizations.

As for my church involvement, during my adult life, I have belonged to five different UCC Churches in two different conferences, and have served on the councils of four of them, and as Moderator of two. I have been a Sunday school teacher and camp counselor. I served on the Southwest Conference Board of Directors and was its Moderator, while Cally Rogers Witte was our Conference Minister. Possibly most importantly, I Chaired the Search Committee which lured John Dorhauer away from the Missouri-Mid-South Conference to be our Conference Minister, which is one of my proudest accomplishments.

And I have been active in the national setting of the church. I have attended the last five General Synods, and was the Chair of the Committee of Reference at the last General Synod. I served for four years on the Board of Directors of the Office of General Ministries, and for three on the Executive Council.

But, if you will indulge me for a moment, it is my recent local church experience that is most on my mind these days. Two weeks ago we held the service of closure for the First Congregational UCC Church in Tucson. To some of you, a church begun in 1883 isn't really an old church, but from where Stacy and I come, it's old. In fact in our earliest years, we owned the oldest Protestant church building in town. Our church's story is not

unlike many we all know. In 1960 we had a thousand members; it was the University church in town. But over the years we came to depend on the money of those who came before us. And then it was gone, so the congregation sold its property and moved east seeking a new vision. Several years and two rental spaces later we were back in our own building, had a new pastor, a new mission and a plan to spend the remaining funds over the next five years to develop a ministry of what we now call extravagant welcome to those whose previous church experiences hadn't been so welcoming. It was exciting, it was rewarding and it was an important ministry, but in spite of all our best efforts, we were never able to turn the financial corner.

And so we have decided to continue our ministry in a new way. Over the active life of the Congregation we birthed three UCC churches, all of which still have active, vital ministries in our community. Once the sale of our property closes and we wrap up our affairs, our remaining funds will go to the Conference for the purpose of starting a new church committed to a ministry of continuing testament, extravagant welcome and changing lives. That is how we will honor the commitment of those who came before us, and those to come in the future. But it has been tough, bittersweet work.

I tell you this story to let you know that while I grew up in the Big Steeple downtown church and I have most recently led a large human service organization, closest to my heart is a worshipping community of 25 to 40 folks working hard to take care of each other and make a difference in the life of our community. And I also know what it feels like to know that sometimes at the end of the day and best intentions are simply not enough. We have to do something total different, and it's sometimes not something we really want to do. But we have to do it.

One of the Search Committee first questions to me was why would anyone move from the Sunny Southwest to Cleveland for a job that might only last two years?

As I spent time thinking and praying about applying for this awesome position, I remember sitting on a plane going somewhere I can't remember and being filled with the

clear understanding that it was now time for me to pay back all those wonderful UCC people, clergy and lay, men and women, young adult and seniors, who so graciously and lovingly invested in me over the years.

So let me leave you with one more story. I went to Synod in Atlanta as a visitor. I wanted to be there so much I slept on the floor of my pastor's hotel room. And as I sat in the audience during the debate on the Marriage Equality Resolution I found myself in front of a conference youth delegation, I think it was Iowa's. As the vote was called, those wonderful young people reach out and grabbed each others hands, and I could hear them praying. And then, after the vote we all cried. It was one of the most moving moments of my life. It is for those young people, and the countless others in our churches, young and old, and those new folks to come, that I want to do this work.

Our message and ministry of continuing testament, extravagant welcome and changing lives is so important in today's world. As the writer of the 12<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Hebrews put it so well, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us...run with perseverance the race that is set before us." This is a race to which I feel called and for which I believe I am well prepared. The Search Committee, the Board of the Office of General Ministry and the Executive Council each tested this since of call and agreed, and I hope you as delegates will give me this gift of the opportunity to serve as well.

Thank you.

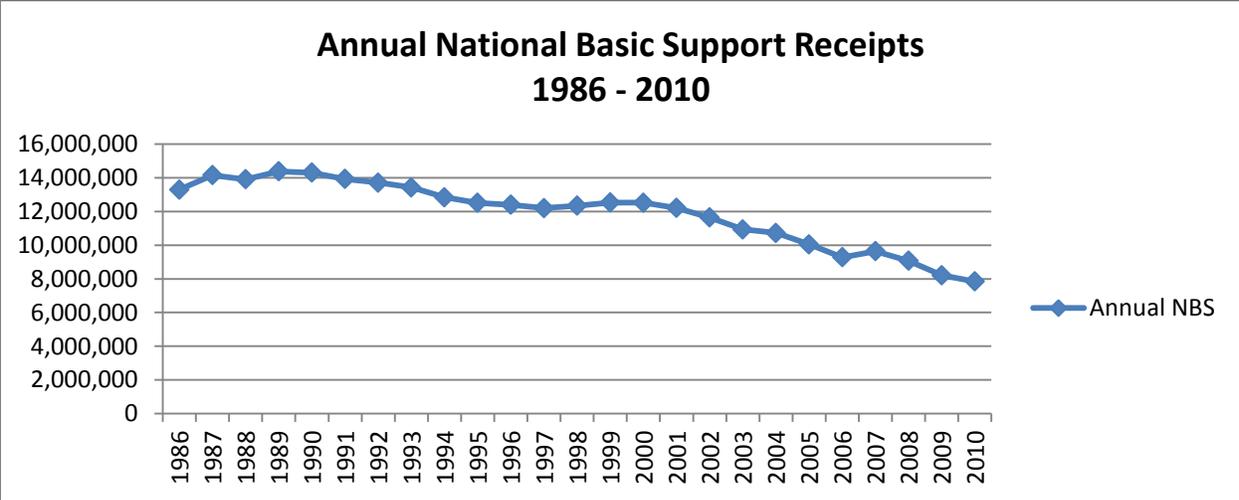


APPENDIX M

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
FINANCIAL REPORT  
GENERAL SYNOD XXIX

On July 1, 2000, the then new national structure began its ministry, using approximately half of the 2000 annual basic support dollars to support the mission and ministry of the fledgling Covenanted Ministries, the Executive Council and the continuing work of the Pension Boards. When General Synod met in 1999 to approve the budget for the new structure, that amount of basic support was \$12,300,000.

At this General Synod, delegates will be asked to approve a national basic support base of \$7.1 million and \$6.8 million for 2012 and 2013 – a dramatic shift in funding for the Covenanted Ministries, the Pension Boards and organizations supported by the Executive Council.



Following the 2005 General Synod, basic support percentage allocations have been referred to the Executive Council as expenses such as the cost of General Synod have been shifted to the Executive Council and included in funding that comes off the top of basic support, affecting how annual results and budgets are reported to General Synod.

The intention of this report is to provide historical data, 2010 unaudited revenues and expenses and the 2011 mission spending plan. Although the 2011 mission spending plan is presented in a summary format, details for the Executive Council, the Covenanted Ministries and the Pension Boards will follow in order for the reader to understand the work and expenses of the individual ministries.

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS - UNAUDITED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2010**

	<b>Executive Council</b>	<b>Office of General Ministries</b>	<b>Justice &amp; Witness Ministries</b>	<b>Local Church Ministries</b>	<b>Wider Church Ministries</b>	<b>Pension Boards</b>	<b>United Church Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent of Totals</b>
<b>SOURCES</b>									
OCWM-National Basic Support (NBS)	\$ 864,703	\$ 2,000,447	\$ 1,182,797	\$ 1,968,642	\$ 1,368,236	\$ 483,359		\$ 7,868,184	26.87%
OCWM-Special Support	-	23,822	812,102	198,335	2,822,878	1,492,712		5,349,849	18.27%
Total Return Draw on Investments	-	786,130	1,406,545	3,818,792	2,451,370			8,462,837	28.90%
Trusts and Gifts	5,995	82,496	66,147	687,245	801,379			1,643,262	5.61%
Reimbursements	-	310,767	40,000	104,526	1,287,929			1,743,222	5.95%
Resource Sales/Fees	-	361,446	1,790	1,997,170	2,693			2,363,099	8.07%
Draw on Unrestricted Reserves	(4,221)	884,484	430,002	(134,821)	624,261			1,799,705	6.15%
Other	7,565	10,255	11,730	6,216	21,322			57,088	0.19%
<b>TOTAL SOURCES</b>	<b>\$ 874,042</b>	<b>\$ 4,459,847</b>	<b>\$ 3,951,113</b>	<b>\$ 8,646,105</b>	<b>\$ 9,380,068</b>	<b>\$1,976,071</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 29,287,246</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**USES**

Program Ministries	\$ 75,016	\$ 758,018	\$ 678,518	\$ 2,581,693	\$ 3,364,067	\$1,976,071		\$ 9,433,383	32.21%
Staff Ministries	-	2,391,337	1,946,535	3,096,116	1,699,947			9,133,935	31.19%
Overseas Personnel	-	-	-	-	2,149,110			2,149,110	7.34%
Retired Overseas Personnel	-	-	-	-	409,490			409,490	1.40%
Shared Ministries (Common Services)	-	639,731	613,167	1,092,244	640,239			2,985,381	10.19%
Operating & Support Ministries	19,180	392,809	278,110	678,328	524,606			1,893,033	6.46%
Church House & Other Facilities	-	237,525	236,365	361,940	167,865			1,003,695	3.43%
Ministry of Governance	454,450	40,427	95,568	111,370	112,394			814,209	2.78%
Grants & Subsidies	325,396	-	102,850	724,414	312,350			1,465,010	5.00%
<b>TOTAL USES</b>	<b>\$ 874,042</b>	<b>\$ 4,459,847</b>	<b>\$ 3,951,113</b>	<b>\$ 8,646,105</b>	<b>\$ 9,380,068</b>	<b>\$1,976,071</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 29,287,246</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
MISSION SPENDING PLAN  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2011**

	<b>Executive Council (1)</b>	<b>Office of General Ministries</b>	<b>Justice &amp; Witness Ministries</b>	<b>Local Church Ministries</b>	<b>Wider Church Ministries</b>	<b>Pension Boards</b>	<b>United Church Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent of Totals</b>
<b>SOURCES</b>									
OCWM-National Basic Support (NBS)	\$ 785,500	\$ 1,962,712	\$ 1,146,177	\$ 1,870,208	\$ 1,286,936	\$ 448,467		\$ 7,500,000	24.20%
OCWM-Special Support	-	23,800	790,000	305,891	3,000,000	1,700,000		5,819,691	18.78%
Total Return Draw on Investments	-	726,045	1,304,008	3,596,194	2,448,385			8,074,632	26.05%
Trusts and Gifts	-	26,500	45,000	661,259	795,000			1,527,759	4.93%
Reimbursements	1,078,000	301,284	20,000	80,000	1,256,410			2,735,694	8.83%
Resource Sales/Fees	-	410,200	3,000	2,118,550	-			2,531,750	8.17%
Draw on Unrestricted Reserves	-	1,151,920	447,257	299,512	865,206			2,763,895	8.92%
Other	-	9,000	5,000	2,500	25,000			41,500	0.13%
<b>TOTAL SOURCES</b>	<b>\$ 1,863,500</b>	<b>\$ 4,611,461</b>	<b>\$ 3,760,442</b>	<b>\$ 8,934,114</b>	<b>\$ 9,676,937</b>	<b>\$2,148,467</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 30,994,921</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>USES</b>									
Program Ministries	\$ 1,363,000	\$ 791,000	\$ 464,100	\$ 2,729,625	\$ 3,738,672	\$2,148,467		\$ 11,234,864	36.25%
Staff Ministries	-	2,452,161	1,719,186	3,213,068	1,705,555			9,089,970	29.33%
Overseas Personnel	-	-	-	-	1,901,319			1,901,319	6.13%
Retired Overseas Personnel	-	-	-	-	433,000			433,000	1.40%
Shared Ministries (Common Services)	-	684,296	495,061	1,095,263	700,909			2,975,529	9.60%
Operating & Support Ministries	34,000	381,476	317,734	689,896	577,110			2,000,216	6.45%
Church House & Other Facilities	-	237,528	244,361	361,940	167,848			1,011,677	3.26%
Ministry of Governance	165,000	65,000	80,000	110,000	123,000			543,000	1.75%
Grants & Subsidies	301,500	-	440,000	734,322	329,524			1,805,346	5.82%
<b>TOTAL USES</b>	<b>\$ 1,863,500</b>	<b>\$ 4,611,461</b>	<b>\$ 3,760,442</b>	<b>\$ 8,934,114</b>	<b>\$ 9,676,937</b>	<b>\$2,148,467</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 30,994,921</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

(1) Includes revenues and expenses associated with General Synod

Sources and uses are also provided in graph format at the end of this report.

**THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

is called to perform all legal functions of the General Synod when General Synod is not in session. This governing board helps facilitate the visioning, financial planning,

**communication and coordination of the United Church of Christ's total mission. This board faithfully used \$874,042 in 2010 and will use \$1,863,500 in 2011 which includes \$864,703 and \$785,500 given through Our Church's Wider Mission, respectfully.**

Our Program & Grants Ministries will require \$1,664,500 this year.

Our program includes expenses associated with General Synod. These expenses are supported through annual allocations from Our Church's Wider Mission-Basic Support and Registration Fees.

Our program includes grants to ecumenical ministries, historical councils and to groups that are part of the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries.

Our Support of Program and Staff Ministries will require \$34,000 this year.

General Synod assigned by-law changes related to governance to the Executive Council. This expense represents estimated costs associated with the by-laws.

Our Ministry of Governance will require \$165,000 this year.

This money is used to convene the board of directors and its committees, to guide their work, and to keep them informed through the year. These board members are representative of the whole life of the church and are elected by General Synod.

#### THE OFFICE OF GENERAL MINISTRIES

is called to care for the spiritual life, unity, and well-being of the church; to nurture its covenantal life; to guide its pilgrimage as a multiracial/multicultural church, open and affirming, accessible to all. This office helps the church to focus on theological reflection and to facilitate the visioning, financial planning, communication and coordination of the **United Church of Christ's total mission. This ministry faithfully used \$4,459,847 in 2010 and will use \$4,611,461 in 2011 which includes \$2,024,269 and \$1,986,512 given through Our Church's Wider Mission, respectfully.**

Our Program Ministries will require \$791,000 this year.

Our program includes the church's essential task of proclaiming the Gospel in and through our church as our story is told within and beyond the UCC:

- The UCC home page links people to all parts and concerns of the church, including the "Changing Lives" video testimonies.
- The StillSpeaking Magazine is reaching over 2,900 churches and individuals.

Theological reflection is central and is done in relationship with all expressions of the church and in many ecumenical settings committed to and remaining open to hearing God's ancient story anew and afresh.

We express our extravagant welcome as we live in covenant so that the church may be one:

- We work with ecumenical and overseas partners.
- We work with the conferences and institutions of the church.
- We work with our partners within the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries.

Our program reaches out to the whole church in financial development ministries in partnership with all of the Covenanted Ministries, inviting and receiving major gifts and planned gifts that extend the church's outreach.

Our program includes record-keeping which is done through UCC Yearbook Office.

Our program includes the costs of travel, which often connects staff with lay and clergy leaders of the whole church, including those in conference and ecumenical settings.

Our Staff Ministries will require \$2,452,161 this year for salaries and benefits.

The General Minister and President, working with other staff, provides spiritual leadership for the whole church, guiding the visioning and planning necessary for faithful church life through continuing testament, extravagant welcome and changing lives.

The Associate General Minister, working with other staff facilitates the work of and helps plan the General Synod in cooperation with the Executive Council, conferences and local church leadership. The Associate General Minister serves as the operational executive of the Office of General Ministries with day-to-day responsibility for the overall work of the office, including Common Services.

Staff represent the UCC in ecumenical arenas, preach in local churches, share in wider settings of the church and communicate our story and our witness.

Staff invite significant gifts to the church through special and planned gifts and wills.

Some staff provide office support to those engaged in direct program work. They process phone calls, mail and computer messages; prepare necessary materials for gatherings; and are a constant office presence. Some edit resources, some keep records. These staff give efficient assistance to the whole program life of this ministry.

Our Support of Program and Staff Ministries will require \$619,004 this year.

In order for the entire staff to carry out its ministry, and in order for the programs to be adequately supplied and supported, it is necessary to provide for office space and equipment, maintenance and insurance as well as office supplies and postage.

Our Shared Ministry of Common Services will require \$684,296 this year.

With this money, we cooperate with other ministries so that we can together – and economically – provide for affirmative action, archive support, financial services, meeting arrangements,

human resources, information and technology services, mail and copy room/print shop support. In addition, the shared cost of community life provides coordination of weekly worship services for all staff, helps plan for the enhancement of staff life within the national setting and supports the work of the Collegium of Officers.

Our Ministry of Governance will require \$65,000 this year.

Our staff can be effective in their programmatic work only if there is wise policy-making done by a representative body that has been given the responsibility for governing the Office of General Ministries. This money is used to convene the board of directors and its committees, to guide their work, and to keep them informed through the year. These board members are representative of the whole life of the church and are elected by General Synod.

*In addition, in a unique and cooperative arrangement, our Office of General Ministries also includes the separate functions of Common Services, which is funded proportionately by each of the ministries. Ministries such as the Pension Boards, the Council for Health & Human Services Ministries, the Insurance Boards and the United Church of Christ Cornerstone Fund participate in services offered by Common Services, helping defray the costs allocated to the Covenanted Ministries.*

The Staff Ministries of Common Services will require \$1,739,729 this year.

This staff oversees all of the financial functions of the four Covenanted Ministries, handling receipts, paying expenses, keeping records, overseeing the audit and reporting to the church.

Staff also facilitate meeting arrangements, guide efforts in human resources, oversee personnel matters and affirmative action initiatives.

Staff provide necessary archival support for the past and current records of the church and facilitate in processing mail and duplicating services as well as building services.

Staff also provide coordination of weekly worship services for all staff and help plan for the enhancement of staff life within the national setting, and support the work of the Collegium of Officers.

The Infrastructure Support of COMMON SERVICES will require \$1,660,794 this year.

Outsourced support of our information and technology services is included within this total. This money is also used for managing the computer and telephone systems of the entire office. Also included are the costs associated with office space and equipment, maintenance, insurance, audit and credit card fees as well as office supplies.

It is important to note that the dollars identified above for COMMON SERVICES come from the budgets of the Ministries of the church and are also referenced and described under **each ministry under the heading of “Our Shared Ministry of Common Services”**.

## JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES

is called to enable and encourage collaboration among local churches, associations, **conferences and national expressions to engage in God's mission** globally as a multiracial/multicultural church, open and affirming, accessible to all. This ministry is **called to speak prophetically, to respond to the world's realities of injustice and oppression**, to work for liberation and transformation of systems and persons, and to engage in direct action for the integrity of creation, justice and peace. This ministry faithfully used \$3,951,113 in 2010 and will use \$3,760,442 in 2011 which includes \$1,994,899 and **\$1,936,177 given through Our Church's Wider Mission**, respectfully.

Our Program & Grants Ministries will require \$904,100 this year.

Our program, growing out of our faith and God's call to do justice, offers strong advocacy and direct support for a wide array of issues:

- We work for economic justice, racial justice, human rights and justice for women, global peacemaking, criminal justice, media ethics and public education.
- We advocate for health care for all.
- We provide a public witness on behalf of General Synod.

Our program provides for people of faith to gather and give common voice to specific ways of addressing the elimination of poverty, hunger, racism, classism and sexism.

- We respond to God's intention for dignity and value for all human beings, especially for those who have been disenfranchised, oppressed and excluded.
- We advocate for justice and God's redemptive power – in individual lives, in political systems, and in governmental policies at home and around the world.
- Our program works for the common good in public life and for social policies that can restore integrity to human life and creation and that can transform human community to places of peace with strong ties to individuals through the Justice Peace Action Network.

Our Justice Leaders Engaging and Developing is a training program designed to equip local church leaders with the skills and tools needed to develop, strengthen and sustain justice advocacy ministries in our UCC congregations.

Our program provides human, print and media resources for the church, helping people to connect the Christian faith to specific issue:

- We address corporate social responsibility, the environment and conflict resolution.
- We focus on the military complex, the penal system, social and domestic violence and immigration.

Our program includes support for four Centers of Education and Social Transform at JWM's Washington office, Franklinton Center at Bricks in Whitaker, NC, the Romero Center in San Ysidro, CA, and Pilgrim Firs in Port Orchard, WA.

Our program includes the costs of travel, which often connects staff with lay and clergy leaders of the whole church, including those in conference and ecumenical settings.

**Our Staff Ministries will require \$1,719,186 this year for salaries and benefits.**

Staff work with all of the settings of the church, calling and challenging the church, from a biblically-based faith perspective, to advocate for and address the wide array of programmatic issues.

Staff lead seminars and workshops that equip, guide and enrich clergy and lay people to be leaders in the church and in society. They coordinate networks of concerned persons so that the church learns and witnesses together. They consult and help to solve societal issues faced by local churches.

Staff preach at Sunday morning worship in congregations and preach and speak at wider church gatherings.

Staff write, edit and produce materials which educate, enrich and guide local churches, their leaders and members in the tasks that enable them to engage in God's mission.

Some staff provide office support to those engaged in direct program work. They process phone calls, mail and computer messages; prepare necessary materials for gatherings; and are a constant office presence. Some edit resources, some keep records. These staff give efficient assistance to the whole program life of this ministry.

Other staff are called to give special leadership – guiding, coordinating and administering the work of the whole staff or of staff teams. These leaders also consult, preach, teach, plan, coordinate and represent the church in ecumenical and secular settings where the voice of the United Church of Christ needs to be heard.

**Our Support of Program and Staff Ministries will require \$562,095 this year.**

In order for the entire staff to carry out its ministry, and in order for the programs to be adequately supplied and supported, it is necessary to provide for office space and equipment, maintenance and insurance as well as office supplies and postage.

**Our Shared Ministry of Common Services will require \$495,061 this year.**

With this money, we cooperate with other ministries so that we can together – and economically – provide for affirmative action, archive support, financial services, meeting arrangements, human resources, information and technology services, mail and copy room/print shop support. In addition, the shared cost of community life provides coordination of weekly worship services for all staff, helps plan for the enhancement of staff life within the national setting and supports the work of the Collegium of Officers.

**Our Ministry of Governance will require \$80,000 this year.**

Our staff can be effective in their programmatic work only if there is wise policy-making done by a representative body that has been given the responsibility for governing Justice and Witness Ministries. This money is used to convene the board of directors and its committees, to guide their work, and to keep them informed through the year. These board members are representative

of the whole life of the church and are elected by General Synod.

## LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES

is called to encourage and support the local churches of the United Church of Christ in **fulfillment of God's mission, supporting the pilgrimage of the United Church of Christ** to be a multiracial/multicultural church, open and affirming, accessible to all. This ministry encourages local churches to shape their life and mission in partnership with one another, with other expressions of the church and with ecumenical and interfaith communities. This ministry faithfully used \$8,646,105 in 2010 and will use \$8,934,114 in 2011 which includes **\$2,166,977 and \$2,176,099 given through Our Church's Wider Mission, respectfully.**

### Our Program & Grants Ministries will require \$3,463,947 this year.

Our program includes a wide variety of gatherings of the church:

- Youth come together for exploring faith and life.
- Leaders come together to learn more effective ways of enabling churches to be extravagantly welcome through worship, evangelism, stewardship and education.

Our program includes many essential services to the church:

- These services provide support for clergy and lay leaders, including chaplains. Helping to prepare leadership open to and prepared for ministry in the present and future church. They provide for a service of vocational placement, connecting congregations with persons authorized for ministry and support for Committees on Ministry.
- Other services help our local churches understand stewardship, how we are gifted by God and how we can call upon each other to be people who give, supporting the wide range of God's mission.
- Our program strives to guide churches towards being vital places of worship, learning and service, to teach that evangelism – welcoming others – is mission.
- This ministry works with conferences of the church to engage in new church development and revisioning of existing churches, providing direct support to conferences and the Center for Progressive Renewal to enhance this ministry.
- This ministry provides annual support to the Council for Higher Education member institutions.

Our program includes a rich collection of print and electronic resources:

- With a renewed focus on our local churches, these resources serve as teaching tools, provide guidance and support for vital worship, and call upon church members to grow as disciples and stewards. They tell the story of how the church engages in mission and suggest ways for faithful Christians to live in and respond to the secular culture.
- These resources provide faith-based curricula and other resources that support local church leaders who educate, lead worship and nurture faith formation.
- We offer resources that guide local church leaders to fulfill their voluntary tasks in the congregation.

- United Church of Christ Resources, our warehouse and distribution center, provides support to our members, local churches, conferences and other institutions wishing to order these resources.

Our program includes the costs of travel, which often connects staff with lay and clergy leaders of the whole church, including those in conference and ecumenical settings.

**Our Staff Ministries will require \$3,213,068 this year.**

Staff lead seminars and workshops that equip, guide and enrich clergy and lay people to be leaders in worship, education, evangelism, church development, pastoral care and stewardship.

Staff preach at Sunday morning worship in congregations and preach and speak at wider church gatherings.

Staff consult and help to solve problems faced by local churches.

Staff write, edit, and produce materials which educate, enrich and guide local churches and their leaders in the tasks that enable them to engage in God's mission.

Some staff provide office support to those engaged in direct program work. They process phone calls, mail and computer messages; prepare necessary materials for gatherings; and are a constant office presence. Some edit resources, some keep records. These staff give efficient assistance to the whole program life of this ministry.

Other staff are called to give special leadership – guiding, coordinating and administering the work of the whole staff or of staff teams. These leaders also consult, preach, teach, plan, coordinate and represent the church in ecumenical and secular settings where the voice of the United Church of Christ needs to be heard.

**Our Support of Program and Staff Ministries will require \$1,051,836 this year.**

In order for the entire staff to carry out its ministry, and in order for the programs to be adequately supplied and supported, it is necessary to provide for office space and equipment, maintenance and insurance as well as office supplies and postage.

**Our Shared Ministry of Common Services will require \$1,095,263 this year.**

With this money, we cooperate with other ministries so that we can together – and economically – provide for affirmative action, archive support, financial services, meeting arrangements, human resources, information and technology services, mail and copy room/print shop support. In addition, the shared cost of community life provides coordination of weekly worship services for all staff, helps plan for the enhancement of staff life within the national setting and supports the work of the Collegium of Officers.

**Our Ministry of Governance will require \$110,000 this year.**

Our staff can be effective in their programmatic work only if there is wise policy-making done by a representative body that has been given the responsibility for governing Local Church

Ministries. This money is used to convene the board of directors and its committees, to guide their work, and to keep them informed throughout the year. These board members are representative of the whole life of the church and are elected by General Synod. Local Church Ministries also provides support for board members that are not delegates but wish to attend General Synod.

#### WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES

is called to encourage and support local churches, associations, conferences and national expressions to participate in the global, multiracial/multicultural church, open and affirming, accessible to all. It is called to support United Church of Christ ministries around the world and the nation. This ministry faithfully used \$9,380,068 in 2010 and will use \$9,676,937 in 2011 which includes \$4,191,114 and \$4,286,936 given through Our Church's Wider Mission, respectfully.

#### Our Program, Grants and Overseas Ministries will require \$6,402,515 this year.

Our program includes significant relationships with and support of more than 270 partner churches and organizations in more than 70 countries around the world:

- Through these connections we respond to health, educational, community and faith needs around the world.
- Partner churches are supported, human needs are met, refugees are resettled, clinics are outfitted and children are sponsored for renews life.
- Economic, agricultural and community development are supported, along with social services.
- Schools and seminaries are helped and leadership is developed.
- Because of the unique nature of overseas missionaries and our historical understanding of their work, included here in our program efforts is the work of at least 43 missionaries and at least 67 overseas associates.

Our program includes strong advocacy for justice and human rights. In this work we help to meet the needs of partner churches and also inform our own members about vital justice issues which are addressed through a faith perspective.

Our program includes work that promotes health and wholeness:

- We work to address the needs resulting from the HIV/AIDS pandemic.
- We advocate for health and welfare concerns in our own country.
- We minister by, for and with persons with disabilities and maintain relationships with the varied health and human service ministries of the church.
- We nurture family life.

Our program offers services to the church:

- We coordinate a large program of voluntary services.

- We offer global and mission education opportunities with special focus on youth and young adults and persons of color.
- We prepare churches to receive missionaries from other parts of the world, support mutual relationships which build up our faith.

**Our Staff Ministries will require \$1,705,555 this year for salaries and benefits.**

Staff minister with partner churches in partnership with the Common Global Ministries Board of the UCC and the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ.

Staff visit local churches and wider church gatherings, preaching and teaching, leading workshops and connecting with the wideness of the church.

Staff coordinate networks of concerned persons so that the church learns and witnesses together, through mission partnerships and interfaith dialogues.

Staff manage funds received when food, shelter, medicine and money are needed during times of disaster.

Staff supervise the work of mission personnel around the world and relate to mission partners, connecting them with each other on common issues.

Staff write, edit, and produce materials which educate, enrich and guide local churches and their leaders in the tasks that enable them to engage in God's mission.

Some staff provide office support to those engaged in direct program work. They process phone calls, mail and computer messages; prepare necessary materials for gatherings; and are a constant office presence. Some edit resources, some keep records. These staff give efficient assistance to the whole program life of this ministry.

Other staff are called to give special leadership – guiding, coordinating and administering the work of the whole staff or of staff teams. These leaders also consult, preach, teach, plan, coordinate and represent the church in ecumenical and secular settings where the voice of the United Church of Christ needs to be heard.

**Our Support of Program and Staff Ministries will require \$744,958 this year.**

In order for the entire staff to carry out its ministry, and in order for the programs to be adequately supplied and supported, it is necessary to provide for office space and equipment, maintenance and insurance as well as office supplies and postage.

**Our Shared Ministry of Common Services will require \$700,909 this year.**

With this money, we cooperate with other ministries so that we can together – and economically – provide for affirmative action, archive support, financial services, meeting arrangements, human resources, information and technology services, mail and copy room/print shop support. In addition, the shared cost of community life provides coordination of weekly worship services

for all staff, helps plan for the enhancement of staff life within the national setting and supports the work of the Collegium of Officers.

Our Ministry of Governance will require \$123,000 this year.

Our staff can be effective in their programmatic work only if there is wise policy-making done by a representative body that has been given the responsibility for governing Wider Church Ministries. This money is used to convene the board of directors and its committees, to guide their work, and to keep them informed through the year. These board members are representative of the whole life of the church and are elected by General Synod.

THE PENSION BOARDS-UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

is called to make available a system of employee benefit programs (health, dental, life, disability and pension plans, as well as programs to meet emergency needs) designed to assist ministers and lay workers in achieving financial security during working and retirement years.

*Note: The work related to employee benefit plans, including the necessary staff, is funded by contributions made by church employers on behalf of their employees. This defines the Pension Boards as a membership body and the money used for these purposes is not reflected below. What is reflected below is the special work which is support by the whole church through Our Church's Wider Mission.*

Our Program Ministries require \$2,148,468 this year.

This program makes it possible for the church to supplement the pensions of those who retired after years of church services at very low salaries, benefitting those persons and their spouses. The Executive Council sets the level of total pension support requiring supplementation on an annual basis.

UNITED CHURCH FUNDS, INC.

is called to manage investments for local churches, associations, conferences, institutions, national ministries and other entities related to the United Church of Christ so that financial resources can be **best used to strengthen God's mission.**

*Note: Currently United Church Funds receives no money from the church through Our Church's Wider Mission. All of the money it needs for its work comes from modest fees charged against the funds entrusted to its management. Most of the money from fees is used for investment management and marketing and for the support services and governance needed.*

**OTHER REVENUE SOURCES**

Our Church's Wider Mission, both basic and special support provided for 41.16% of revenue sources in 2010. This percentage is expected to decline to 38.73% in 2011. The majority of this decrease is expected to be through basic support.

OCWM Special Support is comprised of four special offerings: Neighbors in Need, which decreased by 6.64% in 2010 from 2009; One Great Hour of Sharing, which decreased by 0.38% in 2010 from 2009; Strengthen the Church, which experienced an increase was up 3.84% in 2010 compared to 2009; and the Christmas Fund which decreased by 0.78% between the last two years.

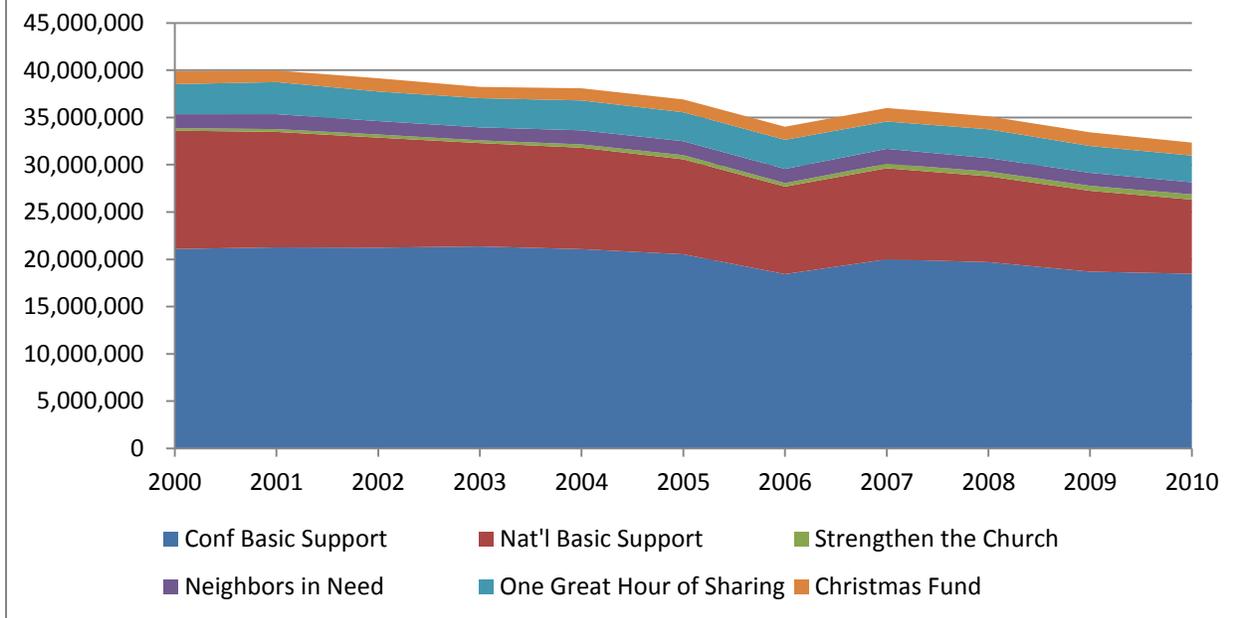
The remaining revenues sources represent the following percentages of total support for the Executive Council and the Covenanted Ministries:

	Percentage of Total Revenues	
	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Total return draws for the Covenanted Ministries	30.99%	27.99%
Trusts and gifts	6.02%	5.30%
Reimbursements*	6.38%	9.48%
Resource sales & fees	8.65%	8.78%
Draws on unrestricted reserves	6.59%	9.58%
Other	0.21%	0.14%

\* Increase is due to General Synod registration fees

It is important to emphasize that the national setting is not alone in experiencing the declines in Our Church's Wider Mission. As basic support dollars have declined, our conference partners have had to begin difficult discussions about their programmatic work, staffing and – sustainability. The next chart provides a graph version of total basic support at the national and conference level and the four special mission offerings over the eleven year period from 2000 through 2010 and clearly shows the trend that has been reported over the past several General Synods.

## Our Church's Wider Mission Conference & National Receipts Basic & Special Support



The cumulative effect of declining OCWM National Basic Support, lack of significant growth in OCWM Special Support, declining draws from investments, rising health care costs, inflation and the use of unrestricted reserves has necessitated budget cuts that have included elimination of program, reduced grants and reduction in national staff and missionaries over the past several years.

It is unfortunate that the economic recovery has been slow and unemployment has remained high at over 9%. The national setting is not immune to these realities. Painful decisions about staffing levels and related personnel costs have been considered in the past and frequently weigh upon the minds of staff. Programs continue to be reviewed with a goal of efficiency and excellence as staff collaborate between and amongst themselves to support the Church's emphasis on continuing testament, extravagant welcome and changing lives. Faithful stewardship of our resources, and care for the future viability of the national setting, are high priorities.

The partnership between conferences and the national setting for OCWM fund raising and promotion continues to be strengthened. Revisioning the roles, structures and vocation of Conferences toward sustainability in the future is underway. And a refocusing of efforts to strengthen local churches for fuller partnership in the whole ministry of the church is in process. Financial challenges are real and pressing. But significant opportunities present themselves as well.

Provided below are the two actions that General Synod will be asked to consider and vote upon:

**PROPOSED NATIONAL BASIC SUPPORT PAY OUT BASE FOR 2012 and 2013**  
Each biennium a National Basic Support (NBS) pay out base is recommended by the Executive

Council and taken to General Synod for adoption. The base establishes the amount used to calculate the NBS to be paid out. Actual NBS for 2010 was \$7.9 million; the original estimate was \$8.5 million. Due to the economic situation that the local churches and conferences find themselves in today, the Executive Council is recommending that the General Synod adopt a National Basic Support Allocation base of \$7.1 million and \$6.8 million for the budget years 2012 and 2013.

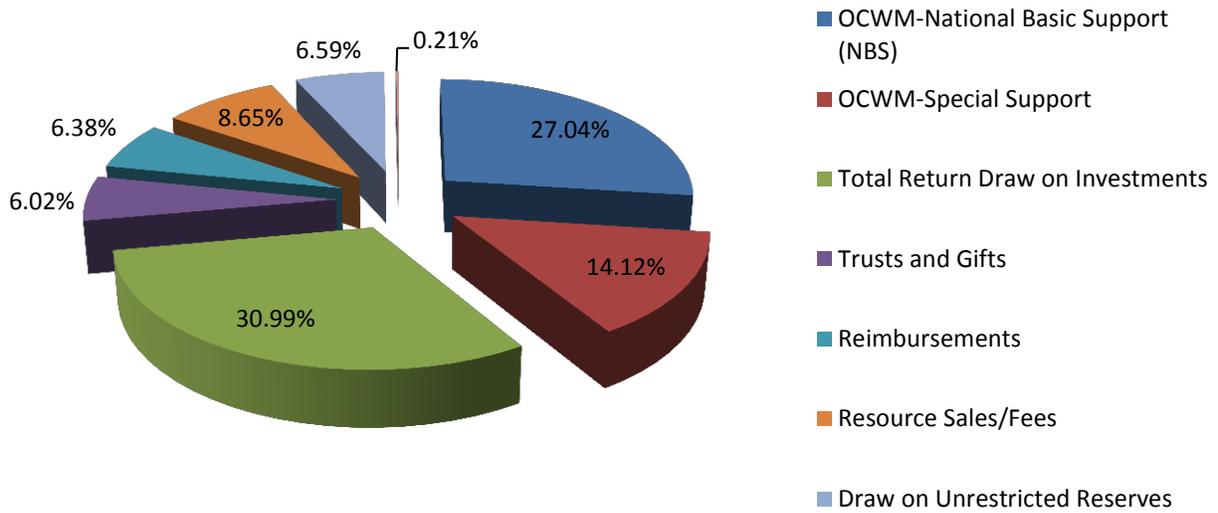
**PROPOSED NATIONAL BASIC SUPPORT ANNUAL ALLOCATION FOR 2010/2011**  
Each year the percentage allocation of OCWM National Basic Support is recommended by the Executive Council. General Synod will be asked to delegate the determination of the percentage allocation for OCWM National Basic Support for 2010 and 2011 to the Executive Council. For 2012 the recommendation will be completed at the Fall Executive Council Board Meeting in October, 2011. The current percentages for the budget year 2011 are: Executive Council 10.473%; United Church Funds 0%; Office of General Ministries 26.169%; Justice and Witness Ministries 15.282%; Local Church Ministries 24.937%; Wider Church Ministries 17.159% and the Pension Boards 5.980%.

Respectfully submitted,

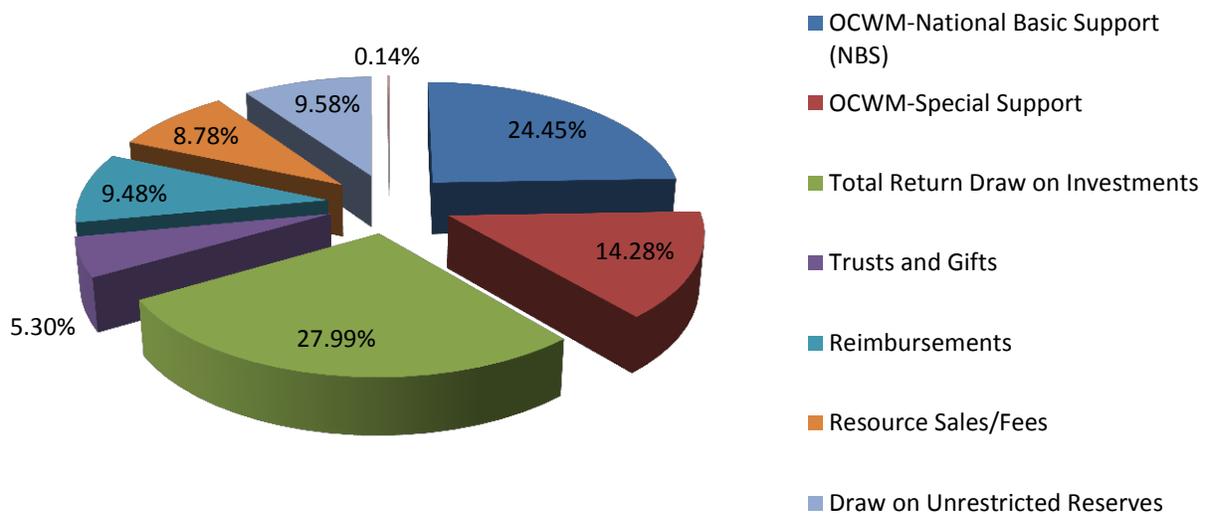
Kathy L. Houston  
Chief Financial Officer

Revenue Charts

## United Church of Christ Executive Council & Covenanted Ministries Revenue Sources - 2010

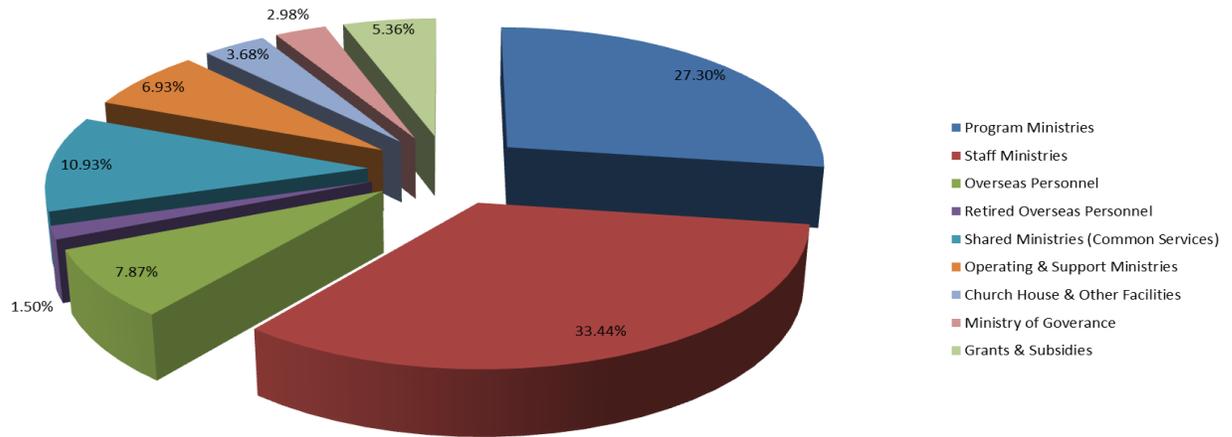


## United Church of Christ Executive Council & Covenanted Ministries Revenue Sources - 2011

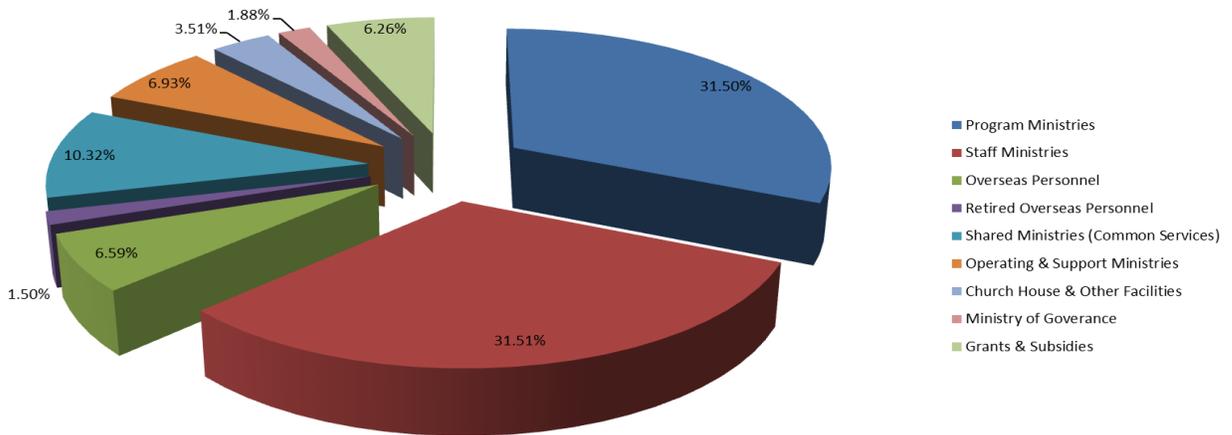


Uses (Expense) Charts

**United Church of Christ  
Executive Council & Covenanted Ministries  
Expenses - 2010**



**United Church of Christ  
Executive Council & Covenanted Ministries  
Expenses - 2011**





## APPENDIX N

### THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST PREAMBLE

1 The United Church of Christ, formed June 25, 1957, by the union of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and The General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches of the United States in order to express more fully the oneness in Christ of the churches composing it, to make more effective their common witness in Him, and to serve His kingdom in the world, hereby adopts this Constitution.

2 The United Church of Christ acknowledges as its sole Head, Jesus Christ, Son of God and Savior. It acknowledges as kindred in Christ all who share in this confession. It looks to the Word of God in the Scriptures, and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to prosper its creative and redemptive work in the world. It claims as its own the faith of the historic Church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers. It affirms 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. In accordance with the teaching of our Lord and the practice prevailing among evangelical Christians, it recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion.

3 The provisions herein define and regulate the General Synod, the United Church of Christ Board and those Covenanted Ministries, Affiliated Ministries, and Associated Ministries, as hereinafter set forth, of the United Church of Christ which are related to the General Synod and describe the free and voluntary relationships which the Local Churches, Associations, Conferences and ministers sustain with the General Synod and with each other. The pattern of relationships and procedures so described is recommended to Local Churches, Associations, Conferences and authorized ministers, to enable them more effectively to accomplish their tasks and the work of the United Church of Christ.

#### ARTICLE I. NAME

4 The name of this Church shall be UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST.

#### ARTICLE II. STRUCTURE

5 The United Church of Christ is composed of Local Churches, Associations, Conferences and the General Synod.

#### ARTICLE III. COVENANTAL RELATIONSHIPS

6 Within the United Church of Christ, the various expressions of the church relate to each other in a covenantal manner. Each expression of the church has responsibilities and rights in relation to the others, to the end that the whole church will seek God's will and be faithful to God's mission. Decisions are made in consultation and collaboration among the various parts of the structure. As members of the Body of Christ, each expression of the church is called to honor and respect the work and ministry of each other part. Each expression of the church listens, hears, and carefully considers the advice, counsel, and requests of others. In this covenant, the various expressions of the United Church of Christ seek to walk together in all God's ways.

#### ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

7 The Officers of the United Church of Christ shall be a General Minister and President,

an Executive Minister for Local Church Ministries, an Executive Minister for Wider Church Ministries, an Executive Minister for Justice and Witness Ministries, and such other officers as the General Synod may from time to time determine. They shall be responsible to and called by election of the General Synod as officers of the United Church of Christ.

#### Collegium of Officers

8 Composed of the Officers of the United Church of Christ meeting as peers, the Collegium of Officers is responsible for providing leadership for the mission programming of the United Church of Christ and for the implementation of General Synod actions. The General Minister and President is the presiding officer of the Collegium. The Collegium shall attend to the quality of relationships among the United Church of Christ Board and the Covenanted Ministries and foster a climate of respect, collaboration, and collegiality among various expressions of the church. The Collegium provides a setting for mutual accountability, for mutual reporting, and for assessing the ongoing programs of the United Church of Christ. It shall reflect the commitment of the United Church of Christ to be an inclusive church.

#### ARTICLE V. LOCAL CHURCHES

9 The basic unit of the life and organization of the United Church of Christ is the Local Church.

10 A Local Church is composed of persons who, believing in the triune God, accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and depending on the guidance of the Holy Spirit, are organized for Christian worship, for the furtherance of Christian fellowship, and for the ongoing work of Christian witness.

11 In accordance with the custom and usage of a Local Church, persons become members by (a) baptism and either confirmation or profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; (b) reaffirmation or reprofession of faith; or (c) letter of transfer or certification from other Christian churches.

12 All persons who are or shall become members of a Local Church of the United Church of Christ are thereby members of the United Church of Christ.

13 Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church unite in the United Church of Christ without break in their respective historic continuities and traditions.

14 The following Local Churches compose the United Church of Christ:

- a) The Local Churches of the Evangelical and Reformed Church;
- b) The Local Churches of the Congregational Christian fellowship which vote to become a part of the United Church of Christ, or which vote to approve this Constitution;
- c) Any Congregational Christian Local Church which, although it has not voted to become a part of the United Church of Christ, or to approve this Constitution, votes to join the United Church of Christ after this Constitution is declared in force;
- d) Any Local Church which, after this Constitution is declared in force, is accepted, on any basis other than that described in paragraph 16, into an Association, or Conference, of the United Church of Christ;
- e) The Local Churches of any denomination which, after this Constitution is declared in force, unites with the United Church of Christ; and
- f) Any Local Church in a category not otherwise defined in this article, received upon its request, subject to such provisions as in consultation with the Conference may be

specified by the Association within whose bounds it is located, and which are not inconsistent with this Constitution and the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

15 Local Churches of the United Church of Christ are represented in the General Synod by the delegates from the Conferences to which they belong.

16 An Association or a Conference of the United Church of Christ may, under such provisions as it deems wise, admit, or continue to fellowship with, any Congregational Christian Local Church which is not part of the United Church of Christ. The names and statistics of such churches shall be kept separately; their members shall not be counted in determining the number of delegates which the Conference is entitled to send to the General Synod or hold elective office in that body, except that no ordained minister who has full standing or ordained ministerial partner standing in the United Church of Christ shall be ineligible to be a delegate to the General Synod or to hold elective office in that body. No direct or indirect participation by any such Local Church in, or support of, the work of the United Church of Christ, or of any of its Covenanted Ministries, The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ, United Church Funds, or of any Conference or Association, shall be construed as making it a church of the United Church of Christ.

17 The Local Churches of the United Church of Christ have, in fellowship, a God-given responsibility for that Church, its labors and its extension, even as the United Church of Christ has, in fellowship, a God-given responsibility for the wellbeing and needs and aspirations of its Local Churches. In mutual Christian concern and in dedication to Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, the one and the many share in common Christian experience and responsibility.

18 The autonomy of the Local Church is inherent and modifiable only by its own action. Nothing in this Constitution and the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ shall destroy or limit the right of each Local Church to continue to operate in the way customary to it; nor shall be construed as giving to the General Synod, or to any Conference or Association now, or at any future time, the power to abridge or impair the autonomy of any Local Church in the management of its own affairs, which affairs include, but are not limited to, the right to retain or adopt its own methods of organization, worship and education; to retain or secure its own charter and name; to adopt its own constitution and bylaws; to formulate its own covenants and confessions of faith; to admit members in its own way and to provide for their discipline or dismissal; to call or dismiss its pastor or pastors by such procedure as it shall determine; to acquire, own, manage and dispose of property and funds; to control its own benevolences; and to withdraw by its own decision from the United Church of Christ at any time without forfeiture of ownership or control of any real or personal property owned by it.

19 Actions by, or decisions or advice emanating from, the General Synod, a Conference or an Association, should be held in the highest regard by every Local Church.

#### ARTICLE VI. THE MINISTRY

20 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. The United Church of Christ seeks to undergird the ministry of its members by nurturing faith, calling forth gifts, and equipping members for Christian service.

21 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. Recognizing God's call, the ecclesiastical authorization is granted by an Association through the rite of ordination, through commissioning, licensing, granting either ordained ministerial standing or ordained ministerial partner standing and other acts of authorization.

22 Ordination is the rite whereby the United Church of Christ through an Association, in cooperation with the person and a Local Church of the United Church of Christ, recognizes and authorizes that member whom God has called to ordained ministry, and sets that person apart by prayer and the laying on of hands. By this rite ordained ministerial standing and status as an Ordained Ministerial Partner is conferred and authorization given to perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ.

23 An Ordained Minister of the United Church of Christ is one of its members who has been called by God and ordained to preach and teach the gospel, to administer the sacraments and rites of the Church, and to exercise pastoral care and leadership.

24 Ordained ministerial standing is an ongoing covenant of mutual accountability, as described in Paragraph 25, which recognizes and continues the authorization of that person to perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry.

Ordained ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ is granted by and held in an Association in cooperation with a local church and confers voting membership in the Association.

25 The Call of an Ordained Minister or Ordained Ministerial Partner (see Article VII) to a Local Church establishes a covenantal relationship among the Ordained Minister or Ordained Ministerial Partner, the Local Church, and the United Church of Christ as represented by an Association. The Call of an Ordained Minister or Ordained Ministerial Partner to other forms of ministry recognized by an Association of the United Church of Christ establishes a covenantal relationship among the Ordained Minister or Ordained Ministerial Partner, the calling body, the United Church of Christ as represented by an Association and the Local Church where the Ordained Minister or Ordained Ministerial Partner is a member.

26 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. By this act the status of Commissioned Minister is conferred and authorization granted to perform duties necessary to and for the specific ministry, and voting membership in that Association is granted.

27 A Commissioned Minister in the United Church of Christ is one of its members who has been called by God and commissioned for a specific church-related ministry.

28 Licensing 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 perform specified duties in a designated Local Church or within that Association, mainly preaching and conducting services of worship, for a designated time within a covenant of mutual accountability that includes appropriate supervision and guidance of that Association. The license may be renewed. Voting membership in that Association is granted.

29 A Licensed Minister of the United Church of Christ is one of its members whom God has called and who has been recognized and authorized by an Association to perform specified duties in a designated Local Church or within that Association, mainly preaching and conducting services of worship, for a designated time within a covenant of mutual accountability that includes appropriate supervision and guidance of that Association. The license may be renewed.

30 A Member in Discernment is a member of the United Church of Christ who has been called by God and who is, in covenant with that member's Local Church and Association, engaging in a time of discernment of that call and preparation for authorized ministry in response to that call.

#### ARTICLE VII. RECOGNITION AND RECONCILIATION OF THE ORDAINED MINISTRIES OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

31 The United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) recognize the ordained ministries of the other church to be efficacious ministries of grace within that church and these ministries to be valid and full ministries of the one Church of Jesus Christ.

32 The ordained ministries of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are reconciled. An Ordained Minister with ordained ministerial standing in one church may function, whenever invited, and as established procedures permit, as an ordained minister to the other.

33 The designations "Ordained Ministerial Partner" and "ordained ministerial partner standing" manifest the corporate and individual nature of the recognition and reconciliation of the ordained ministries of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

34 Each member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who holds ordained ministerial standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is an Ordained Ministerial Partner of the United Church of Christ.

35 Each member of the United Church of Christ who holds ordained ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ is an Ordained Ministerial Partner of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

36 Ordained ministerial partner standing is authorization granted to an Ordained Minister with ordained ministerial standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who has a call to perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ. This authorization assumes knowledge of, and appreciation for, the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ. Ordained ministerial partner standing provides ongoing ecclesiastical authorization to perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ.

#### ARTICLE VIII. ASSOCIATIONS AND CONFERENCES

37 Associations and Conferences are bodies organized on a territorial basis to perform functions in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

##### Associations

38 An Association is that body within a Conference of the United Church of Christ which is composed of all Local Churches in a geographical area, all Ordained Ministers holding

standing or ordained ministerial partner standing therein, all Commissioned Ministers and Licensed Ministers in that Association.

39 Subsequent to the initial organization of Associations in the United Church of Christ, the boundaries of any new Association, or any adjustment of boundaries between Associations, shall be determined by the Associations concerned with the approval of the Conference or Conferences involved. The standing of an Association as a body of the United Church of Christ is determined by the Conference in which it is located.

40 An Association is that body which determines, confers, and certifies to the standing of the Local Churches of the United Church of Christ within its area.

41 An Association is that body which grants authorization that is required for various forms of ministry in and on behalf of the Church. Such authorization is granted through the rite of ordination, through commissioning, licensing, granting either ordained ministerial standing or ordained ministerial partner standing and other acts of authorization. Such authorization may be terminated by the Association.

42 An Association may retain or secure its own charter, and adopt its own constitution, bylaws and other rules which it deems essential to its own welfare and not inconsistent with this Constitution and the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

43 An Association is related to the General Synod through its Conference.

44 When an Association meets, its voting membership includes the lay delegates selected by and representing the Local Churches of that Association, all Ordained Ministers holding standing or ordained ministerial partner standing therein, all Commissioned Ministers and Licensed Ministers of that Association.

45 Meetings of the Association are held annually and at such other times as may be necessary for the discharge of its responsibilities.

#### Conferences

46 A Conference is that body of the United Church of Christ which is composed of all Local Churches in a geographical area, all Ordained Ministers holding standing or ordained ministerial partner standing in its Associations or in the Conference itself when acting as an Association, all Commissioned Ministers and Licensed Ministers in its Associations.

47 Subsequent to the initial organization of Conferences in the United Church of Christ, the boundaries of any new Conference, or any adjustment of boundaries between Conferences, shall be determined by the Conferences concerned with the approval of the General Synod. The standing of a Conference as a body of the United Church of Christ is determined by the General Synod.

48 A Conference may retain or secure its own charter, and adopt its own constitution, bylaws and other rules which it deems essential to its own welfare and not inconsistent with this Constitution and the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

49 A Conference is related to the General Synod as described in the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

50 When a Conference meets, its voting membership includes lay delegates selected by and representing the Local Churches of that Conference, all Ordained Ministers holding standing or ordained ministerial partner standing in its Associations or in the Conference itself when acting as an Association, all Commissioned Ministers and Licensed Ministers in its Associations.

51 Meetings of the Conference are held annually and at such other times as may be

necessary for the discharge of its responsibilities.

#### Conferences Acting as Associations

52 A Conference may exercise the functions of an Association when they are delegated to it by an Association or where no Association exists.

#### ARTICLE IX. THE GENERAL SYNOD

53 The General Synod is the gathering of a faith community representative of the wider church to listen for and discern the call of God to the United Church of Christ. The General Synod deliberates, discerns, and identifies the mission of the wider church of the United Church of Christ in God's world and receives and offers suggestions, invitations, challenges, and assistance in covenant with Local Churches, Conferences, and other settings as they engage in mission together. The General Synod is the representative body of the United Church of Christ and is composed of voting delegates, as described in the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ. A quorum for the conduct of business 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. There shall also be associate delegates and ecumenical delegates, without vote, as determined by the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ or action of the General Synod.

#### Powers and Responsibilities of General Synod

54 The General Synod has the following powers and responsibilities, provided, however, that no power vested in the General Synod shall invade the autonomy of Conferences, Associations, and Local Churches, or impair their right to acquire, own, manage, and dispose of property and funds:

- a) To carry on, directly and through the United Church of Christ Board, as well as through the Covenanted, Affiliated, and Associated Ministries and other bodies, the work of the United Church of Christ, and to provide for the financial support of this work;
- b) To create such bodies, temporary or permanent, incorporated or unincorporated, suitable for the discharge of its responsibilities;
- c) To organize as required for the transaction of business;
- d) To call and elect Officers of the United Church of Christ who shall be chosen from the membership of the United Church of Christ and who shall serve as Officers of the General Synod;
- e) To elect all members of the United Church of Christ Board, which shall act as the General Synod ad interim and carry out the United Church of Christ Board's other responsibilities as described in the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ;
- f) To establish and maintain national headquarters for the United Church of Christ;
- g) To establish a Treasury, which shall receive funds contributed to the General Synod for the support of the United Church of Christ and for its Covenanted Ministries;
- h) To determine the relationships of the United Church of Christ with ecumenical organizations, world confessional bodies, interfaith and other interdenominational agencies;
- i) To encourage conversations with other communions and when appropriate to authorize and guide negotiations with them, looking toward formal union;
- j) To amend this Constitution as hereinafter provided; and
- k) To adopt Bylaws for the United Church of Christ and, as hereinafter provided, to amend them.

## Meetings of the General Synod

55 The General Synod shall hold meetings at regular intervals as provided in the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ. Special meetings may be called in the manner provided in those Bylaws.

## Correlation

56 a) The General Synod and the United Church of Christ Board shall consider the work of all Covenanted, Affiliated, and Associated Ministries. It shall also correlate their work, publicity and promotion, preventing duplication and effecting economies of administration, so as to secure maximum effectiveness and efficiency through careful stewardship of personnel and financial resources.

b) The General Synod and the United Church of Christ Board and each of the Board of Directors of all Covenanted, Affiliated, and Associated Ministries shall assure that due protection shall be given to all assets, trust funds, including pension funds so that the legacy/historic restrictions on the use of restricted funds and the intended use restrictions of the unrestricted funds of each of the historic ministries are monitored, accounted for, maintained and reported to the United Church of Christ Board to assure that the use of all such assets and funds will be allocated and used based on donor intent, whenever that can be determined.

## ARTICLE X. UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD

57 The United Church of Christ Board is the successor to and agent for the Executive Council and the Office of General Ministries (including its predecessor offices and bodies: President, Secretary, and Director of Finance and Treasurer of the United Church of Christ; Commission on Development; Stewardship Council; Office of Communication; and ministries of research formerly conducted by the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries), and as such continues the work, mandates and legacies of these predecessor bodies and offices. The members of the United Church of Christ Board shall serve as the directors of each of the Covenanted Ministries. The United Church of Christ Board shall be responsible for strategic planning and policymaking. The United Church of Christ Board shall be responsible, with the General Minister and President, for the ecumenical and interfaith relationships of the United Church of Christ in the national setting. In all its work, the United Church of Christ Board shall be guided by the policies established by the General Synod. The United Church of Christ Board shall be incorporated in order to carry out its mandates and responsibilities, including without limitation, performing all legal functions of the General Synod, as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ. The members of the United Church of Christ Board shall be elected and shall serve as provided in the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

## ARTICLE XI. COVENANTED MINISTRIES

58 The United Church of Christ recognizes the call to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed through the work of Local Churches; Associations; Conferences; national expressions; and global, ecumenical, and interfaith relationships. The United Church of Christ is and seeks to be an inclusive, multiracial, multicultural church, accessible to all, engaging in ministries of justice, witness, healing, teaching, and preaching. There are three Covenanted Ministries as defined and set forth in the Constitution and the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ: Local Church Ministries, Wider Church Ministries, Justice and Witness

Ministries. A Covenanted Ministry may retain or secure its own charter and adopt its own bylaws and other rules which it deems essential to its own welfare and not inconsistent with this Constitution and the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ and in accordance with advice and counsel given from time to time by the General Synod.

#### Powers and Responsibilities of Covenanted Ministries

59 Each Covenanted Ministry shall have the following powers and responsibilities:

- a) To carry out the Covenanted Ministry's programmatic work, including the historical mandates of its predecessor bodies, as set forth in its Charter and Bylaws, or referred from the General Synod, or as set forth in the Constitution and the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ;
- b) To retain responsibility for all legacies and other property received, maintained or held by it, and to approve any use, expenditure or disposal of its legacies or other property;
- c) To work in covenantal relationship with the General Synod, the United Church of Christ Board, and other Ministries to fulfill its mandates;
- d) To participate through its Executive Minister in the Collegium of Officers;
- e) To participate in the Mission Planning Council;
- f) To nominate and elect its Executive Minister as set forth in paragraph 61b;
- g) To organize itself as it deems necessary to carry out its programmatic work, including the fulfillment of historical mandates, which shall be carried out in accordance with this Constitution and the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, through the United Church of Christ Board;
- h) To determine its budget to be submitted to the United Church of Christ Board in accordance with the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ;
- i) To adopt its own charter, bylaws, and rules of procedure which it deems essential to its own welfare, not inconsistent with the Constitution and the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ;
- j) To hold in highest regard actions by, or decisions or advice emanating from, the General Synod, the United Church of Christ Board, another Covenanted Ministry, a Conference, an Association, or a Local Church.

60 Each Covenanted Ministry shall be incorporated in order to fulfill its mandates; fulfill all normal, lawful purposes; and receive, hold, manage, and distribute real and personal property, endowments, and restricted funds in compliance with the terms, conditions, and requirements of said funds. The voting membership of each Covenanted Ministry shall be the members of that corporation's Board of Directors.

61 The corporation documents of Local Church Ministries, Justice and Witness Ministries, and Wider Church Ministries shall reflect their covenantal relationship with the General Synod and shall provide:

- a) that the members of the United Church of Christ Board comprise the Board of Directors of the Covenanted Ministry;
- b) that the Covenanted Ministry shall vest the General Synod with the power to call by election the Executive Minister of the Covenanted Ministry;
- c) that any modification of the provisions or powers in a or b above shall be authorized only after consultation with the Collegium of Officers and the United Church of Christ Board and after presentation to the General Synod, and shall require an affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of all voting members of the Covenanted Ministry;

d) that the Covenanted Ministry must approve any use, expenditure or disposal of its legacies or other property;

e) that dissolution of the Covenanted Ministry shall occur only with an affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of all members of the Covenanted Ministry, after advice and consultation with the General Synod, and only with provision for the transfer of the ownership, management, and control of its assets and funds to a successor corporation that is legally obligated and empowered to own and carry out the obligations, terms, conditions, and requirements of said assets and funds, as the Board of Directors shall determine. In keeping with the covenantal basis of the United Church of Christ, such successor corporation shall be related to the United Church of Christ whenever legally permissible and appropriate, all as determined by the Board of Directors of the Covenanted Ministry.

62 The General Synod, in covenant with a Covenanted Ministry, may, from time to time, delegate or assign to a Covenanted Ministry such responsibilities as fall within that Covenanted Ministry's purpose and mission as set forth in the Constitution and the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ and in that Covenanted Ministry's corporate documents.

63 Each Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ shall report its finances annually to the United Church of Christ Board and to each regular meeting of the General Synod. Each Covenanted Ministry shall submit to the United Church of Christ Board, acting as the Budget Committee of the General Synod, a detailed request for support of its work through funds allocated from the biennial income goal to be recommended to the General Synod.

#### Incorporation of Existing and Prior Agencies

64 The Covenanted Ministries listed in paragraph 58 above, acting as successors to and agents for all predecessor bodies related to the United Church of Christ, continue the work, mandates, and legacies previously carried on by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, the Board of International Missions, the Commission on World Service, the Congregational Christian Service Committee, the United Church Board for World Ministries, Board of National Missions, Board of Christian Education and Publication, Board of Business Management, Board of Home Missions of the Reformed Church in the U. S., the American Missionary Association, Congregational Church Building Society, Congregational Education Society, Congregational Home Missionary Society, Congregational Publishing Society, The Congregational Sunday School Extension Society, the Congregational Women's Home Missionary Federation, the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society, Commission for Racial Justice, Office for Church Life and Leadership, Office for Church in Society, Stewardship Council, and Office of Communication.

#### Local Church Ministries

65 The purpose and mission of Local Church Ministries, to be carried out in accordance with the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, shall be to encourage and support the Local Churches of the United Church of Christ in the fulfillment of God's mission. Specifically, Local Church Ministries continues the work of, and acts as agent for, the following predecessor bodies: the Office for Church Life and Leadership, the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society, the Stewardship Council, the

United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, and its predecessor bodies: The Board of National Missions, Board of Christian Education and Publication, Board of Business Management, Board of Home Missions of the Reformed Church in the U.S., the American Missionary Association, Congregational Church Building Society, Congregational Education Society, Congregational Home Mission Society, Congregational Publishing Society, The Congregational Sunday School Extension Society, the Congregational Women's Home Missionary Federation.

#### **Justice and Witness Ministries**

66 The purpose and mission of Justice and Witness Ministries, to be carried out in accordance with the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, shall be to enable and encourage Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and the national expressions of the United Church of Christ to engage in God's mission globally by direct action for the integrity of creation, justice, and peace. Justice and Witness Ministries continues the work of, and acts as agent for, the following predecessor bodies: the Office for Church in Society, the Commission for Racial Justice, the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society. It also continues the following: ministries of public policy advocacy in the area of communications formerly conducted by the Office of Communication, ministries of prophetic service and action formerly conducted by the Division of the American Missionary Association of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, ministries of global advocacy in the U.S.A. formerly conducted by the United Church Board for World Ministries.

#### **Wider Church Ministries**

67 The purpose and mission of Wider Church Ministries, to be carried out in accordance with the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, shall be to encourage and support Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and the national expressions of the United Church of Christ to participate in the global, multiracial, multicultural church, and to support United Church of Christ ministries around the world and the nation. Wider Church Ministries continues the work of, and acts as agent for, the following predecessor bodies: the United Church Board for World Ministries, the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, the Board of International Missions, the Commission on World Service, and the Congregational Christian Service Committee. It also continues the following: ministries of volunteer services formerly conducted by the Division of the American Missionary Association of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries; ministries of the Health and Welfare Coordinating Council formerly related to the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries.

#### **ARTICLE XII. AFFILIATED AND ASSOCIATED MINISTRIES**

68 An Affiliated Ministry of the United Church of Christ is a non-profit corporation which provides services to or for the United Church of Christ, and whose Board of Trustees is elected by its corporate membership, and which was recognized previously as an Instrumentality by the General Synod.

69 An Associated Ministry of the United Church of Christ Board of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ is a nonprofit corporation which provides services to or for the United Church of Christ, and whose corporate membership is nominated and elected by the United Church of Christ Board, and which was recognized previously as an instrumentality by the General Synod.

### Pension and Relief Activities

70 The pension activities of the United Church of Christ are administered by a non-profit membership corporation(s) known as The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ and designated as an Affiliated Ministry of the United Church of Christ. The control of each such corporation lies in its members through a board of trustees chosen by the members from a list of persons whose names have been presented to and approved by the General Synod or by the United Church of Christ Board. Persons for this list may be proposed by any member of the corporation(s) or by the Trustees thereof. Such corporation(s) shall report its program and finance annually to its members and to the United Church of Christ Board and to each regular meeting of the General Synod. The General Synod shall from time to time make examination of the practices and developments of such corporation(s).

71 The ministerial relief activities of the United Church of Christ, by whatever corporate bodies administered, are coordinated with the pension activities of the Church through corporation(s) above described. The pension and the relief corporation(s) shall submit to the United Church of Christ Board, acting as the Budget Committee of the General Synod, a request for allocation of sufficient funds, from the budget to be approved by the United Church of Christ Board, for the payment of ministerial relief benefits and such other benefits as the United Church of Christ Board may provide. Payment of such benefits shall be limited to the funds received for that purpose.

### United Church Funds

72 The United Church Funds, Inc., is designated as an Associated Ministry of the United Church of Christ Board of the United Church of Christ to receive gifts from individuals and organizations, to hold such funds and property as may be entrusted or conveyed to it by the General Synod and other organizations, and administer, invest, and reinvest the same and other funds in trust or otherwise, as set forth in the Bylaws.

73 The United Church Funds shall report its program and finances annually to the United Church of Christ Board and to each regular meeting of the General Synod, and shall submit to the United Church of Christ Board, acting as the Budget Committee of the General Synod, a detailed request for support of its work through funds allocated from the biennial income goal to be recommended to the General Synod.

## ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS

### The Constitution

74 Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by a Conference, the General Synod or the United Church of Christ Board. Such proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ at least three months prior to a meeting of the General Synod to which they are to be presented. At least two months prior to the meeting of the General Synod, the General Minister and President shall transmit such proposed amendments to the delegates, to the Conferences and to the Local Churches. Adoption of an amendment to the Constitution shall require a two-thirds affirmative vote of those present and voting in the General Synod and, before the next regular meeting of the General Synod, an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Conferences. If so approved the General Synod, if in session, or the United Church of Christ Board, shall declare the amendment adopted and in force.<sup>1</sup>

### The Bylaws

75 Amendments to the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ may be proposed by an Association, a Conference, the General Synod, or the United Church of Christ Board. Such proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ at least three months prior to the meeting of the General Synod to which they are to be presented. At least two months prior to the meeting of the General Synod, the General Minister and President shall transmit such proposed amendments to the delegates, to the Conferences and to the Local Churches. Any Bylaw that is contingent upon a Constitutional provision shall not be effective until after the Constitutional provision is ratified and declared in force. Adoption of an amendment to the Bylaws shall require a two-thirds affirmative vote of those present and voting in the General Synod, and shall be effective upon adoption unless otherwise set forth in the vote.

1The General Synod declared the original Constitution of the United Church of Christ in force June, 1961, upon ratification of 2/3 of the Synods of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and by 2/3 of the Congregational Christian churches voting.



## APPENDIX O

### BYLAWS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

#### PREAMBLE

100 These Bylaws, consistent with the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, further define and/or regulate the General Synod and its relationships with the Covenanted, Affiliated, and Associated Ministries and Other Bodies which are related to the General Synod, and the United Church of Christ Board, and describe the free and voluntary relationships which the Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and ordained, commissioned and licensed Ministers sustain with the General Synod and with one another. The pattern of relationships and procedures so described is recommended to Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and authorized ministers to enable them more effectively to accomplish their tasks and the work of the United Church of Christ.

#### ARTICLE I. THE MINISTRY

##### Members in Discernment

101 A member of a United Church of Christ local church wishing to explore God's call to ministry, and the potential of that call leading to authorized ministry (ordained, commissioned or licensed), requests, along with the member's local church, to enter a Covenant of Discernment with the Association.

102 The Committee on Ministry of the member's Association interviews the member to decide whether to join with the member and the local church in a covenant of discernment. The goal of discernment is to determine whether the member is called to authorized ministry, what the specific character of that ministry might be, and, if authorization is appropriate, what steps are to be taken toward authorization. Normally a covenant of discernment leading to authorization is expected to be for not less than two years.

103 The Association and the local church are in a mutual covenant with the Member in Discernment to offer support, counsel, and direction during this time of decision making and preparation.

104 A Member in Discernment who is called to authorized ministry will follow a plan of preparation for that ministry which has been prepared with the Association Committee on Ministry. With respect to ordained ministry, a bachelor's degree and Master of Divinity may be included in the plan.

##### Ordained Ministry

105 Not more than six months prior to the completion of theological preparation for authorization, a Member in Discernment preparing for the ordained ministry applies with his or her Local Church to its Association for approval as a candidate for ordination. If the service of ordination is to be performed within an Association other than that of the Member, the procedure, including that described in the following paragraph, is initiated by that Association after consultation with the Association which is in covenant with the Member in Discernment.

106 The Committee on Ministry of the Association examines the Member in Discernment with respect to Christian faith; character; ability to do the work expected; preparation to meet the responsibilities of the office; educational and theological attainments; and knowledge of the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ. If, following this examination, the committee is satisfied with the fitness of the Member in

Discernment, it makes an affirmative recommendation to the Association. In turn, upon receipt of this recommendation, the Association may opt for further examination or proceed immediately to authorize the ordination, subject to a call recognized by the Association.

107 Ordination by an Association of the United Church of Christ, in cooperation with the Local Church, confers ordained ministerial standing as an Ordained Minister of the United Church of Christ and status as an Ordained Ministerial Partner of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

108 After the ordination or in anticipation of it, a certificate is issued bearing the signatures of the proper officers of the Association and the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ.

#### **Ordained Ministerial Standing**

109 An Ordained Minister moving from the bounds of one Association to another applies for a transfer of ordained ministerial standing to the new Association.

110 An Ordained Minister engaged in local church ministry has standing in the Association in which the Local Church served has standing. An Ordained Minister engaged in other than local church ministry has standing in the Association where his or her Local Church membership is held.

111 An Ordained Minister engaged in a ministry requiring prolonged absence from the United States, or one that does not permit a fixed residence, is entitled to have ordained ministerial standing in the Association of his or her choice.

112 An Ordained Minister who withdraws from active service in the ordained ministry prior to retirement applies to his or her Association for leave of absence. The Association may grant such leave of absence for one year at a time. Except in special cases such leave of absence is not granted for more than five years in succession.

113 An Ordained Minister retiring from active service by reason of age or disability retains ordained ministerial standing in the Association of his or her choice.

114 An Ordained Minister of the United Church of Christ serving a Local Church not affiliated with the United Church of Christ or the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) or serving a local church of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) without ordained ministerial partner standing retains ordained ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ so long as his or her Association approves.

115 The church membership of an authorized minister serving in local church ministry shall be in the Local Church served. The church membership of an authorized minister serving in a setting other than local church ministry, or of an authorized minister without fixed residence shall be in a Local Church of the United Church of Christ in the Association where he or she holds or seeks authorized ministerial standing.

#### **Ordained Ministers from Other Denominations**

116 A person has ordained ministerial partner standing in the United Church of Christ only when serving a United Church of Christ calling body.

117 Upon demonstrating knowledge of, and appreciation for, the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ to the Association in which the person resides, an Ordained Ministerial Partner may seek a call in the United Church of Christ.

118 An Ordained Ministerial Partner who accepts a call in the United Church of Christ applies for ordained ministerial partner standing to the Association in which Local Church membership is held.

119 When an Ordained Ministerial Partner accepts a call to a Local Church, the Partner and the Local Church join in requesting the Association to arrange for a service of installation.

120 A person who holds ordained ministerial partner standing in an Association shall hold membership in a Local Church of the United Church of Christ.

121 A person who holds ordained ministerial partner standing in an Association shall maintain ordained ministerial standing within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Region in which the United Church of Christ calling body is located.

122 A person who has ordained ministerial partner standing in the United Church of Christ, and who accepts a call in another Association, shall apply for a transfer of ordained ministerial partner standing to the new Association.

123 When a disciplinary review is instituted in relation to a person holding ordained ministerial partner standing in the United Church of Christ, the Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in which the person's ordained ministerial standing is maintained shall be informed and invited to participate in the procedures.

124 A person who holds ordained ministerial partner standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) shall maintain ordained ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ. Ordained ministerial standing shall be held in the Association in which local church membership is held.

125 A person who holds ordained ministerial partner standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) shall hold local church membership in a local church of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

126 A person who holds ordained ministerial partner standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) shall relate to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for his or her primary support and accountability in ordained ministry.

127 A person who holds ordained ministerial partner standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is subject to periodic review by the Association in which ordained ministerial standing is maintained.

128 When a disciplinary procedure is instituted by a Region in relation to a person holding ordained ministerial partner standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the United Church of Christ Association in which standing is held shall be informed and invited to participate. The Association may accept the procedures and outcome of the Region or utilize its own procedures to determine the person's ongoing standing in the United Church of Christ.

129 When a person no longer has ordained ministerial standing in either the United Church of Christ or Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), that person is no longer an Ordained Ministerial Partner and ordained ministerial partner standing is nullified.

130 An ordained minister of another denomination who desires to enter the ordained ministry of the United Church of Christ applies for Privilege of Call to the Association within whose bounds he or she resides.

131 The Committee on Ministry of the Association examines the applicant as to his or her abilities, reasons for desiring to enter the ordained ministry of the United Church of Christ, educational and theological attainments, knowledge of the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ, and Christian faith and experience. If the applicant is found to be qualified, the Association grants Privilege of Call, thereby commending said applicant for placement in the United Church of Christ. Privilege of

Call shall be granted for a period of one year and may be renewed. After accepting a call, the Ordained Minister applies for ordained ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ to the Association of which the Local Church extending the call is a part.

132 A certificate granting Privilege of Call is issued bearing the signatures of the proper officer of the Association and the General Minister and President.

133 An ordained minister of another denomination other than the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who wishes to retain ordained ministerial standing in that denomination and who has become pastor of a Local Church of the United Church of Christ, or serves in a Covenanted, Affiliated or Associated Ministry of the United Church of Christ, or has become pastor of a yoked charge or a federated church one part of which is affiliated with the United Church of Christ, or has been called to an ecumenical ministry one constituent of which is the United Church of Christ, may apply to the Association for dual ordained ministerial standing which is limited to duration of that pastorate or that responsibility, and during that period may have all the rights and privileges of such membership.

#### **Commissioned Ministers**

134 A Member in Discernment seeking initial recognition and authorization as a Commissioned Minister applies with his or her Local Church to the Association of which that church is a member.

135 The Committee on Ministry of the Association examines the Member in Discernment with respect to Christian faith, character, ability to do the work expected and preparation to meet the responsibilities of the office to be filled, and make its recommendation of fitness to the Association. If upon acceptance of the recommendation or upon further examination and decision by the Association itself, the applicant is found to be qualified, commissioning thereby is authorized.

136 A certificate designating the applicant as Commissioned Minister is issued bearing the signatures of proper officers of the Association and the General Minister and President.

137 A Commissioned Minister is listed separately from Ordained Ministers and from Licensed Ministers on the rolls of the Association which has commissioned him or her.

138 A Commissioned Minister moving from the bounds of one Association to another and who continues in the specific church-related ministry, applies for a transfer of the commission to the new Association.

139 A Commissioned Minister seeking to be commissioned for a new or different church-related ministry applies to the Association for commissioning for the new ministry.

140 A Commissioned Minister who ceases to function in the specific church-related ministry to which he or she was commissioned resigns the commission or applies to the Association for leave of absence. Leave of absence is granted for one year at a time, but not more than three consecutive years.

141 A Commissioned Minister who retires from service as a Commissioned Minister may be recognized by the Association as a Retired Commissioned Minister of the United Church of Christ. Voting membership in that Association is thereby granted. Such recognition is regularly reviewed.

#### **Licensed Ministers**

142 A Member in Discernment seeking recognition and authorization as a Licensed

Minister applies with his or her Local Church to the Association of which that church is a member.

143 The Committee on Ministry of the Association examines the Member in Discernment with respect to Christian faith, character, ability to do the work expected, preparation to meet the responsibilities of the office, educational and theological attainments, and knowledge of the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ. If the applicant is found to be qualified, a license is granted by the Association for not more than one year to serve in a designated Local Church or within that Association. Following a review by the Committee on Ministry, the license may be renewed annually for two more years after which the Association may grant the license for a time determined to be appropriate.

144 At the request of the Local Church which the person serves, the Association may grant the Licensed Minister the right to administer the sacraments and rites of the Church for this Local Church.

145 A Licensed Minister is listed separately from Ordained Ministers and from Commissioned Ministers on the rolls of the Association which has licensed him or her.

146 A Licensed Minister who retires from service as a Licensed Minister may be recognized by the Association as a Retired Licensed Minister of the United Church of Christ. Voting membership in that Association is thereby granted. Such recognition is regularly reviewed.

#### Calling, Installing and Terminating a Pastor

147 It is the responsibility of a committee of the Local Church to seek a candidate for a vacancy in the office of pastor.

148 In filling a vacancy or in securing pastoral services during the period of a vacancy, the committee of the Local Church, through its Conference Minister, obtains counsel and access to the services of the "Search and Call" process of the United Church of Christ.

149 The committee of a Local Church requests the Conference Minister to secure relevant information about any Ordained Minister, Ordained Ministerial Partner, or Licensed Minister whom it wishes to consider or who requests to be considered for the vacancy.

150 Any Ordained Minister, Ordained Ministerial Partner, or Licensed Minister may confer with the Conference Minister concerning a pastoral vacancy. At the Ordained Minister's request or at the request of the Ordained Ministerial Partner, his or her name shall be submitted by the Conference Minister for consideration by the committee of any Local Church where there is a pastoral vacancy.

151 All vacancies within the Conference shall be reported promptly to the designated administrative office in the office of the General Minister and President by the Conference Minister.

152 The Committee of the Local Church presents to the church the name of a candidate it recommends to fill the vacancy. The Local Church determines whether or not it wishes to call the person recommended.

153 In the call the terms of the pastoral relationship are stated, including the agreement of the Local Church to participate in the pension fund on the pastor's behalf. The pastor, the Local Church, Association Committee on Ministry, and the Conference Minister should each receive a copy of the call. The Conference Minister shall inform the designated administrative office in the office of the General Minister and President when the call has

been accepted.

154 When an Ordained Minister or Licensed Minister accepts a call to a Local Church, the Minister and the church join in requesting the Association to arrange for a service of installation or recognition.

155 Report of the service of installation or recognition is signed by the proper officer of the Association and by the Conference Minister, and is forwarded to the designated administrative office in the office of the General Minister and President.

156 When a pastor or a Local Church decides to terminate the pastoral relationship, notice of the decision is sent to the Conference Minister and the Association. The Association takes action appropriate to the dissolution of the pastoral relationship. The Conference Minister promptly informs the designated administrative office in the office of the General Minister and President of these actions.

#### Ministerial Accountability

157 All authorized ministers of the United Church of Christ are active partners in a covenant of mutual accountability with their Association of standing, their Local Church, and, in the case of those serving in settings other than a local church, with their calling body. Such a covenant includes, but is not limited to, mutual support and care, continued discernment of call, and lifelong learning.

158 All authorizations for ordained ministerial standing, for ordained ministerial partner standing, and for commissioned and licensed ministry granted by an Association are subject to oversight by that Association, including periodic consultation and review.

159 The discipline of Ordained Ministers, persons with ordained ministerial partner standing, Commissioned Ministers, and Licensed Ministers is the responsibility of the Association in which their current ecclesiastical authorization is held.

## ARTICLE II. ASSOCIATIONS AND CONFERENCES

### Associations

160 An Association elects officers and elects or appoints such committees as it deems necessary for the transaction of its business and the correlation of its work with that of the Conference and the General Synod.

161 An Association determines its own method for securing financial support.

162 An Association is concerned with the welfare of all Local Churches within its boundaries.

163 An Association seeks ways and means to assist Local Churches when they are undergoing unusual difficulties requiring help beyond their own resources.

164 An Association offers encouragement, guidance, and assistance in the organization of new Local Churches.

165 An Association, with the counsel of the Conference, receives Local Churches into the United Church of Christ.

166 An Association covenants with members of the United Church of Christ within that Association as together they discern God's call to authorized ministry and prepare for ordination, commissioning or licensing.

167 An Association ordains, commissions, and licenses qualified candidates; grants standing as a covenantal relationship with ordained ministers, licensed ministers, commissioned ministers, and persons with ordained ministerial partner standing; certifies to, transfers, and terminates ordained ministerial standing, ordained ministerial partner standing, commissioned ministerial standing and licenses; installs Ordained Ministers and

persons with ordained ministerial partner standing; covenants with licensed ministers, commissioned ministers, and the local churches to which they are called; grants privilege of call and leaves of absence; reviews and disciplines Ordained, Commissioned, and Licensed Ministers and persons with ordained ministerial partner standing; and verifies that an Ordained Ministerial Partner has demonstrated knowledge of, and appreciation for, the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ.

168 An Association receives and acts upon business referred to it by its Local Churches, its Conference, the General Synod, and other bodies.

169 An Association may petition and overture its Conference or the General Synod.

#### Conferences

170 A Conference elects officers and elects or appoints such committees as it deems necessary for the transaction of its business and the correlation of its work with that of the General Synod.

171 A Conference employs such salaried personnel as its program may require.

172 A Conference receives and acts upon business, requests, counsel, and references from Local Churches, Associations, the General Synod, and other bodies.

173 A Conference provides names to the General Synod Nominating Committee as requested.

174 A Conference may petition and overture the General Synod.

175 A Conference chooses delegates and alternate delegates to the General Synod in accordance with the Constitution of the United Church of Christ and these Bylaws.

176 A Conference receives from the Local Churches contributions for Our Church's Wider Mission and keeps detailed record of the same.

177 A Conference consults on a regular basis with the General Minister and President, or his or her designee, acting on behalf of the General Synod, to reach mutual agreement upon the percentage, or the dollar amount, of the undesignated gifts for Our Church's Wider Mission to be retained for its own support.

178 Upon the basis of the agreed upon percentage, or dollar amount, the Conference each month retains the amount necessary for its own support and forwards the balance to the treasury office of the national setting.

179 A Conference, in the interest of the Local Churches, discharges those duties and provides those services which will strengthen the witness of the United Church of Christ, such as:

- a) Coordinating the work and witness of the Local Churches and Associations;
- b) Rendering counsel to Local Churches and ministers in situations calling for help beyond their own resources;
- c) Rendering an advisory service to Local Churches and to ministers with reference to pastoral placement;
- d) Establishing and maintaining Conference offices, Conference centers, institutions, and other agencies needful to its growth and welfare;
- e) Sponsoring in-service training for ministers; and
- f) Conducting conferences, retreats, clinics, and workshops.

180 A Conference maintains ecumenical and interfaith relations within its boundaries with other Christian fellowships to the end that mutual understanding and cooperation may be advanced.

## ARTICLE III. GENERAL SYNOD

### Meetings of the General Synod

181 Regular meetings of the General Synod shall be held biennially.

182 Special meetings of the General Synod may be called by resolution of the General Synod, by the United Church of Christ Board, or upon receipt of a petition from at least seven Conferences. A special meeting so petitioned shall be convened not earlier than sixty days nor later than one hundred and twenty days after the petition is received by the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. The petition and the call for a special meeting shall contain a statement of the purpose of the meeting. In any special meeting only such business may be transacted as is specified in the call.

183 The time and place of all meetings of the General Synod shall be determined by the United Church of Christ Board unless otherwise directed by the General Synod.

184 The call for any meeting of the General Synod shall be signed by the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. Such call shall be issued at least six months prior to a regular meeting and at least forty-five days prior to a special meeting of the General Synod. All calls shall be sent to the Conferences and the Covenanted, Affiliated, and Associated Ministries, and notice of these calls shall be transmitted to the Local Churches.

185 All proceedings of the General Synod shall, unless otherwise provided for, be governed by the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, as amended.

186 Expenses of General Synod delegates, including travel expenses for meetings of the General Synod, shall be the responsibility of the sending groups, except expenses of Conference voting delegates as negotiated with the Conferences shall be borne by the General Synod.

### Membership of the General Synod

187 The membership of the General Synod shall consist of voting delegates and associate delegates. Visitors shall be welcome.

188 **Voting Delegates** Voting delegates shall consist of Conference delegates, all members of the United Church of Christ Board, delegates named by the Historically Underrepresented Groups, and the Officers of the United Church of Christ, as these are hereinafter defined. Each voting delegate to General Synod shall be entitled to a single vote at the General Synod.

189 **Conference Delegates** The number of Conference delegates shall be allocated to each Conference by the United Church of Christ Board on the basis of the number of persons who have membership in the Local Churches of the Conference. There shall not, however, be fewer than three delegates allocated to any Conference. The total number of Conference delegates in any biennium shall not be fewer than 675 nor more than 725. Delegates and alternate delegates shall be chosen by each Conference from among its authorized ministers in full standing and persons with ordained ministerial partner standing and the members of its Local Churches. Conferences may initiate and consider nominations from the Associations. From each Conference, except in Conferences having three delegates, (a) lay persons shall constitute at least fifty percent of the delegates and (b) the delegation shall reflect the United Church of Christ's commitment to affirmative action; it shall be representative of racial and ethnic persons (Blacks, Hispanics, American Indians, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders), women and youth and young adults (at least twenty percent of each delegation shall be under 30 years of age at the

time of the commencing of their terms, and where possible, be represented equally by (1) youth, persons of high school age; and (2) young adults, persons graduated from high school or over 19 years of age). In Conferences with three delegates the above requirements for representation are recommended but shall not be mandatory. Despite any lack of exact compliance with these requirements, actions of a General Synod which is constituted in substantial compliance with these representation requirements, as determined by the United Church of Christ Board, shall be valid.

190 The term of Conference delegates, other than any elected to fill unexpired terms, shall begin at the opening of the next regular meeting of the General Synod following their election and shall continue for a period of four years, terminating at the opening of the third regular meeting of the General Synod following such election; provided, however, that each Conference delegation shall be divided into two classes with terms expiring in alternate bienniums. When the number in one class from a given Conference exceeds the number in the other class by more than one, the Conference shall at the earliest possible opportunity make use of a two-year term for one delegate or fill any delegate vacancy that may occur in such a way as to equalize the two classes. No delegate who has served a second consecutive four-year term shall again be elected until after at least two years have elapsed. Delegates shall be members of all regular and special meetings of the General Synod which are held during their term of office unless they have become separated from the Conference which elected them.

191 **United Church of Christ Board Delegates** The members of the United Church of Christ Board shall be voting delegates at the General Synod, and their terms shall be concurrent with their terms as members of the United Church of Christ Board.

192 **Historically Underrepresented Groups Delegates** There shall be thirty-two (32) Historically Underrepresented Groups delegates, four (4) from each of the Historically Underrepresented Groups: Council for American Indian Ministry; Council for Hispanic Ministries; Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice; Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries; United Black Christians; UCC Disabilities Ministries; Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries; and United Church of Christ Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns. The term of Historically Underrepresented Groups delegates, other than any elected to fill unexpired terms, shall begin at the opening of the next regular meeting of the General Synod following their election and shall continue for a period of four years, terminating at the opening of the third regular meeting of the General Synod following such election. No delegate who has served a second consecutive four-year term shall again be elected until after at least two years have elapsed.

193 **Officers of the Church** The General Minister and President, Executive Minister for Local Church Ministries, Executive Minister for Justice and Witness Ministries, and Executive Minister for Wider Church Ministries shall be voting delegates at the General Synod.

194 **Associate Delegates** Unless otherwise serving as a voting delegate to General Synod, the chairperson of the governing body and the principal minister(s) or executive(s) of each Conference; the chairperson of each Task Force created by the General Synod not otherwise represented on the United Church of Christ Board; the chairperson of each General Synod standing committee; a representative of the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ); and one representative of each of the seminaries of the

United Church of Christ not otherwise represented, chosen by the seminary, shall be Associate Delegates, with voice but without vote.

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

#### Moderators of the General Synod

**196** The Moderator shall be elected by the General Synod. The office of Moderator shall be filled alternately by lay persons and authorized ministers or persons with ordained ministerial partner standing. The Moderator shall take office upon the adjournment of the regular meeting at which he or she is elected and shall hold office through the next regular meeting or until a successor has been qualified and installed.

**197** The Moderator shall preside at the sessions of the General Synod.

**198** There shall be elected an Assistant Moderator of the General Synod to assist the Moderator in presiding at sessions of the General Synod. The Assistant Moderator shall take office upon adjournment of the regular meeting at which he or she was elected and shall hold office through the next regular meeting. The Assistant Moderator will be eligible for nomination and election to the position of Moderator, upon completion of the term of Assistant Moderator.

**199** The Moderator and Assistant Moderator shall include an authorized minister or a person with ordained ministerial partner standing and a layperson, and shall reflect the diversity to which the United Church of Christ is committed.

#### Committees of the General Synod

**200** The General Synod shall have such Committees as it may deem necessary, including but not limited to those named hereafter.

**201 Nominating Committee** The Nominating Committee shall consist of 16 members elected by the General Synod as follows:

a) Ten members will be elected from a pool of nominees provided by the Conferences, as follows: At least nine months before each regular meeting of the General Synod, the United Church of Christ Board shall invite each Conference not currently represented on the Nominating Committee to submit the name of an authorized minister or a person with ordained ministerial partner standing and the name of a layperson for possible membership on the Nominating Committee as an at-large member. The United Church of Christ Board shall submit these names to the General Synod. Not more than one of the at-large members of the Nominating Committee shall be from any one Conference.

Notwithstanding this requirement, if a member of the Nominating Committee moves to a Conference from which there is another member of the Committee currently serving, the member moving to the Conference currently served by another member shall continue to serve as a member of the Nominating Committee until the end of the biennium. The position on the Nominating Committee held by the member who moved becomes vacant at the end of the biennium during which the above change in Conference occurs.

b) Four members will be elected from a pool of nominees provided by the following groups: the Council for American Indian Ministry; the Council for Hispanic Ministries;

Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice; Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries; United Black Christians; the United Church of Christ Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns; UCC Disabilities Ministries; and the Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries. At least nine months before each regular meeting of the General Synod, the United Church of Christ Board shall invite each of the eight groups not currently represented on the Nominating Committee to submit the names of an authorized minister or a person with ordained ministerial partner standing and a layperson for possible membership on the Nominating Committee. The United Church of Christ Board shall submit to the General Synod for election the number of names needed to maintain four members from these groups on the Nominating Committee. Two members will be an authorized minister or a person with ordained ministerial partner standing and two members will be laypersons. The Conference affiliations of the representatives from these groups will not affect the determination of the Conference affiliation of the at-large members

electd in accordance with paragraph 201a.

c) Two members will be elected from among the members of the United Church of Christ Board.

d) The diversity of the Nominating Committee shall reflect the diversity of the United Church of Christ Board, as set forth in paragraph 223.

e) A member of the Nominating Committee who has served a full term shall not be eligible for re-election until a biennium has elapsed. Terms of members shall begin at the close of the General Synod at which the members have been elected and continue to the close of the third regular General Synod after their election. The Chairperson of the Nominating Committee shall be named by the United Church of Christ Board from the members of the Nominating Committee within six months after each regular meeting of the General Synod.

202 The Nominating Committee of General Synod, prior to the call for nominations, reviews the make-up of the continuing membership of the United Church of Christ Board and determines the needed nominations. In its call for suggestions of names, the Nominating Committee will indicate the criteria consistent with the provisions of these Bylaws which will be used for filling positions on the United Church of Christ Board. Each Conference or group to be represented shall provide at least two names for each of the positions.

203 The Nominating Committee shall make all nominations for election by the General Synod for which the Constitution and Bylaws do not otherwise provide. The Nominating Committee shall consider, but not be limited to, such attributes as candidates' leadership, a wide range of life experience and background including socio-economic, cultural competency, financial knowledge, fund raising experience, community building skills, commitment to justice, and understanding of good governance. The Nominating Committee shall maintain records of suggested nominees and their qualifications.

204 The Nominating Committee is responsible for ensuring that the membership of the United Church of Christ Board embodies the commitment of the United Church of Christ to diversity and balance, both in its overall composition and in its internal segments. In order to achieve this end, the Nominating Committee may, if necessary, approach any group submitting and/or recommending names with the request that they assist in that task by presenting additional names.

205 When selecting candidates for offices, the Nominating Committee shall consider all names submitted.

206 The Nominating Committee shall submit its report to the General Synod at least twenty-four hours before the elections are scheduled to take place, unless the General Synod, by a three-fourths vote, consents to an earlier election.

207 **Credentials Committee** The Credentials Committee shall consist of ten delegates to the General Synod, five of whom shall come from each of the two classes of General Synod delegates. At least three months before each regular meeting of the General Synod the United Church of Christ Board shall appoint five members from the latest class of delegates and shall designate one of the ten members of the Committee as chairperson. Terms of members shall be for four years, beginning with their appointment and terminating with the appointment of their successors. The Credentials Committee will review the composition of the Conference Delegations for compliance with the composition requirements of paragraph 189 and is empowered to request changes in membership to Conference Delegations so that said delegations and the Delegation as a Whole will be in compliance with the provisions of paragraph 189.

208 **Budget Committee, Business Committee, and Committee of Reference**

The Budget Committee, the Business Committee, and the Committee of Reference at each regular and special meeting of the General Synod shall be the United Church of Christ Board or persons designated by the United Church of Christ Board from its own membership. The role and scope of the Budget Committee, Business Committee and the Committee of Reference shall be determined by the United Church of Christ Board under authority of paragraphs 227-232.

**Officers of the Church and of the General Synod**

209 The General Synod shall call by election, from among the members of the United Church of Christ, the following Officers of the United Church of Christ who shall also be members of the Collegium of Officers, the Mission Planning Council, the United Church of Christ Board, and General Synod: General Minister and President, Executive Minister for Local Church Ministries, Executive Minister for Justice and Witness Ministries, and Executive Minister for Wider Church Ministries.

210 Every Officer of the United Church of Christ serves at the will of the General Synod, and may be terminated as an Officer of the United Church of Christ by the United Church of Christ Board acting as the General Synod ad interim in accordance with the United Church of Christ Board's procedures. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if an Officer of the United Church of Christ is also the Executive Minister of a Covenanted Ministry, the United Church of Christ Board acting as the General Synod ad interim may terminate such Executive Minister as an Officer of the Church, only after consultation with the Board of Directors of such Covenanted Ministry. Responsibility for the termination of an Executive Minister as executive officer of a Covenanted Ministry rests with the Board of Directors of that Covenanted Ministry.

211 The term of each Officer of the United Church of Christ shall be four years, not to exceed three terms, and shall commence within ninety days following call by election by the General Synod. Officers shall hold office until their successors have been elected and qualified and have assumed the duties of their office. Officers may be reelected, but not more than twice, in accordance with the rules and procedures of their respective Covenanted Ministries, subject to the call by election of the General Synod.

## General Minister and President

212 The General Minister and President, who shall be an Ordained Minister of the United Church of Christ or a person with ordained ministerial partner standing, is called to ministry in and on behalf of the United Church of Christ upon election by the General Synod.

### a) Spiritual Leader of the Church:

The General Minister and President is the spiritual leader and pastor of the Church, charged with the care and nurture of the spiritual life of the Church. The General Minister and President is responsible for the unity and well-being of the Church, and for nurturing its covenantal life and ecumenical and interfaith relationships, and facilitating the visioning, planning, coordination and implementation of the total mission of the United Church of Christ.

### b) Theological Interpreter:

The General Minister and President is the principal leader in interpreting the theological perspectives and values of the United Church of Christ as guided by the General Synod and in consultation with the Collegium. The General Minister and President is the chief representative of the United Church of Christ in the public square and at ecumenical, interdenominational and interfaith tables.

### c) Convener:

The General Minister and President will convene and preside at the meetings of the Collegium. She or he is responsible for coordinated communication, fund raising and planning in collaboration with the Executive Ministers. She or he is a member of the Mission Planning Council.

### d) Chief Executive Officer:

The General Minister and President is the Chief Executive Officer of the General Synod and is its principal spokesperson. The General Minister and President serves as the corporate President of the United Church of Christ Board, each of the Covenanted Ministries, the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ, and all other corporations related to the Covenanted Ministries. The General Minister and President oversees the administration of the national setting offices.

The General Minister and President serves as an ex-officio member of the United Church of Christ Board and accordingly as a member of the Board of Directors of each Covenanted Ministry. The General Minister and President serves as an ex-officio member in all meetings of the Affiliated and Associated Ministries. The General Minister and President shall serve as an ex-officio member, with voice, but not vote, in the meetings of all Commissions, Councils, and Committees of the United Church of Christ, except as otherwise provided in the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ; except that he or she shall not participate in the work of the Search Committee for the General Minister and President. The General Minister and President shall be the official representative of the Church in ecumenical, interdenominational, and interfaith relations. The General Minister and President may appoint a representative for such occasions as he or she deems advisable.

213 The General Minister and President is accountable to the General Synod and the United Church of Christ Board, acting as General Synod ad interim.

214 The candidate for the position of General Minister and President is nominated for an initial term by a search committee of the United Church of Christ, broadly representative

of the Church, and appointed by the United Church of Christ Board. The search committee includes one Executive Minister of a Covenanted Ministry selected by the Collegium of Officers; at least one Conference Minister named by the Council of Conference Ministers; one representative of the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries to be selected from the COREM members on the United Church of Christ Board, each with voice and vote. At least one member shall be a youth or young adult. The affirmative action commitment of the Church is to be fully respected in the search process and diversity maintained in the membership of the Collegium of Officers. The candidate chosen by the search committee is confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the United Church of Christ Board 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. An affirmative vote of at least sixty percent of the General Synod is necessary for election and call. The General Minister and President does not participate in the work of the search committee choosing a successor. She or he is evaluated regularly through a process approved by the United Church of Christ Board. The evaluation process includes an Executive Minister of a Covenanted Ministry on a rotating basis. In the event that the General Minister and President is unable to discharge the responsibilities of that Office, or if there is a vacancy in that Office, the United Church of Christ Board shall name one of the Executive Ministers to serve as Acting General Minister and President until the General Minister and President returns to service or is replaced by a successor elected by the General Synod after a search process.

Executive Ministers of Justice and Witness Ministries, Local Church Ministries, and Wider Church Ministries

215 Each Executive Minister is the principal minister and chief executive officer of one of the Covenanted Ministries and is responsible for guiding and leading that Ministry's activities under the direction of its Board of Directors and as may be prescribed in the articles of incorporation, rules, and bylaws of that Covenanted Ministry. The Executive Minister may be a lay person, an authorized minister, or a person with ordained ministerial partner standing. Each Executive Minister serves as an ex-officio member of the United Church of Christ Board and accordingly as a member of the Board of Directors of each Covenanted Ministry.

216 Each Executive Minister will oversee the programmatic work of a Covenanted Ministry, which shall be carried out in accordance with the policies, planning, and broad oversight of the United Church of Christ Board as provided in these Bylaws. With the General Minister and President, each Executive Minister will be involved in the overall functions of the national setting, including visioning and planning, communications, development and management of budgets, development and leadership of staff, and implementation of policies adopted by the General Synod and the United Church of Christ Board.

217 Each Executive Minister will be accountable to the General Synod through the United Church of Christ Board. Each Executive Minister serves at the will of the Board of Directors of the Covenanted Ministry to which she or he is accountable and may be terminated as an Executive Minister by that body in accordance with its procedures after consultation with the United Church of Christ Board, acting as General Synod ad interim.

218 As an Officer of the Church, each Executive Minister is a member of the Collegium of Officers and the Mission Planning Council.

219 Each Executive Minister is to be nominated for an initial term by a search committee of the United Church of Christ broadly representative of the Church, appointed by and from the Board of Directors of the Covenanted Ministry to which she or he is accountable. The search committee shall include the General Minister and President; one Conference Minister, named by the Council of Conference Ministers; and one representative of the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries to be selected from the COREM members on the Board of Directors, each with voice and vote. At least one member shall be a youth or young adult. The affirmative action commitment of the Church is to be fully respected in the search process and diversity maintained in the membership of the Collegium of Officers. The candidate 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. An affirmative vote of at least sixty percent of the General Synod is necessary for the call by election. An Executive Minister does not participate in the work of the search committee choosing a successor. The Executive Minister is evaluated regularly by a process approved by the appropriate Board of Directors. The evaluation process shall include the General Minister and President, with voice and vote. Terms of office shall begin within ninety days following their election. An Executive Minister shall hold office until her or his successor has been elected and qualified and has assumed the duties of the Office.

220 In the event that an Executive Minister is unable to discharge the responsibilities of that position, or if there is a vacancy in the office, the Board of Directors of that Covenanted Ministry, in consultation with the General Minister and President, shall appoint an Acting Executive Minister according to the rules and procedures of each Covenanted Ministry. Said Board of Directors shall recommend its Acting Executive Minister to the United Church of Christ Board acting as General Synod ad interim for appointment as an Acting Officer of the Church. An Acting Executive Minister shall serve until the Executive Minister returns to service, or is replaced by a successor called by election by the General Synod.

#### United Church of Christ Board

221 The United Church of Christ Board continues the work of, and acts as agent for, predecessor bodies, and continues other ministries, as specified in paragraph 57 of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ and as described in its articles of incorporation.

222 The United Church of Christ Board shall consist of fifty-two (52) members elected by the General Synod. Thirty-six (36) members shall serve in at-large positions and sixteen (16) members shall be ex-officio members with voice and vote. The composition of the United Church of Christ Board shall embody the commitment of the United Church of Christ to be a multicultural and multiracial Church, reflecting the racial and ethnic diversity of society with a balance of leadership between women and men, open and accessible to all. All members of the United Church of Christ Board shall be voting members, except as legally proscribed and noted below.

223 The thirty-six at-large members, nominated by the General Synod Nominating Committee, and elected by the General Synod as members of the United Church of Christ Board, shall reflect the following composition:

- Fifty percent (50%) or more shall be persons of color.

- Fifty percent (50%) or more shall be women.
  - One third (1/3) shall be authorized ministers or persons with ordained ministerial partner standing.
  - One third (1/3) shall be laymen.
  - One third (1/3) shall be laywomen.
  - Twenty percent (20%) shall be under thirty (30) years of age at the time of election. To the extent possible, the under 30 years of age members shall include both youth of high school age and young adults. All such members shall be voting members except as legally proscribed.
  - At least one (1) member shall be a person who self-identifies as having a disability.
  - At least one (1) member shall be a person who self-identifies as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender.
- a) At-large members shall serve one term of six years, which shall commence at the close of the General Synod at which the person is elected and qualified and shall terminate at the close of the General Synod in which a successor is elected and qualified. At-large members shall be divided into three classes of twelve members each, with a class of twelve members being elected at each General Synod. No at-large member who has served more than one-half of a full term shall be nominated to serve again until at least two years have elapsed. Nominations for the at-large positions shall be solicited from all entities and organizations within the United Church of Christ. There shall not be more than three at-large members from any one Conference at the time of an individual's election.
- b) In the initial election of at-large members by the Twenty-ninth General Synod, twelve (12) at-large members shall be elected for a term of two (2) years, to include two (2) members to be elected from among the last serving members prior to the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the Executive Council and each of the Boards of Directors of Office of General Ministries, Local Church Ministries, Wider Church Ministries, and Justice and Witness Ministries, and two (2) members to be elected from among the Historically Under-Represented Groups. Twelve (12) at-large members shall be elected for one term of four (4) years, and twelve (12) at-large members shall be elected for one term of six (6) years.
- c) The General Synod Nominating Committee nominates these persons after submission of names, according to the procedures established in ¶¶202–206 of these Bylaws, and criteria determined by the Nominating Committee. In order to fulfill its responsibilities to ensure that the membership of the United Church of Christ Board reflects the diversity to which the United Church of Christ is committed, the Nominating Committee may ask for additional names to be submitted.
- 224 Ex-Officio members of the United Church of Christ Board with voice and vote, affirmed by vote of the General Synod, shall include:
- a) The Officers of the United Church of Christ.
- b) The Moderator and the Assistant Moderator of the General Synod.
- c) One member designated by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to serve a term of two years. Any such member shall be eligible to serve up to two additional terms and not to exceed three terms.
- d) Six (6) 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. If any such member ceases during his or her term of office on the United Church of Christ Board to be the principal minister of a Conference within the Region from which said member was elected, a vacancy shall be thereby created to be filled by election by the Council of Conference Ministers.

e) The Executive of the United Church Funds, Inc.

f) The Executive of The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ

g) The Executive of the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

225 Although members of the United Church of Christ Board may be nominated or selected by particular groups, each member serves on behalf of, and bears responsibility for, the well-being of the whole Church.

226 The United Church of Christ Board shall elect, from its members who are elected by General Synod, a chairperson and a vice-chairperson according to its own Standing Rules.

#### Responsibilities of the United Church of Christ Board

227 The United Church of Christ Board shall act for the General Synod ad interim, and, in cooperation with the Collegium of Officers, shall provide coordination and evaluation of the work of the Church and shall carry out such other responsibilities as may be from time to time delegated to it by the General Synod or as provided for in these Bylaws or the Constitution.

a) The United Church of Christ Board shall be responsible for strategic planning and policymaking. The Ministry Committees and the Committees of the United Church of Christ Board shall make recommendations to the members of the United Church of Christ Board for strategic planning, policymaking and oversight purposes. Under the leadership of the Executive Ministers, the United Church of Christ Board's Ministry Committees shall make recommendations to the members of the United Church of Christ Board regarding the programmatic work of the Covenanted Ministries. As provided in paragraph 243e, the United Church of Christ Board shall receive recommendations regarding the annual draw rate on invested funds that may be used to carry out the mission entrusted to the Covenanted Ministries. As provided in paragraph 243e, recommendations as to the annual draw rate and as to the allocation of the annual dollar amounts resulting from the application of the annual draw rate to each of the restricted endowment funds and to each of the historic donor intended uses of each of the unrestricted endowment funds referred to in paragraph 243f shall not be modified by the United Church of Christ Board except upon two affirmative votes, each of not less than eighty five percent (85%) of the members present of the full Board at one or more meetings of the full Board with not less than twelve (12) hours between the two affirmative votes in order to ensure adequate discernment by the full Board.

b) The United Church of Christ Board is responsible for policies relating to the mission of the United Church of Christ in its national setting. It shall support the on-going work of the General Synod through its various ministries, planning for and encouraging cooperation among those ministries, with Local Churches, Associations, and Conferences, and with other expressions of the Church which contribute to and embody God's mission in Jesus Christ. It shall support the spiritual and financial health of the Church, and shall ensure the presence and implementation of policies which contribute to the health of the Covenanted Ministries in relationship with one another and their accountability to General Synod. It shall receive reports from the Collegium of Officers

and provide oversight and support for the work of that body. It shall facilitate the business of General Synod and assume such other tasks as may be assigned to it by the General Synod. It shall be a focal point for decision-making, overall planning and evaluation, and budgeting in the national setting. It shall receive and report upon divergent points of view and maintain an open channel for the consideration of minority or dissenting opinion. It shall submit a report of its work to the General Synod at each regular meeting. In cooperation with the Covenanted, Affiliated, and Associated Ministries it shall make an annual informational report to the Local Churches and the Conferences about the total program of the Church in the national setting.

228 Vacancies occurring in offices, commissions, or committees of the General Synod, or in the membership of the United Church of Christ Board, shall, unless otherwise provided, be filled by the United Church of Christ Board acting as the General Synod ad interim, such actions to be reported to the next General Synod.

229 The United Church of Christ Board shall make such elections, nominations or appointments as these Bylaws or action of the General Synod may require.

230 Acting as the Budget Committee for the General Synod, the United Church of Christ Board shall determine the allocation of funds from Our Church's Wider Mission. The United Church of Christ Board, acting as the Budget Committee, shall also receive and review the past and projected use of OCWM funds allocated to each Covenanted Ministry and recommend the OCWM threshold amount for the biennium.

231 The United Church of Christ Board shall be an incorporated body in order to ensure that it may effectively and expeditiously perform all legal functions of the General Synod and all of its other functions as provided for in the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ. The membership of the Corporation shall consist of those persons described in paragraphs 222-224 of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, who shall be elected or affirmed in the manner therein provided and who shall have the right to vote only to the extent granted by such paragraphs. Those members shall also be the Directors of the Corporation. The Corporation shall have such officers as required by law and as provided in these Bylaws. The Corporation may adopt for its government and the management of its affairs bylaws and rules not inconsistent with its Articles of Incorporation nor with the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and regulations of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

232 The United Church of Christ Board shall serve as the Business Committee and Committee of Reference of the General Synod during its sessions, and as such shall prepare the agenda and schedule for all meetings of the General Synod, recommend changes therein during sessions, and appoint committees not otherwise provided.

#### Administration of the National Setting Offices

233 The General Minister and President shall oversee the administration of the national setting offices. The General Minister and President is responsible for selecting a Chief Administrative Officer and a Chief Financial Officer in consultation with the Collegium. Both the Chief Administrative Officer and the Chief Financial Officer shall report directly to the General Minister and President, who is accountable to the United Church of Christ Board.

234 The Chief Administrative Officer will have day-to-day responsibility for the overall administrative work of the national setting offices. The Chief Administrative Officer shall serve as the corporate Secretary of the United Church of Christ Board, each of the

Covenanted Ministries, the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ, and all other corporations within the national setting.

235 The Chief Financial Officer will oversee the financial functions of the national setting offices. The Chief Financial Officer shall serve as the corporate Treasurer of the United Church of Christ Board, each of the Covenanted Ministries, the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ, and all other corporations related to the Covenanted Ministries. The customary responsibilities and functions of a corporate secretary and treasurer of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ shall be assigned to the Chief Administrative Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, respectively.

#### Ministry Committees

236 The United Church of Christ Board membership shall divide itself into three Ministry Committees: Local Church, Justice and Witness, and Wider Church. Each Ministry Committee shall make recommendations to the members of the United Church of Christ Board regarding the program functions of the Covenanted Ministry for which it is named. The Ministry Committees will honor the diversity of commitments of the United Church of Christ and work in covenant with each other. To the extent possible while still maintaining diversity and expertise needed on the Ministry Committees, each United Church of Christ Board member will be assigned to a Ministry Committee based on that individual's experience, expertise, personal passion and spiritual calling. For the Wider Church Ministry Committee, individuals also will be considered based on the role that they may serve as members of the Common Global Ministries Board, the mission partnership between the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The composition of each Ministry Committee shall embody the commitment of the United Church of Christ to a multicultural and multiracial Church, with a balance of leadership between women and men, open and accessible to all. Each Ministry Committee will elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson, subject to the requirement that at least one of these positions must be held by a person of color in each Ministry Committee.

#### Committees of the United Church of Christ Board

237 The United Church of Christ Board shall have such other Committees as it may deem necessary, including but not limited to those named hereafter, and each may draw on expertise beyond the Board if necessary.

#### Executive Committee

238 The Executive Committee shall consist of twelve (12) members of the United Church of Christ Board, as follows:

- a) Chairperson and vice-chairperson of the United Church of Christ Board
- b) One representative from each of the three Ministry Committees of the United Church of Christ Board
- c) The Officers of the United Church of Christ
- d) One Conference Minister
- e) One member of the Finance and Budget Committee
- f) One additional member

239 The Executive Committee shall have the responsibility to ensure that visioning and strategic planning be done on behalf of the national setting of the Church. It will lead the United Church of Christ Board in developing and articulating comprehensive and

integrated strategies and goals for the national setting. The Executive Committee will facilitate the United Church of Christ Board's identification of concerns and ideas related to communications, identity, fundraising, fund development, strategic planning, evangelism, and other critical issues for the life of the whole Church. The decision-making power and authority of the Executive Committee shall be governed by the standing rules of the United Church of Christ Board.

#### Finance and Budget Committee

240 The Finance and Budget Committee shall consist of up to twelve (12) members of the United Church of Christ Board, including:

- a) Chairperson or vice-chairperson of the United Church of Christ Board
- b) Two representatives with financial expertise from each of the Ministry Committees of the United Church of Christ Board
- c) General Minister and President

241 The duties and responsibilities of the Committee include:

- a) Reviewing the annual available resources and being responsible for financial planning.
- b) Reviewing the proposed Annual Budget recommended by the Collegium in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer and other key staff and mission partners, such as Common Global Ministries.
- c) Recommending the Annual Budget to the United Church of Christ Board.
- d) Receiving and reviewing regular financial reports.

#### Investment and Endowment Committee

242 The Investment and Endowment Committee shall consist of up to fourteen (14) members and shall be members of the United Church of Christ Board (except as noted below), including:

- a) Two (2) representatives from each of the Ministry Committees of the United Church of Christ Board, selected by each Committee
- b) The Officers of the United Church of Christ
- c) The Executive of the United Church Funds, Inc., with voice but without vote
- d) The United Church of Christ Board, by vote of its membership, may add up to three individuals with legal and/or investment expertise who are not members of the United Church of Christ Board but are members of the United Church of Christ.

243 The duties and responsibilities of the Committee include:

- a) Assuring that the legacy/historic restrictions on the use of restricted funds and the intended use restrictions of the unrestricted funds of each of the historic ministries are monitored, accounted for, maintained and reported to the United Church of Christ Board annually. The Committee shall monitor and oversee the allocation of both restricted and unrestricted funds to ensure that they will be allocated based on donor intent, whenever that can be determined and to provide the full Board an overview of all funds in order to encourage the most effective collaborative and holistic use of those funds to meet the missional needs of the Church.
- b) Recommending to the United Church of Christ Board investment policies including investment screens that reflect the commitment of the United Church of Christ to corporate social responsibility.
- c) Managing the investment of the endowed funds and other assets including real property in accordance with investment policies approved by the United Church of Christ Board.

- d) Monitoring and reporting on the management of invested funds to the United Church of Christ Board.
- e) Recommending to the United Church of Christ Board the annual draw rate on invested funds that may be used to carry out the mission entrusted to the Covenanted Ministries. Recommendations as to the annual draw rate and as to the allocation of the annual dollar amounts resulting from the application of the annual draw rate to each of the restricted endowment funds and to each of the historic donor intended uses of each of the unrestricted endowment funds referred to in paragraph 243f shall not be modified by the United Church of Christ Board except upon two affirmative votes, each of not less than eighty-five percent (85%) of the members present of the full Board at one or more meetings of the full Board with not less than twelve (12) hours between the two affirmative votes in order to ensure adequate discernment by the full Board.
- f) Reviewing, monitoring and recommending to the United Church of Christ Board the allocation of the annual dollar amounts resulting from the application of the spending rate to each of the restricted endowment funds and to each of the historic donor intended uses of each of the unrestricted endowment funds.
- g) Providing Board representation to the Investment Committee of the United Church Funds, Inc.

#### **Audit Committee**

244 The Audit Committee shall consist of such members as determined by the United Church of Christ Board, provided that members of the Board must comprise a majority of the members of the Audit Committee. The United Church of Christ Board, by vote of its membership, may include on the Audit Committee individuals with legal and/or financial expertise who are not members of the United Church of Christ Board but are members of the United Church of Christ. All Committee members shall be voting members.

245 The duties and responsibilities of the Committee include:

- a) Selecting the audit firm to perform the annual financial audit.
- b) Receiving and reviewing the audit report from the auditors and reporting to the United Church of Christ Board.

246 **Regions.** The United Church of Christ Board shall make an appropriate assignment of the several Conferences into Regions. The Regions as thus determined shall form the basis for Conference representation on national bodies wherever required by the Bylaws.

#### **Organization of the United Church of Christ Board**

247 The United Church of Christ Board shall organize itself as it deems necessary to carry out its responsibilities and fulfill its mandates.

#### **Advisory Commissions**

248 The United Church of Christ Board may provide for special advisory commissions on subjects of pervasive interest to the entire Church on which the United Church of Christ Board and/or the General Minister and President need policy or substantive advice. Members of such commissions shall be appointed by the United Church of Christ Board and shall include at least one member of the United Church of Christ Board. The chairperson shall be designated by the chairperson of the United Church of Christ Board.

249 **Common Services** In covenant with the Covenanted Ministries, the United Church of Christ Board, through and by the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ, shall provide for common services, including, but not limited to, common treasury services, accounting services, personnel services, logistical services, information

services and office support services. It shall also provide for a common salary program and shall provide common personnel policies.

250 Each Covenanted Ministry shall use the aforementioned common services, program and policies whenever legally permissible and otherwise appropriate, all as determined by its own Board of Directors.

251 A nonprofit corporation shall be formed for the purpose of providing the above-described common services. The corporation, to be named the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ, shall be governed by its articles of incorporation, rules, and bylaws, and the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ. The General Minister and President shall be the principal executive and the Chief Administrative Officer shall be the operational executive of the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ. The number of directors of the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ shall be nine, consisting of:

- i. Two representatives of, and selected by, Local Church Ministries;
- ii. Two representatives of, and selected by, Justice and Witness Ministries;
- iii. Two representatives of, and selected by, Wider Church Ministries;
- iv. General Minister and President;
- v. Chief Administrative Officer; and
- vi. Chief Financial Officer

The directors of the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ shall be the members of the corporation. The Board of Directors shall appoint such committees, with such responsibilities, as it deems necessary to carry out its work. The corporate officers of the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ shall be the following:

- (i) General Minister and President, who as President of this corporation shall be accountable to the Board of Directors;
- (ii) Chief Administrative Officer, who as Secretary of this corporation shall report to the General Minister and President;
- (iii) Chief Financial Officer, who as Treasurer of this corporation shall report to the General Minister and President.

252 Policy decisions related to the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ shall be the responsibility of the Board of Directors of the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ.

#### ARTICLE IV. ORGANIZATION

253 The work of the United Church of Christ and its General Synod shall be carried out by the United Church of Christ Board, the Covenanted, Affiliated, Associated Ministries, Councils, and other such bodies as may from time to time be created by, or related to, the General Synod or the United Church of Christ Board.

#### COVENANTED MINISTRIES

254 The Covenanted Ministries are Local Church Ministries, Justice and Witness Ministries, and Wider Church Ministries.

#### LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES

255 Purpose and Mission The purpose and mission of Local Church Ministries shall be to encourage and support the Local Churches of the United Church of Christ in the fulfillment of God's mission. It continues the work of, and acts as agent for, predecessor bodies, and continues other ministries, as specified in paragraph 65 of the Constitution of

the United Church of Christ and as described in its articles of incorporation. The program, administrative, and financial development functions of Local Church Ministries shall be carried out in cooperation with the United Church of Christ Board. Through its Local Church Ministry Committee working with the Executive Minister and its Committees, the United Church of Christ Board shall oversee these functions, which will be coordinated and implemented by staff assigned by the Collegium. Local Church Ministries shall retain responsibility for all legacies and other property received, maintained or held by it, and shall have sole authority to approve any use, expenditure or disposal of its legacies or other property.

256 In overseeing the purpose and mission of Local Church Ministries, the United Church of Christ Board shall encourage local churches to shape their life and mission in partnership with one another, with other expressions of the Church, and with ecumenical and interfaith communities. The United Church of Christ Board will work to promote the vocation of all members, leadership of laity and clergy, and facilitate a system of placement. The United Church of Christ Board will nurture stewards, and will coordinate and promote denomination-wide mission funding. The United Church of Christ Board will work with local churches in striving for the vitality of local churches as inclusive and accessible communities of mission, evangelism, church development, education, unity, worship, nurture, and justice so that the good news of Jesus Christ will be proclaimed in word and deed.

257 The United Church of Christ Board shall work in interactive partnership with Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and national expressions of the Church.

258 Governance and Leadership Pursuant to paragraphs 58–63 of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, Local Church Ministries shall be incorporated and governed by a Board of Directors comprised of the members of the United Church of Christ Board. Its executive officer shall be an Executive Minister, who is also an Officer of the Church, called by election of the General Synod. It shall act pursuant to the provisions as defined in the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, its own articles of incorporation and bylaws, and by the rules of its Board of Directors. The Board of Directors of Local Church Ministries performs the functions normally associated with boards of directors, and such additional tasks necessary to carry out its purposes and mandates, including the formation of associated auxiliary corporations. Pursuant to paragraph 60 of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, it has legal corporate status for the purpose of holding, receiving, and managing unrestricted, restricted, and designated allocated funds, and funds donated to it from all sources. It is responsible for its articles of incorporation and required corporate documents, and establishes its own rules and bylaws. It has responsibility for organizing its ministries in order to carry out its mandates, for providing necessary staffing, and for determining the manner and site(s) of its office(s). The Board of Directors may grant authority to sub-units, ministry teams, or other appropriate entities, to speak and act on its behalf within its own broad policy statements and those of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ. The Board of Directors may form task groups representing a variety of groups of the Church necessary for implementing its mission.

259 Members of the Board of Directors of Local Church Ministries serve on behalf of the whole Church.

## JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES

**260 Purpose and Mission** The purpose and mission of Justice and Witness Ministries shall be to enable and encourage Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and national expressions of the United Church of Christ to engage in God's mission globally by direct action for the integrity of creation, justice, and peace. It continues the work of, and acts as agent for, predecessor bodies, and continues other ministries, as specified in paragraph 66 of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ and as described in its articles of incorporation. The program, administrative, and financial development functions of Justice and Witness Ministries shall be carried out in cooperation with the United Church of Christ Board. Through its Justice and Witness Ministry Committee working with the Executive Minister and its Committees, the United Church of Christ Board shall oversee these functions, which will be coordinated and implemented by staff assigned by the Collegium. Justice and Witness Ministries shall retain responsibility for all legacies and other property received, maintained or held by it, and shall have sole authority to approve any use, expenditure or disposal of its legacies or other property.

**261** In overseeing the purpose and mission of Justice and Witness Ministries, the United Church of Christ Board shall encourage the Church in all of its expressions to speak prophetically on matters of justice, power, and public policy. The United Church of Christ Board shall assist the Church in all of its expressions to confront racism, sexism, ageism, classism, and other expressions of injustice and alienation in the Church and in the society. The United Church of Christ Board shall provide support for the Church's ministry of service on behalf of those who are poor, the forgotten and the oppressed, and for those marginalized by stigma and discrimination because of their sexual orientation or their disabilities, including mental illness. The United Church of Christ Board may provide public witness on behalf of the justice and witness policies of the General Synod.

**262** The United Church of Christ Board shall work in interactive partnership with Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, national expressions of the Church, and with ecumenical and interfaith groups, and community organizations.

**263 Governance and Leadership** Pursuant to paragraphs 58–63 of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries shall be incorporated and governed by a Board of Directors comprised of the members of the United Church of Christ Board. Its executive officer shall be an Executive Minister, who is also an Officer of the Church, called by election of the General Synod. It shall act pursuant to the provisions as defined in the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, its own articles of incorporation and bylaws, and by the rules of its Board of Directors. The Board of Directors of Justice and Witness Ministries performs the functions normally associated with boards of directors, and such additional tasks necessary to carry out its purposes and mandates, including the formation of associated auxiliary corporations. Pursuant to paragraph 60 of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, it has legal corporate status for the purpose of holding, receiving, and managing unrestricted, restricted, and designated allocated funds, and funds donated to it from all sources. It is responsible for its articles of incorporation and required corporate documents, and establishes its own rules and bylaws. It has responsibility for organizing its ministries in order to carry out its mandates, for providing necessary staffing, and for determining the manner and site(s) of its office(s). The Board of Directors may grant authority to sub-units, ministry teams, or other appropriate entities, to speak and act on its behalf within its own broad policy statements and those of the General Synod of the United Church of

Christ. The Board of Directors may form task groups representing a variety of groups of the Church necessary for implementing its mission.

264 Members of the Board of Directors of Justice and Witness Ministries serve on behalf of the whole Church.

#### WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES

265 **Purpose and Mission** The purpose and mission of Wider Church Ministries shall be to encourage and support Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and national expressions of the United Church of Christ to participate in the global, multiracial, multicultural church, accessible to all, and to support United Church of Christ ministries around the world and the nation. It continues the work of, and acts as agent for, predecessor bodies and continues other ministries, as specified in paragraph 67 of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ and as described in its articles of incorporation. The program, administrative, and financial development functions of Wider Church Ministries shall be carried out in cooperation with the United Church of Christ Board. Through its Wider Church Ministry Committee working with the Executive Minister and its Committees, the United Church of Christ Board shall oversee these functions, which will be coordinated and implemented by staff assigned by the Collegium. Wider Church Ministries shall retain responsibility for all legacies and other property received, maintained or held by it, and shall have sole authority to approve any use, expenditure or disposal of its legacies or other property.

266 In overseeing the purpose and mission of Wider Church Ministries, the United Church of Christ Board shall strengthen relationships with partner churches and oversee participation in the Common Global Ministries Board in joint venture with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The United Church of Christ Board shall provide support for institutional ministries in health care, education, disaster relief, and social services in the United States and internationally. It shall also coordinate volunteer ministries in all expressions of the Church. In cooperation with partner churches it shall promote interfaith dialogue and global education and advocacy issues. Through the Common Global Ministries Board, the United Church of Christ Board shall oversee the sending and receiving of missionaries.

267 The United Church of Christ Board shall work in interactive partnership with Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and national expressions of the Church and of the ecumenical and interfaith bodies.

268 **Governance and Leadership** Pursuant to paragraphs 58–63 of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, Wider Church Ministries shall be incorporated and governed by a Board of Directors comprised of the members of the United Church of Christ Board. Its executive officer shall be an Executive Minister, who is also an Officer of the Church, called by election of the General Synod. It shall act pursuant to the provisions as defined in the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, its own articles of incorporation and bylaws, and by the rules of its Board of Directors. The Board of Directors of Wider Church Ministries performs the functions normally associated with boards of directors, and such additional tasks necessary to carry out its purposes and mandates, including the formation of associated auxiliary corporations. Pursuant to paragraph 60 of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, it has legal corporate status for the purpose of holding, receiving, and managing unrestricted, restricted, and designated allocated funds, and funds donated to it from all sources. It is responsible for

its articles of incorporation and required corporate documents, and establishes its own rules and bylaws. It has responsibility for organizing its ministries in order to carry out its mandates, for providing necessary staffing, and for determining the manner and site(s) of its office(s). The Board of Directors may grant authority to sub-units, ministry teams, or other appropriate entities, to speak and act on its behalf within its own broad policy statements and those of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ. The Board of Directors may form task groups representing a variety of groups of the Church necessary for implementing its mission.

269 Members of the Board of Directors of Wider Church Ministries serve on behalf of the whole Church.

#### COLLEGIUM OF OFFICERS

270 The Collegium of Officers, defined in Article IV of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, supports and consults with the United Church of Christ Board and the Covenanted Ministries in carrying out their work in a spirit of coordination and cooperation. It is responsible for providing leadership for mission programming in the United Church of Christ and for the proper implementation of General Synod actions.

Composed of the Officers of the

United Church of Christ meeting as peers, the Collegium of Officers provides a setting for mutual accountability, mutual reporting, and for assessing the on-going programs of the United Church of Christ. The Collegium of Officers coordinates research, long-range planning, and program evaluation. It meets regularly with the Cabinet of the Council of Conference Ministers.

271 The Collegium of Officers is convened by the General Minister and President as the presiding officer and consults with the United Church of Christ Board and the General Synod. It shall consult regularly with the leaders of the Affiliated and Associated Ministries of the United Church of Christ.

#### MISSION PLANNING COUNCIL

272 The Mission Planning Council provides a multi-missional setting which brings together the Officers of the United Church of Christ, and principal staff of the United Church of Christ Board and the Covenanted, Associated, and Affiliated Ministries of the United Church of Christ, for planning coordinated ministries and for visioning and exploring new perspectives over a wide range of mission, theological, ecumenical, spiritual, stewardship, financial, justice, communications, gender, disability, and racial issues and concerns. The Mission Planning Council is responsible for the coordination and correlation of mission and purpose and for maintaining mutual trust, mutual accountability, and the wise use of leadership and talents. It is designed to encourage cooperation and sharing of talents among the Ministries. The Mission Planning Council may invite others to participate, including representatives of Conferences and partner churches, as it deems appropriate. The Collegium of Officers coordinates the tasks, meetings, agendas, and follow-up actions of the Mission Planning Council.

#### AFFILIATED MINISTRY

273 Pursuant to paragraph 68, 70 and 71 of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ is an Affiliated Ministry of the United Church of Christ and serves the Church and its United Church of Christ Board and Covenanted Ministries as a separate corporation.

274 The purpose of The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ is to make available

ministerial welfare activities and a system of employee benefit programs designed to assist authorized ministers and lay workers in achieving financial security during working and retirement years.

275 The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ continues as a nonprofit membership corporation which determines its own governance and leadership. The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ will have membership on the United Church of Christ Board.

#### ASSOCIATED MINISTRY

276 Pursuant to paragraph 69, 72 and 73 of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, the United Church Funds, Inc., is an Associated Ministry of the United Church of Christ Board of the United Church of Christ, and serves the Church, the United Church of Christ Board and the Covenanted Ministries as a separate corporation related to the United Church of Christ Board.

277 The purpose of the United Church Funds, Inc. is to provide a means by which individuals and organizations of the Church may further exercise their stewardship of resources for the sake of strengthening the mission of the Church as set forth in paragraph 72 of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ.

278 The United Church Funds, Inc. will work cooperatively with the United Church of Christ Board to facilitate comprehensive financial planning and development; and will continue its relationship with The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ. It shall have membership on the United Church of Christ Board.

279 The corporate membership of the United Church Funds, Inc. shall consist of fifteen persons nominated and elected by the United Church of Christ Board of the United Church of Christ for terms of six years, one-third to be elected each biennium and to serve until their respective successors are elected and qualified. The General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ and the chairperson of the United Church of Christ Board of the United Church of Christ shall be ex-officio members with vote. At least two of the members elected each biennium shall not be members of The United Church Funds, Inc. at the time of their election. The United Church of Christ Board of the United Church of Christ may remove a member of the United Church Funds, Inc. and shall fill vacancies for unexpired terms.

#### Other Provisions

280 No person shall serve in more than one General Synod elected position simultaneously. Further, no employee of a Covenanted, Associated, or Affiliated Ministry shall serve as a voting member of the United Church of Christ Board, except in an ex-officio capacity, or as otherwise set forth in these Bylaws.

281 All members of the United Church of Christ Board, with the exception of the representatives from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), shall be members of the United Church of Christ.

#### ARTICLE V. INDEMNIFICATION

282 Any Officer of the United Church of Christ, or any member, including officers and directors, of the General Synod, the United Church of Christ Board or the Councils, Commissions, and Committees of the General Synod may, to the full extent allowed by law, be indemnified by the United Church of Christ Board against all judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement of, and against all reasonable expenses, including attorney's fees, actually and necessarily, incurred in defense of any lawsuit, proceeding or prosecution (including appeal thereof) wherein such person is made a party by reason

of being such officer or member to the extent such person is not otherwise indemnified by another entity. This provision shall also extend to any lawsuit, proceeding, or prosecution in which such officer or member is made a party in such person's capacity as an officer or member of another organization in which the person serves at the request of any of the above entities or bodies.

283 In all other lawsuits, proceedings, or prosecutions, indemnity shall not be made unless the officer or member acted in good faith and for a purpose which the person reasonably believed to be in the best interests of the Entity or body of which he or she is an officer or member and in criminal actions or proceedings only upon the additional requirement that the person had no reasonable cause to believe that the operative conduct or inaction was unlawful.

284 These indemnity provisions shall also operate for the benefit of anyone duly serving in a representative capacity for such member or officer.

285 The United Church of Christ Board is authorized to purchase insurance providing indemnification pursuant to the provisions of the preceding. Any such contract of insurance may afford coverage for matters as to which the United Church of Christ Board may not give indemnity.

#### ARTICLE VI. OTHER BODIES

The following groups are identified as related in covenant to the United Church of Christ, through a primary relationship with the United Church of Christ Board.

#### COUNCILS

286 Council for American Indian Ministry Created by the Eighth General Synod in 1971 (71-GS-77) and given its present mandate by the Sixteenth General Synod in 1987 (87-GS-58), the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM) is a national body with primary responsibility for providing Christian ministry and witness in American Indian settings, and is a resource to the whole United Church of Christ in understanding and supporting American Indian churches and communities. The Council for American Indian Ministry supports and gives general direction to the American Indian members and congregations of the United Church of Christ, advocating with them, through CAIM's Recognized Unit of Ministry, to embody their own cultures and values and to be vital parts of the United Church of Christ and the Conferences in which they are located. The Council for American Indian Ministry encourages and supports the identification, enlistment, and support of American Indian candidates for authorized ministry in the United Church of Christ. Working with American Indian people throughout the United Church of Christ, the Council seeks to develop broad bases of visibility, nurture and support for American Indian people, communities, and churches. The Sixteenth General Synod vote calls for CAIM to be accountable to the General Synod through the United Church of Christ Board and to be funded from one-third of the net income of the neighbors in need offering.

287 Council for Higher Education The Council for Higher Education (CHE) shall be composed of the academies, colleges, and theological schools that indicate their desire to be recognized as related to the United Church of Christ and that are accepted by the Council as conforming to its standards; and of representative(s) from the United Church of Christ Board. For purposes of business and policy making, member academies, colleges, and theological schools shall be represented by each institution's executive head or other key officer as designated by each institution's executive head. The Council shall

organize with its own chairperson, secretary, and any other officers needed to carry on its work. All officers shall be executive heads of their institutions. The Council shall be administratively related to the General Synod through the United Church of Christ Board; this provision not precluding the Council's right to direct access to the General Synod concerning any matters in which it may feel that its interests in program or budget require the exercise of such access. The Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries shall be an advisory member of the Council with voice but without vote. The Council shall be organized in two sub-sections: College and Academy Section, and Seminary Section. The Council for Higher Education shall advance and interpret higher education in the United Church of Christ, including the cultivation of closer relationships between the educational institutions and the church, the expression of the connection between faith and knowledge in those institutions, and, in cooperation with the United Church of Christ Board, the promotion of education as an integral part of the Church's mission.

288 Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries Created by the Fourteenth General Synod (83-GS-43) the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries (COREM) provides a place where racial and ethnic groups can develop their common agenda, collaborate with appropriate program and mission bodies of the United Church of Christ so that resources for racial and ethnic ministries will be effective and relevant, discern appropriate ways by which the many and varied gifts of racial and ethnic groups may be made available to the Church, and advocate for racial and ethnic concerns within the United Church of Christ. It is composed of two representatives each from the Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministry (PAAM), the Council for Hispanic Ministries (CHM), the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM), United Black Christians (UBC), and Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice (MRSEJ), who are accountable to the groups that send them. COREM is accountable to the United Church of Christ Board of the United Church of Christ.

289 Council for Theological Education The Council for Theological Education (CTE) shall be responsible for fostering mutual accountability between the United Church of Christ and the Seminaries of the United Church of Christ, for periodic reviews of the criteria for being designated as a Seminary of the United Church of Christ, and for the general well-being of the relationship between the seminaries and the United Church of Christ. The Council will exercise care for the Seminaries, explore ways by which theological education contributes to the leadership needs of the Church, foster cooperation among the Seminaries, and facilitate communication and appropriate engagement between the Seminaries of the United Church of Christ and Historically Related Seminaries and with other seminaries which provide theological education for persons preparing for authorized ministry in the United Church of Christ. Seminaries of the United Church of Christ retain full membership and responsibility in the Council for Higher Education and its seminary section. The Council will provide comment to the United Church of Christ Board whenever the United Church of Christ Board prepares to recommend a seminary for recognition as a Seminary of the United Church of Christ. The Council shall be composed of the President and one additional representative from each of the Seminaries of the United Church of Christ, a representative from one of the Historically Related Seminaries, two representatives from the Council of Conference Ministers elected by that Council, two conference staff persons who relate to a Committee on Ministry and/or work with the search and call process from a conference

not otherwise represented on the Council, four persons who serve on a Committee on Ministry, the General Minister and President, and the Executive Minister from Local Church Ministries. The Collegium will assign staff members as necessary to support the programmatic work of the Council. An intentional effort will be made to ensure that those who have been historically under-represented be present in the membership of the Council. The Council shall meet annually and shall elect its own officers each biennium.

**290 Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries** The Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries (CYYAM) shall serve to advocate, support programs, and be a resource for youth and young adult ministries throughout the United Church of Christ and shall report to the United Church of Christ Board and to the General Synod on issues, developments, and concerns in youth and young adult ministries in church and society. It shall monitor to ensure that the unique gifts and talents of youth and young adults are present in all aspects of the life of the Church. It shall inform, envision, and shape national youth and young adult ministry priorities across the Church. The Council and its membership will act as a resource regarding youth and young adult ministry opportunities across the Church (including but not limited to internships, mission trips, Regional Youth Events, National Youth Event, and General Synod). The Council shall organize itself as needed in order to carry out its work and shall have direct access to the United Church of Christ Board and the General Synod in areas of program and budget. The Council's composition shall reflect the United Church of Christ's commitment to having a diversity of perspectives in church governance.

**291 Council of Conference Ministers** The Council of Conference Ministers (CCM) shall be composed of the Conference Ministers of the several Conferences. The General Minister and President shall be a member ex-officio, without vote, of the Council and its Cabinet. It shall select a chairperson and such other officers and committees as it shall deem necessary. It shall elect from its members those who are to serve on the United Church of Christ Board and in other representative positions, distributing those positions among the Regions. It shall maintain a close relationship with the Officers of the Church, the United Church of Christ Board, and national units the Covenanted Ministries, the Affiliated Ministry, and the Associated Ministry with respect to matters affecting the life of the Church.

**292 Historical Council** The Historical Council (HC) shall be composed of twelve members, three elected by each of the Historical Societies, Congregational Christian and Evangelical and Reformed, and six at large appointed by the United Church of Christ Board. One-third shall be named each biennium for a term of six years, to serve until their respective successors are named and qualified, and not to exceed two terms. The United Church of Christ Board will name from these twelve members the chairperson. The Council shall meet at the call of the General Minister and President or the chairperson. It shall act in an advisory capacity to the General Minister and President and the United Church of Christ Board in overseeing the archives of the United Church of Christ and of the two Historical Societies, in expressing interest and concern for all archival collections related to the several heritages of the denomination, in recommending the amount to be allocated in the contributions budget for the Historical Societies, and in reminding the United Church of Christ of its traditions. The Council shall receive financial support through the United Church of Christ Board and staff support as assigned by the General Minister and President.

**293 Council for Health and Human Service Ministries** The Council for Health and Human Services Ministries (CHHSM) was recognized by the Fifteenth General Synod as an organization composed of institutions and programs in health and welfare related to the United Church of Christ and accepted by the CHHSM as conforming to its standards. The CHHSM is organized with its own Directorate and Officers. The purposes and functions of the CHHSM shall include: 1) The support and nurture for its member institutions and programs in fulfillment of their ministries as part of the mission of the United Church of Christ; 2) Representation of the ministries of its member institutions and programs to the General Synod and United Church of Christ Board in the conduct of the mission of the United Church of Christ in health and welfare; 3) Cooperation with the Conferences and the United Church of Christ Board in the process of Conference recognition of health and human service ministries, monitoring the authorization to seek funds within Conferences, and approval of requests to conduct capital campaigns; 4) Provision, annually, to the United Church of Christ Board, the names of those member institutions and programs which conform to the standards set by CHHSM; 5) Cooperation with the United Church of Christ Board in collecting information on institutions and programs in health and welfare to be listed in the *United Church of Christ Yearbook*; and 6) Participation in secular, ecumenical, and inter-faith networks in the field of health and welfare.

#### **SELF-CREATED GROUPS**

**294 Council for Hispanic Ministries** The Council for Hispanic Ministries (CHM) is an autonomous body working cooperatively with Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, Regions and other Ministries of the United Church of Christ. It offers a perspective that honors the context and culture of its members while encouraging inter-cultural, inter-faith, and international dialogue among all constituencies. The Council shall promote its mission within the United Church of Christ and work with the Church to monitor boards and ministries that deal with concerns and issues important to Hispanics/Latinos/Latinas in the USA, Puerto Rico, Mexico and other nations of the Caribbean and Central and South America.

**295 Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice** Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice (MRSEJ) is a group which brings together clergy who advocate on behalf of African Americans in church and society, providing a caucus of ministers for fellowship, for sharing mutual concerns, and for actions regarding the agenda of the black constituency within the United Church of Christ. MRSEJ challenges, monitors, initiates, and supports the cause of African American involvement to the fullest possible measure in the life of the United Church of Christ.

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

on disabilities, and other persons from the United Church of Christ who support the purposes of the UCCDM.

**297 Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries** Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries (PAAM), organized in 1974 and recognized by the Tenth General Synod, advocates for the presence, participation and contributions of PAAM in the life of the United Church of Christ and serves its constituent members and churches, initiating and supporting their life, and working for greater representation in wider church settings. It seeks to strengthen local churches, to nurture and develop lay and clergy leadership for the church, and to address issues of justice. As an advocate group for the rights of people, PAAM is involved in issues of the rights of Pacific Islander and Asian people in the United States and in the United Church of Christ and works in the areas of rights for women and children, the poor on welfare, institutional racism, and political prisoners.

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

**299 United Church of Christ Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns** The United Church of Christ Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns (The Coalition) is composed of members and friends of the United Church of Christ who affirm the good news that all persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions are loved and empowered by God. The Coalition actively works to combat prejudice and seeks justice for, and the full inclusion and involvement of, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Christians in all expressions of the United Church of Christ. In its leadership and outreach, The Coalition is committed to ending exclusion based on sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and expression, race, age, size, class and/or ableness. It promotes mutual ministries of pastoral care, education, and advocacy within the United Church of Christ and society as a whole; encourages Local Churches, Associations and Conferences to become “Open and Affirming” (ONA); and organizes within Conferences to make resources of The Coalition available to all.

**300 Relationships** Unless otherwise designated in these Bylaws, each of the aforementioned bodies shall have a primary relationship with the United Church of Christ Board which shall serve as its primary linkage to the national expressions of the United Church of Christ, to which it shall report annually. This primary relationship shall be defined by the United Church of Christ Board in consultation with the respective group. The designated relationship shall be reviewed each biennium by the appropriate partners, and may be changed upon the mutual consent of those partners, and so declared by vote of the United Church of Christ Board. The Collegium of Officers shall be responsible for initiating said review.

## Appendix P

### Proposed Change to the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ ON THE FREQUENCY OF THE MEETINGS OF GENERAL SYNOD<sup>1</sup> Proposed by the Illinois South Conference

**BACKGROUND:** The General Synod has been meeting biennially for over fifty years. The costs for General Synod increased 115% between 1981 and 2003. As costs increase and resources decline, these costs place a financial strain on all members, churches, regional and national settings of the United Church of Christ, and prompting a number of conversations about the frequency of meeting since 1981. \*

In addition to the cost concerns, the actions of each General Synod generate a significant amount of additional work for staff in the national setting who are tasked with the implementation of these action. The number of staff in the national setting has decreased by nearly 50% over the past decade, significantly affecting the staff's ability to implement General Synod actions.

In 2003, the Twenty-fourth General Synod, received but failed to approve a proposed amendment to the UCC by-laws to change the frequency of General Synod from every two years to every four years, and requested that the Executive Council 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”**. Some work was done to address this and has resulted in a “blended” Synod that attempts to provide educational and renewing experiences as well as processing the business.

The cultural realities facing the United Church of Christ in the 21<sup>st</sup> century are not those that our predecessors and church founders faced in the 1950's, but we remain committed to the empowering original vision of the unity of the Body of Chris. We believe that God is still speaking to our conference and local churches in innovative ways, and advances in technology offer us a variety of other ways to work together and to maintain connection across the church;

**REQUESTED ACTION:** that bylaw 181 of the United Church of Christ Constitution be changed as follows:

Strike the word “biennially”

Insert in its place the phrase “every three or four years”

Thus the full sentence will read:

*181 Regular meetings of the General Synod shall be held every three or four years effective after General Synod Twenty-nine in 2013.*

\*Additional data on costs will be provided

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<sup>1</sup> A committee of the General Synod voted to amend Bylaw 181, as requested above, and then recommended to the General Synod that the amendment be defeated, which it did on Tuesday, July 5, 2011.



## APPENDIX Q

### IN SUPPORT OF EFFECTIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE PEACEMAKING BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELIS THROUGH POSITIVE INVESTMENT IN PALESTINE

#### A Resolution of Witness

Submitted by 10 delegates or delegates-elect to the Twenty-eighth General Synod; Michael Small, Dan Batson, T. Michael Rock, Hannah Tower, Sharon J Fazel (Minnesota Conference); Tom Kuergeleis (Illinois South Conference); Bob Atkinson, Bob Keller, Bruce Moeller (Missouri Mid-South Conference); William A. Ragan, Jr. (Penn Northeast Conference); Douglas S. Hatfield (New Hampshire Conference); James Semmelroth Darnell (Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors); Jerry Carpenter, Kathy Fox, Margaret Snyder, Florence Burns (South Central Conference).

#### SUMMARY

This resolution calls upon the Twenty-eighth General Synod of the United Church of Christ to: act as a “third voice” in the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians and work towards a thoughtful and constructive approach to effective peacemaking in the Middle East that will support Palestinian sovereignty, economic growth in Palestine, good and productive relationships between Israelis and Palestinians and long-lasting stability with peace and security for both parties.

#### BACKGROUND

The Twenty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ resolved to call on the United States Government “. . . to use financial resources to promote peace and justice for both Israelis and Palestinians.”

The Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ called for a balanced approach when it sent a resolution to the Executive Council for implementation which (in the “whereas” clauses) reaffirmed the Church’s “call to act as peacemakers in this war-torn yet holy land” as it cautioned against “overlook[ing] many aspects of an extraordinarily complicated situation and extraordinarily complicated relationships in the region,” and recognized “the need for ongoing balanced study, commentary and critique related to the conflict in the region.”

Historically, General Synods of the United Church of Christ have affirmed the right of both Israelis and Palestinians to self-determination and sovereignty within the framework of a two-state solution.

If Palestinian civil society lacks the necessary infrastructure, there will be no viable state when a political solution is found between the Palestinians and the Israelis. Therefore, on August 23, 2009, Salam Fayyad, the current Prime Minister of the Palestinian National Authority, detailed his two year working plan for developing the infrastructure and institutions of the future

Palestinian State, including building Government offices, a stock market, an airport, and a free market economy. PM Fayyad is also working at building non-corrupt, transparent institutions in Palestine and effective police and paramilitary security units.

These signs are very hopeful and PM Fayyad's efforts are bearing fruit. In 2009 an economic boom began with a growth rate on the West Bank reaching 8 percent, decidedly higher than in Israel or the West. Growth in the first half of 2010 was estimated by the International Money Fund at 9 percent for the West Bank.

There has been an increase in foreign investment. New car imports have increased on the West Bank, new shopping malls have opened in Jenin and Nablus, there has been growth in the tourism sector and there has been a resurgence of conferences and special events in the West Bank such as a visit of Palestinian importers to the Haifa port (March 2009), a professional seminar for 30 agriculturists on olives (March 2010) and an investment convention in Bethlehem (June 2010). Palestinian real estate developers have begun building the first modern, planned Palestinian city a few miles north of Ramallah on the West Bank.

The continuation of these positive trends is also reflected in some measures taken by Israel to help support economic activity and improvements in the security situation in the West Bank. For example, the Palestine Monetary Authority has been working with the Bank of Israel to establish smooth banking relations between the respective economies and in the first half of 2010 there was an increase in deposits of Palestinian banks in Israeli banks possibly due to the increased volume of business between the two economies (according to the Bank of Israel). In the first half of 2010 there was also an increase in the number of Palestinian identity card holders with work permits employed in Israel (according to Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics Labor Force surveys). Israel has also reduced the number of checkpoints and roadblocks on the West Bank to facilitate movement.

While these measures in no way replace concrete steps towards a political solution, they are necessary and positive steps that must be taken towards Palestinian state-building and they have improved the lives of Palestinians on the West Bank even under the current situation. Thus, the World Bank reported in September 2010 that "[i]f the Palestinian Authority (PA) maintains its current performance in institution-building and delivery of public services, it is well-positioned for the establishment of a state at any point in the near future."

Looking to the future, recognizing that these two people live side by side and that in order to have a viable Palestinian state both the Palestinian and Israeli economies, which will be mutually interdependent, must be championed, positive investment in Palestine in particular must be encouraged.

Encouraging our Churches to get involved in positive investment in Palestine is a far more productive approach than boycott, divestment and/or economic sanction campaigns. Boycott, divestment and economic sanction campaigns focus on combating perceived enemies and punishing and blaming one side in a complex conflict rather than on promoting constructive solutions to the conflict and improving the lives of Palestinians. These campaigns are based on the misconception that one side holds all the blame and are very destructive in that they serve to

increase the fear and isolation of the Israeli public and markedly decrease the likelihood of their being willing to take the risk inherent in any peace agreement.

## BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL AND ETHICAL RATIONALE

Justice and peace are both close to the heart of God. The United Church of Christ must respond to the mandate to “seek justice” (Isaiah 1:17) and “act with justice and righteousness” (Jer: 22:3). As Jesus taught us we must “strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness.” (Matthew 6:33)

Jesus calls all of his followers to work for peace. “Blessed are the peacemakers,” he said, “for they will be called children of God.” (Matthew 5:9). Jesus also taught us to be “wise as serpents and innocent as doves.” (Matthew 10:16)

“Wisdom is the principal thing,” (Proverbs 4:7). “Happy is the person who finds wisdom and gains understanding. For the profit of wisdom is better than silver, and her wages are better than gold. Wisdom is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her!” (Proverbs 3:13-15). “Preserve sound judgment and discernment, do not let them out of your sight; they will be life for you, an ornament to grace your neck. Then you will go on your way in safety, and your foot will not stumble.” (Proverbs 3:21-23).

A moral wisdom consists in the rejection of those things which are harmful and the choosing of those things which are beneficial. Therefore, in the midst of this extraordinarily complicated and volatile situation, the Church is called to employ the highest standards of wisdom in its participation in the peacemaking process.

If we apply these principles of justice, peace and wisdom as reflected in this resolution to our response to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, we will be able to participate in true peacemaking in the region.

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Twenty-eighth General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirms the need to find a way to help bring about an independent, sovereign Palestinian state as well as peace, prosperity and security for both Palestinians and Israel; and

WHEREAS, the Twenty-eighth General Synod of the United Church of Christ acknowledges the political reality that when a Palestinian State is created, this state will greatly benefit from positive economic interaction with all neighboring countries, including Israel and that in order to have a viable Palestinian state, both the Palestinian and Israeli economies, which will be mutually interdependent, must be championed and positive investment in Palestine in particular must be encouraged; and

WHEREAS, the Twenty-eighth General Synod of the United Church of Christ also acknowledges that the Church must seize the current opportunity to determine how best to act as a peacemaker in Israel-Palestine in the current historical context -- and not fan the flames of

conflict by adopting approaches such as boycott, divestment and economic sanctions which are ultimately destructive to peacemaking in Israel and Palestine because they seek primarily to punish and blame one side in a complex conflict, rather than serving the purpose of encouraging reconciliation and raising both people up; and

WHEREAS, the Twenty-eighth General Synod of the United Church of Christ acknowledges that the work of nation-building is necessary and productive and without it there will be no viable Palestinian state; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Twenty-eighth General Synod affirms its commitment to justice, peace, and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians at the same time that it avoids any movement towards boycott, divestment and/or economic sanctions which in the case of Israel and Palestine, will serve to encourage more conflict as it seeks to punish one-side as if their actions alone are to blame for the failure to reach a peaceful and just solution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Twenty-eighth General Synod of the United Church of Christ recognizes that it can profitably act as a “third voice,” which will not act to fan the flames of this conflict, but rather help and challenge both sides to find positive ways forward. That voice will emerge from dialogue and interaction among all in the church who commit themselves to the cause of the Gospel in this conflict and all others who share our quest for peace and justice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Twenty-eighth General Synod of the United Church of Christ recognizes the need to become true partners of the Palestinian people by encouraging concrete measures that can be taken by the Church and church members to support the Palestinian people in their current efforts in building up their economy and their nation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Twenty-eighth General Synod directs the Executive Council to establish a Task Force to study and make recommendations for such concrete measures that can be taken by the Church and church members to encourage, aid and assist the Palestinian people in their current efforts in nation building. This Task Force should consist of UCC members representing diverse perspectives, settings and constituencies of the church.

### FUNDING

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

### IMPLEMENTATION

The Executive Council, Wider Church Ministries, The Pension Boards and United Church Fund are requested to this resolution.

