

97-GS-33 VOTED: The Twenty-first General Synod adopts the Resolution "Faith and Community in the Midst of Extremism."

RESOLUTION AFAITH AND COMMUNITY IN THE MIDST OF EXTREMISM®

WHEREAS, there is a long-standing tradition within our United Church of Christ to stand for justice and against oppression;

WHEREAS, General Synods of the United Church of Christ have affirmed the dignity and worth of all God's people, upheld the victims of injustice, opposed racism, anti-Semitism and hatred in all its forms;

WHEREAS, the Apostle Peter declared: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God." (Acts 10:34-35);

WHEREAS, we recognize that in our midst there are groups which exist whose purpose is to stand in direct opposition to our calling expressed in 2 Timothy 4:1-5;

WHEREAS, these groups within our nation and our world are involved in such things as: corruption of Scripture, division of persons with regard to race and color, the goal of establishing a white supremacist society, the overthrow of elected government officials at all levels, subversion of due process, violent attacks on persons of color, Jews, gays, lesbians, organization of militia, abuse of Constitutional Rights to disenfranchise others, renouncing existing judicial authority, and establishing common law courts;

WHEREAS, such activities create an atmosphere of racism, intimidation, fear, sexism, anti-Semitism, and homophobia, with resultant loss of community;

WHEREAS, we are called as God's partners in Christ's service to proclaim and teach the Gospel of compassion and God's love for all (Mt. 28:19-20);

WHEREAS, Jesus Christ calls us to respond to hatred with love, (Matt. 5:43-45) it is incumbent upon us as Christians to preach a Gospel of love and peace as modeled by Christ, who died that all might be redeemed; and

WHEREAS, those who belong to hate groups are also those for whom Christ died;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod encourages conferences, associations, congregations, agencies and instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ to join in active identification of and education about such extremism and the injustices and fears which feed it within our communities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod requests the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to develop a variety of resources with a biblical and theological foundation to equip churches and individual Christians to respond to extremism;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod also encourages peaceful and just public opposition to extremism whenever the need arises; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod call on all members of the United Church of Christ to witness to their faith in the midst of extremism.

Subject to the availability of funds.