

SOLIDARITY AND FRIENDSHIP WITH IRAN
SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION

APPROVED

BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL RATIONALE: Our sacred scriptures all point to our calling as disciples and peacemakers, to do what we can to bring healing into the world, not hurt, to end bloodshed, not to initiate it, to stop the killing and terrorizing of children and adults, and to make all of God’s Creation a safe place in which to live. Isaiah 40:1 says: “Comfort, O comfort, my people, says your God.” And Amos 5:24 says: “But let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever flowing stream.” John 14:27 tells us: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives.” In Matthew’s Gospel we read: “You are the salt of the world; “You are the light of the world.”

Whereas In 1985, at General Synod 15, the United Church of Christ, realizing there is no longer any rationale for a “just war,” declared itself to be a Just Peace Church. This means the United Church of Christ is committed to the deepest meaning of the word “salaam/shalom”;

Whereas we recognize the ties that the United Church of Christ has with the churches throughout the Middle East, including in Iran, and our continuing commitment to interfaith dialogue; and

Whereas the General Synod of the UCC is concerned about developments in Iran;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Twenty-seventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ

- stands in solidarity with the people of Iran as they express their will toward self-government;
- as a Just Peace (Peace with Justice) Church supports basic human rights and adherence to the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- recognizes and supports the many peaceful initiatives within Iran itself;
- promotes and works for friendship between the people of Iran and the United States of America, by creating opportunities through the United Church of Christ for citizen exchanges, participation in *Axis of Friendship Day*, and dialogue between all religious partners, including Iranian Christians;
- calls for an end to the violence, repression, and bloodshed, against peaceful Iranian demonstrators, media, and others;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this General Synod calls on the appropriate Covenanted Ministries staff to inform all our global partners of this action, and to explore with them possible similar actions.

This resolution replaces 3 resolutions previously submitted to General Synod