

7-GS-47 VOTED: The Twenty-first General Synod adopts the Resolution "Reclaiming the Role of Pastor as Teacher."

RESOLUTION ARECLAIMING THE ROLE OF PASTOR AS TEACHER"

WHEREAS, there is great longing in the human heart and among peoples of the earth for meaning and purpose and for liberating truth and power for our lives;

WHEREAS, people long to know the scriptures, to become articulate about faith, and to see more clearly the relationship between the Bible and the realities of the world;

WHEREAS, we recognize the urgent need of persons, churches and institutions of the church to rediscover and understand the language of faith and to reclaim its transforming and reconciling power;

WHEREAS, good teaching engages the community of faith in dialogue that fosters development of vibrant and active faith;

WHEREAS, the church and its clergy are looked to by many for vision, direction and courage;

WHEREAS, those planning for education in the local church rely heavily on the Pastor to provide leadership, training and knowledge of current resources for the development of educational opportunities;

WHEREAS, the teaching ministry has at its heart the service of learning, all people engaged in ministry are, by position and authority, teachers;

WHEREAS, the role of the pastor as teacher is to help the community of faith integrate our Biblical and faith stories with the memories and shared stories of its members in ways that transform lives and bring new life to the church;

WHEREAS, clergy ordained in the United Church of Christ have been called particularly to minister both as Pastor and Teacher, and take vows to do so; and

WHEREAS, appreciation of education and the pastor's understanding of her/his role in the process requires intentional training and continued renewal;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on:

- C Clergy to reclaim with new passion and commitment their historic role as Teacher integral to the role as Pastor;
- C Pastors to make a special effort to recognize the inter-relationship between the teaching, worship, preaching and pastoral ministries;
- C Pastors to engage in a process of life-long learning, in order to effectively lead the congregation in its educational ministries, thereby setting the example for congregations as to the importance of continuing education;
- C Congregations, Associations and Conferences to develop policies to support and encourage Pastors in that quest by providing the necessary resources for study time, scholarship aid and opportunities for continuing education;
- C Congregations, associations and/or conferences to encourage Pastors to participate in sabbatical leaves, recognizing that process can refresh, renew, energize and revitalize both Pastors and Congregations;
- C Associations and Conferences to call a Minister for Education who will help support, guide and nurture the educational ministries of the churches within its area thereby modeling for churches the importance of intentional educational ministries;
- C The Division of Education and Publication of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to continue to provide staff and teaching resources that will support and encourage the clergy in their teaching ministries;

- C The Division of Education and Publication of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to work with the seminaries related to the United Church of Christ to develop course requirements that assist Pastors in forming faith communities of educational reflection and in acquiring teaching skills;
- C The Office for Church Life and Leadership along with Conference and Association Church and Ministry Committees;
  - 1. to emphasize that the call to Ordained Ministry includes a call to teach as well as to pastor and
  - 2. to develop clearer guidelines on how this calling to teach informs expectations in the training and standing of Pastors;
- C The officers of the Church model and exercise a sound teaching ministry during General Synod, and in other settings and events in the life of the United Church of Christ.;
- C The United Church of Christ in all its settings, to seek, name and use to the fullest, the teachable moments of our life together.

Subject to availability of funds.