

03-GS-41 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution “Young Adult Ministries in the United Church of Christ.”

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WHEREAS, historically and currently, young adults have been called to and have provided significant leadership in the growth and shaping of the church; and

WHEREAS, many young adults have been nurtured and strengthened through strong youth ministries and are seeking ways to serve the church faithfully; and

WHEREAS, a gap exists between youth and young adult ministries in that ministries with youth are stronger, better established, and have better financial support than young adult programming; and

WHEREAS, many young adults are now expressing a feeling of disconnection from the church and each other; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ acknowledges and proclaims that Young Adult Ministries is not merely a branch or an outreach of the church, but is an essential, driving life force that is in serious need of direction, resources, time, and energy in all settings of the United Church of Christ, in order to avoid stagnation and to be faithful to the claims of the gospel to go into all the world.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the body of this General Synod of the United Church of Christ reaffirms its dedication to the development and support of young adult leadership and opportunities for spiritual growth;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that steps be taken, including the development of a national young adult event specifically for the United Church of Christ, to extend leadership opportunities to young adults and to further promote the building of today and tomorrow’s leaders;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local churches are encouraged to develop Young Adult Ministry programs including, but not limited to, maintaining contact with young adults who are in college, seminary or serving in the armed forces, and establishing relationships and ministering with young adults in the community, especially if they are located within or near a college community. Such programs may include providing transportation to church, providing opportunities for community service, or a place to explore meaningful questions about their faith and life in an encouraging and nurturing environment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that conferences and/or associations are encouraged to establish councils or other bodies to plan and implement programming for young adults, provide support for developing and nurturing

programs within the conference or association, and to serve as a liaison between the national, conference, and local settings of the church.

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that the national setting of the United Church of Christ evaluate staffing patterns, provision of resources, and development of models, programs and resources to provide for the strengthening of ministry with young adults, recognizing their distinct and varied needs and gifts within the church.

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementing bodies include all settings of the United Church of Christ (local churches, agencies, and ministries; Associations and Conferences; and national offices) with the primary responsibility placed with Local Church Ministries in consultation with the Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Subject to the availability of funds.