

97-GS-14 VOTED: The Twenty-first General Synod adopts the Resolution "Full Communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Presbyterian Church (USA), and the Reformed Church in America.®

The resolution was voted with overwhelming support of the General Synod delegates.

RESOLUTION A FULL COMMUNION WITH THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA), AND THE REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA®

WHEREAS, the prayer of our Lord, the intent of our ecumenical vision, and the opportunities for mission that God is offering to us all demand that we express more fully the visible unity of the Church of Jesus Christ;

WHEREAS, the witness of the Reformed and Lutheran Churches in Europe has resulted in over two decades of full communion within the framework of the Leuenberg Agreement;

WHEREAS, the four churches represented in the Lutheran-Reformed Committee for Theological Conversations, 1988-1992, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Reformed Church in America, and the United Church of Christ, have their historical roots in the Reformation and, in part, have understood themselves in the context of their relationship to one another;

WHEREAS, these four churches rejoice in nearly four decades of dialogue during which the doctrines, life, and practices of the respective churches have been thoroughly discussed in an atmosphere of mutual respect and a growing sense of common mission and understanding; and

WHEREAS, A Common Calling, the report of the Lutheran-Reformed Committee for Theological Conversations, reaffirmed a consensus reported in previous dialogues that there are no "church-dividing differences" precluding full communion among these four churches;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts A Formula of Agreement on the basis of A Common Calling and, in full communion with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Reformed Church in America, declares that the United Church of Christ is in full communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this full communion agreement will take effect when all four churches act affirmatively on this resolution in accordance with their respective governing procedures;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the United Church of Christ, in consultation with the Council for Ecumenism, appoint representatives to a Lutheran-Reformed Joint Committee which will coordinate implementation of full communion in the four churches; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the President of the United Church of Christ report to the Twenty-second General Synod on the progress of the Lutheran-Reformed Joint Committee toward implementation of full communion.

An extended standing ovation followed the approval of the resolution.