

97-GS-25 VOTED: The Twenty-first General Synod adopts the Resolution "Church Burnings."

RESOLUTION ACHURCH BURNINGS®

WHEREAS, at least 124 predominantly African American churches have been engulfed in flames as a result of arson;

WHEREAS, the National Council of Churches has declared the church burnings "a national disaster and a national disgrace;"

WHEREAS, these cowardly acts of destruction of houses of worship are a threat to all of God's people every where;

WHEREAS, the horror of these tragic fire bombings has drawn together people of good will and many faiths to re-commit ourselves to rebuilding these churches and to ending racism in our nation;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has a long and noble history of working against racial injustice and of responding to acts of racism in church and world;

WHEREAS, hundreds of United Church of Christ local churches and thousands of UCC members have participated in the rebuilding of these churches through generous donations of funds, materials and time;

WHEREAS, United Church of Christ instrumentalities and conferences have donated funds and staff resources to the interfaith rebuilding efforts; and

WHEREAS, media coverage has all but ended, African American churches continue to burn;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod decries the burnings of all churches, particularly those burned as acts of racist violence, and the racist investigations that followed;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod calls upon the President of the United Church of Christ to continue to speak out against these horrible acts;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod calls upon the Commission for Racial Justice, the Board for Homeland Ministries, the Board for World Ministries and other instrumentalities to continue to work on behalf of those engaged in the ministry of rebuilding these churches; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod thanks all who made donations to the rebuilding effort, including every United Church of Christ local church and every member who made donations of time and money and asks for continued support of the efforts of the National Council of Churches as it responds to the church burnings.

Subject to the availability of funds