

SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION**TOWARD UNIFIED GOVERNANCE FOR THE NATIONAL
SETTING OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST****APPROVED**

BE IT RESOLVED that since the dialogue regarding governance has surfaced historical and present tensions regarding matters of race and ethnicity in our denomination, the General Synod requests the Executive Council and the Covenanted Ministries Boards to engage in further sacred conversations on race, especially around what it means to be an anti-racist, multi-cultural, multi-racial church. This conversation would be separate from, although possibly concurrent with, the discussion on governance in recognition that we cannot heal relational issues through governance discussions, but we do need to move toward reconciliation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod requests that the Executive Council appoint a Working Group with representatives from the Collegium of Officers, members of the Executive Council, Covenanted Ministry Boards, Affiliated and Associated Ministry Boards, the Council of Conference Ministers, and the Historically Underrepresented Groups, to guide work toward Unified Governance in preparation for action by the Twenty-Eighth General Synod. In consultation with the Chair of the Executive Council, each of these bodies would identify their representative so that the diversity of the church would be well represented in the Working Group.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that General Synod requests that local churches, Associations, Conferences, and Historically Underrepresented Groups engage in dialogue and discernment regarding Unified Governance for the National Setting and report back to the Working Group by Fall 2010. The Working Group, in a transparent way, will document all information received and include it in the discernment process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-Seventh General Synod affirms the principle of a Unified Governing Board as the basic governance structure of the national setting of the United Church of Christ, based on theological reflection, and practices of good governance that include strategic planning, resource development, and monitoring and oversight, incorporating the principles and concepts contained in the Fall 2008 Governance Follow-up Team II proposal, in order to carry out faithfully the mission of the church.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod requests that the Executive Council and the Covenanted Ministry Boards bring to the Twenty-Eighth General Synod a proposal for a Unified Governing Board with changes in the constitution and By-Laws necessary to begin implementation of a Unified Governance structure.

The above resolution replaces 10 resolutions sent to Committee at General Synod. The Committee recommended “no action” on the submitted resolutions.