

**ON ACTIONS OF HOSTILITY AGAINST ISLAM AND THE MUSLIM  
COMMUNITY**

**Submitted by Wider Church Ministries  
A Resolution of Witness**

**SUMMARY**

This resolution speaks against anti-Muslim hatred and fear—indeed all types of hostility toward other faith groups—which is contradictory to our Christian faith. It also encourages increased learning and interaction between settings of the UCC and members of the Muslim community, in the US and globally.

**BIBLICAL, THEOLOGICAL AND ETHICAL RATIONALE**

In the Gospels, Jesus responded to the question, “Which is the greatest commandment?” by stating, “‘you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. And the second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these” (Mark 12:29-31). As Christians, it is incumbent upon us to live out these commandments with our neighbours locally, nationally, and globally, whoever they may be, and stand against actions that are inconsistent with this commandment.

**TEXT OF THE MOTION**

Whereas, recent anti-Muslim actions, including but not limited to rhetorically violent demonstrations at a fundraiser of the Islamic Circle of North America in Yorba Linda, CA (February 13, 2011); Congressional hearings entitled “The Extent of Radicalization in the American Muslim Community and that Community's Response” (March 10, 2011), sponsored by Rep. Peter King (R-NY); and the burning of a Qur'an by a Christian pastor in Florida (March 20, 2011), have heightened our concern; and

Whereas, we are concerned that the approach of the tenth anniversary of September 11, 2001 may witness increased hostility toward the American Muslim community, and that Islam has already become a political issue that could play prominently in the November 2012 elections; and

Whereas, the United Church of Christ has affirmed its relationships with the Muslim Community (GS 1989) and engages ecumenically in interfaith dialogue with Muslims, including with the Islamic Society of North America and the Islamic Circle of North America, and supports interfaith dialogue and action worldwide, including Christian-Muslim cooperation; and

Whereas, the United Church of Christ consistently opposes rhetoric and actions that are based on discrimination or hatred of a race, gender, culture, or faith,

Therefore be it resolved, that the General Synod of the United Church of Christ expresses its clear support for neighbors in the Muslim community, both in the United States and around the world, who feel the impact of anti-Islamic rhetoric and action; and denounces actions against Islam or Muslims based on ignorance or fear;

Be it further resolved that the General Synod encourages all settings of the United Church of Christ to seek ways to learn more about Islam, to engage in relationships with Muslim Americans, and to work to counter what has been labeled Islamophobia;

Be it further resolved that the national setting of the United Church of Christ make available resources to learn about and engage with people of other faiths, and Muslims in particular;

Be it finally resolved that members and settings of the United Church of Christ speak out against religiously- and racially-motivated hatred, violence and actions, such as the desecration of religious symbols and sacred texts, and support public policies that ensure the value of religious diversity in the United States.

### **FUNDING**

Funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.