

01-GS-12 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod adopts the resolution “Anti-Semitism.”

### **Anti-Semitism**

WHEREAS, when Jesus was asked what was the greatest commandment, he responded quoting Hebrew scripture, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets” (Matthew 22:37–40);

WHEREAS, the shootings that occurred at the Hebrew day care center in California shocked the nation and should be a wake up call for all Christians to denounce anti-Semitism;

WHEREAS anti-Semitism has been deeply embedded in Christian tradition;

WHEREAS anti-Semitism violates Christ’s call to love our neighbors as ourselves;

WHEREAS Judaism is the foundation of our faith; and

WHEREAS the delegates to the Sixteenth General Synod (1987) of the United Church of Christ stated, “We in the United Church of Christ acknowledge that the Christian Church has, throughout much of its history, denied God's continuing covenantal relationship with the Jewish people expressed in the faith of Judaism. This denial often has led to outright rejection of the Jewish people and theologically and humanly intolerable violence”;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the delegates to the Twenty-third General Synod of the United Church of Christ, do confess the sin of anti-Semitism and renounce it, knowing that Jews are children of God to be loved as we love ourselves in the way that Christ has commanded us;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we invite the Justice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ to utilize all rapid response networks to notify Conferences that will in turn notify congregations when there is a need to take action against anti-Semitism in a crisis;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge our national representatives to speak out against anti-Semitism in all appropriate circumstances;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage all churches of the United Church of Christ to build relationships of mutual respect and friendship with their nearby synagogues through interfaith exchanges such as church school, youth and adult education programs, cooperative service projects, and social interactions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ actively seek and develop relationships of mutual respect and understanding with our Jewish brothers and sisters in all settings of the church.

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