

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

3 **Approved As Amended**

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5 **A Resolution of Witness**

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

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

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

23
24 Whereas these persons are our brothers and sisters, parents, neighbors, students, employees, and
25 cohorts we have an obligation as followers of Jesus to be sensitive to their needs.

26
27 Whereas the therapists within the Veteran's Administration are now speaking about the “moral injury”
28 of military service the moral injury is a spiritual and soul issue and needs to be addressed by The
29 Church.

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

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35 Therefore be it resolved that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ
36 challenges all of the United Church of Christ congregations to express compassionate care and healing
37 ministry to all our veterans and their families through education and the development of sensitivity to
38 the issues of soul healing and spiritual care.

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40 Be it further resolved that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages
41 “local church” awareness and reaching out to local Veteran's Administration, Veteran's Service
42 Commission, support of Veteran's Courts, through the compassion that is rooted in the teachings and
43 example of Jesus.

44
45 Be it further resolved that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages
46 the Office of the Local Church Ministries to partner with the Soul Repair Center of Brite Divinity
47 School in the development of resources for use by our military chaplains, Veteran's Administrations
48 Chaplains and our local congregations to express compassionate care and a healing ministry to our

49 veterans and their families.

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51 Be it finally resolved that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ challenges
52 the members and local churches of the United Church of Christ to serve veterans with healing care
53 beyond established medical and military protocols and seek ways to welcome our veterans home,
54 through worship, fellowship, pastoral care and advocacy to reintegrate them in our communities, and
55 help to bring peace to veterans, their families and the world.

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57 **FUNDING**

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

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62 **IMPLEMENTATION**

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