MINUTES with APPENDICES
TWENTY-SIXTH GENERAL SYNOD

Let It Shine

HARTFORD CIVIC CENTER

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

JUNE 22 – JUNE 26, 2007

Friday Afternoon – June 22, 2007
First Plenary Session

1. GENERAL SYNOD CALL TO ORDER
Moderator Merlyn Lawrence (ILL) called the first business session of the Twenty-sixth General Synod to order at 2:30 p.m. Ms. Lawrence invited the visitors and delegates to “Let our Light Shine” as we celebrate our Fiftieth Anniversary Year. Ms. Lawrence led the delegates and visitors in prayer.

Ms. Lawrence introduced the Assistant Moderators, Rev. Elizabeth King (MASS) and Mr. Kevin Manz (CA NV, N) who joined Ms. Lawrence on stage and would be sharing the moderating responsibilities.

2. INTRODUCTION OF GOVERNOR OF STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Ms. Lawrence introduced the Governor of the State of Connecticut, the Honorable M. Jodi Rell. Ms. Rell welcomed the members of the Twenty-sixth General Synod to the State of Connecticut. The General Synod gathering was the biggest convention ever held in Hartford and may well have been the biggest in the state. Ms. Rell also reminded the delegates that the Amistad had departed from New Haven to England the day before in honor of the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the abolition of slavery. She then read a Proclamation entitled “Synod in the City Day” for Saturday June 23, 2007.

3. OPENING CELEBRATION
Moderator Lawrence introduced Co-hosts Ms. Valerie Tutson (CONN) and Mr. Phil Porter (CA, NV, N) who directed delegates to a dramatic presentation of the Annual Report of 2005, one Sylvester “Scoop,” a disgruntled investigative journalist, who was assigned to uncover the story about the “UCC.”

“Scoop” encountered “Sponge Bob – Square Pants,” the “UCC Answer Guy” and the fact that the United Church of Christ is celebrating its Fiftieth Anniversary, in his quest to uncover the content and depth of the United Church of Christ. In the process “Scoop” finds that the “UCC” is truly a “beautiful, heady, exasperating and hopeful mix.”

4. INTRODUCTION OF GENERAL SYNOD LEADERSHIP
Ms. Lawrence introduced the delegates to the Honorable Denise Page Hood (MICH) as the Moderator’s Parliamentarian and the Rev. Mal Bertram (MASS) as Delegate’s Parliamentarian. Each alerted the delegates to appropriate procedural rules, including the role of Youth Stewards.

Ms. Hood informed the delegates on additional rules, particularly related to the use of unanimous consent or general consent in non-contested motions.

Ms. Lawrence also introduced the Agenda Committee, naming the Moderators, Chairperson Rev. Sharon MacArthur (CA NV, N) and Vice Chairperson Mr. Aaron Gould (MAINE) of the Executive Council. Ms. Lawrence also introduced Mr. Lee Foley (OHIO) who supports the work of the business committee.

5. REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE
Moderator Lawrence called on Ms. Dale Bonds (SOC) for the report of the Credentials Committee.

Ms. Bonds reported the registrar certified the following:
There are 657 conference delegates, 193 Covenanted Ministry and Executive Council delegates, 39 conference ministers, 110 conference staff members, 88 General Synod staff members, 81 exhibitors, 165 national staff members, 6 ecumenical delegates, 6 former moderators, 9 former officers of the church, 165 seminaries, 6 seminary representatives, 19 ecumenical guests, 13 honored guests and 83 others registered, totaling 1640. They are joined by 6765 registered guests for a record total registration, as of 1:30 p.m., of 8405.

The Credentials Committee finds the composition of the voting delegates to be in compliance with the mandates established in the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

The Committee encourages all conferences to strive toward racial and ethnic diversity in the makeup of its delegations.

07-GS-1 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts by consensus the report of the Credentials Committee.

6. QUORUM DECLARED
Moderator Lawrence declared a quorum was present and the Twenty-sixth General Synod was in session.

7. ANNOUNCEMENT OF TELLERS
Ms. Lawrence directed the visitors and delegates to the Executive Council report that contains the list of delegates who agreed to be tellers and appointed those listed. They are as follows:

- William Adams, PSE
- Robert Anderson, PC
- Elaine Bast, OHIO
- Emily Bastin, OHIO
- Quentin Chin, MASS
- Laurelyn Craig, NY
- Karen Curtis-Weakley, FLA
- Suzy Daly, ILL
- Nelson Jenkins, FLA
- Nancy Lawrence, MASS
- Cristo Owens, MASS
- Daniel Spacek, MASS
- Bertrice Wood, OHIO
- Tad Allman-Morton, MASS
- David Balmer, PSE
- Al Bastin, OHIO
- Donna Brooks, OHIO
- Charlene Corbett, CONN
- Carol Currier-Frighetto, ILL
- Michael Dack, IOWA
- Sandra Hudson, FLA
- Anastasia Kidd, MASS
- Cheryl McNair, SOC
- Bruce Poinsette, CPC
- Heather Wicks, OHIO
- Dan Young, OHIO

8. ADOPTION OF GENERAL SYNOD AGENDA
Moderator Lawrence introduced the Executive Council Chairperson, Ms. Sharon MacArthur, who moved the adoption of the General Synod agenda.

07-GS-2 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the agenda as printed, and authorizes the Business Committee to make any necessary adjustments.

9. ADOPTION OF THE STANDING RULES
Ms. MacArthur moved the adoption of the Standing Rules.

07-GS-3 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the Standing Rules by consensus.

10. DESIGNATION OF RESOURCE PERSONS GRANTED VOICE WITHOUT VOTE
Ms. MacArthur moved the Twenty-sixth General Synod grant voice without vote to those persons who have been approved by the Business Committee as designated resource persons.

07-GS-4 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod grants voice without vote to those persons who have been approved by the Business Committee as designated resource persons for the presentation of reports, resolutions, or other concerns that are on the agenda of the General Synod. The privilege is extended only for the time that the particular item of business is under consideration and may be extended at the request of the Moderator or appropriate Committee Chair.
11. DESIGNATION OF GROUPS GRANTED VOICE WITHOUT VOTE

Ms. MacArthur indicated that Standing Rule Ten authorizes the Executive Council to recommend to the General Synod, groups whose representatives shall be granted voice without vote while the General Synod is in session.

Ms. MacArthur moved the Twenty-sixth General Synod grant voice without vote to the designated groups and their stated representatives.

07-GS-5 VOTED: By consensus, the Twenty-sixth General Synod grants voice without vote to the following designated groups and their stated representative

1. Focus Renewal Ministries
   Ms. Janet Smithson, Pennsylvania Southeast Conference
   Mr. John Werley, New York Conference

2. The Ministry for God's Animals
   Mr. Stephen Kaufman, Ohio Conference
   Ms. Lisa Hadler, Illinois Conference

3. The UCC Professional Chaplains and Counselors
   Ms. Martha Jacobs, New York Conference
   Ms. Loren McGrail, Massachusetts Conference

4. Christians for Justice Action
   Ms. Amelie Sell, Pennsylvania Southeast Conference
   Mr. Kwami Osei Reed, Central Atlantic Conference

5. United Church of Christ Musicians Association
   Mr. Harold Smith, Connecticut Conference
   Mr. John Stansell, Connecticut Conference

6. The Association of Intentional Interim Ministers
Mr. David Kniker, Illinois Conference
Ms. Patricia Barth, Central Atlantic Conference

7. **UCC Military Chaplains**
   Mr. Luis A. Perez, Florida Conference
   Ms. Janis B. Dashner, Illinois South Conference

8. **Faithful and Welcoming Churches of the United Church of Christ**
   Mr. Bob Thompson, Southern Conference
   Mr. David Roberts, Ohio Conference

9. **The Association of United Church Educators**
   Ms. Nancy Murdock, New Hampshire Conference
   Ms. Juanita Phippen, Ohio Conference

10. **Biblical Witness Fellowship**
    Mr. David Runnion-Bareford, New Hampshire Conference
    Mr. William Boylan, Massachusetts Conference

12. **FIRST REPORT OF THE COLLEGIUM**
    Moderator Lawrence introduced Mr. Hans Holznagel (OHIO) who introduced Rev. John Thomas, General Minister and President; Ms. Edith Guffey, Associate General Minister; Rev. Linda Jaramillo, Executive Minister for Justice and Witness Ministers; Rev. Jose Malayang, Executive Minister for Local Church Ministers; and Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte, Executive Minister for Wider Church ministries.

    The Collegium jointly read a “Pastoral Letter” as a part of their presentation. (The text of the letter is attached to the minutes – Page 41.)

13. **INITIAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**
    Assistant Moderator Manz introduced Ms. MacArthur and Mr. Aaron Gould, Chairperson and Vice Chairperson respectively, for the Initial Report of the Executive Council. Ms. MacArthur and Mr. Gould reported to the delegates that much of the work of the Executive Council had been focused on the future and discerning how best to proceed on a number of important issues.

    The Executive Council has been the body responsible for the oversight of the StillSpeaking Initiative. A report will be presented on Tuesday.

    The Executive Council received a report of the Collegium in April 2006 in response to a number of ongoing concerns and prompted by the continuing decline in national basic support. The report of the Collegium launched a conversation about governance and structure.

    The focus on the financial life of the national setting has continued and the Development Committee of the Executive Council has been very active in expanding work and capacities in the area of financial development. The growing partnership with the Council of Conference Ministers has sought to address the ongoing decline in conference as well as national Basic Support and has sought to increase the training of conference leadership in the principles of fundraising.

    The Council heard reports from our Ecumenical Officer and wrestled with the relocation of General Synod from the Convention Center to the Civic Center because of unresolved labor issues.

    The Evaluation and Planning Committee heard updates and had conversations with several of our historically underrepresented groups.

    The Budget Committee continues its oversight work, and will bring reports from the Chief Financial Officer, treasurers, and the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee on Tuesday.
Two pieces of business are being placed before the body for action.

Ms. MacArthur directed the delegates to the report listing the names of nominees for the General Synod Nominating Committee, Class of 2015.

**LAYPERSONS**

Jean Daley; Vermont Conference
Shirley Ericson; Penn Central Conference
Gail Holmes; Wisconsin Conference
Judy Jones; New York Conference
Lorah House Jankrod; South Dakota Conference
Lori Yamashiro; Hawaii Conference

**CLERGY**

Sheldon Culver; Missouri Mid-South Conference
J. Matthew Deal, Penn West Conference
Beverly Lewis; Indiana-Kentucky Conference
Tim Marquez; South Central Conference
Michael Southcombe; Illinois South Conference
Bernard R. Wilson; Connecticut Conference

Ms. MacArthur indicated that three clergy and three laypersons will be elected.

The persons nominated to represent historically under-represented groups for the Class of 2013 are as follows:

Raymond Reid, Southern Conference for Ministers for Racial, Social, and Economic Justice
Nelson Spencer, Southeast Conference for Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries
Norma S. Mengel, Minnesota Conference for United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries

Recommended to Fill Vacancies:
Toni Buffalo, South Dakota for Council on American Indian Ministries
Norma Lopez, Illinois Conference for Council for Hispanic Ministries

Assistant Moderator Manz indicated the report had been received, that ballots would be prepared and elections would be held Monday evening.

### 14. ADOPTION OF THE HISPANIC MINISTRIES IMPLEMENTATION TEAM REPORT

Mr. Gould moved the General Synod adopt the recommendation of the Executive Council to continue the Hispanic Ministries Implementation Team for the 2007-2009 biennium.

07-GS-6 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the Executive Council’s recommendation to continue the Hispanic Ministries Implementation Team for the 2007-2009 biennium.

### 15. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mr. Manz introduced Mr. Joe Thomas (CA NV, N), Chair of the General Synod Nominating Committee, who directed the delegates to the printed report.

07-GS-7 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod voted by consensus to receive the General Synod Nominating Committee report.

Mr. Norm (Jack) Jackson (JWM) moved that General Synod refer the Justice and Witness Ministries slate to the General Synod Nominating Committee and instruct that committee to return with a slate that complies with the General Synod Bylaws. (Name of person to second motion was missed. - Recorders notation.)
07-GS-8 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the motion that “The General Synod refer the Justice and Witness Ministries slate to the General Synod Nominating Committee and instructs that committee to return with a slate that complies with the General Synod Bylaws.

Mr. Manz declared that, with the exception of the previously adopted motion, the report of the Nominating Committee has been received.

16. NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR FOR BOARDS
Mr. Manz acknowledged there were no nominations from the floor and accepted a motion to close nominations.

17. ORDER OF THE DAY
Assistant Moderator King declared the Order of the Day.

18. GREETINGS FROM THE MAYOR OF HARTFORD
Mr. Eddie Perez, Mayor of the City of Hartford, extended a warm welcome to the Twenty-sixth General Synod delegates and visitors.

19. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT CONTINUED
Following the presentation by Mr. Perez, Ms. King called for the question on the motion to close nominations.

07-GS-9 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod votes to close nominations.

20. COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT / EMPOWERING BUSINESS COMMITTEE TO MAKE REFERRALS OF NEW BUSINESS FOR ACTION
Ms. King introduced Ms. Krista Betz (MOMS) and Rev. Bob Sandman (OHIO), co-chairs of the Committee of Reference who introduced delegates to the reference process.

07-GS-10 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the Committee of Reference report and refers new business submitted in the first plenary of the Twenty-sixth General Synod to the Business Committee.

21. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BUSINESS (BY TITLE ONLY)
Ms. King outlined the procedures for the introduction of New Business. There was no new business introduced.

22. REQUEST FOR GENERAL SYNOD RESPONSE TO PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE COLLEGIUM
Rev. Jim Antal (MASS) (Mr. Antal’s motion was ruled out of order, due to his status as an Associate Delegate. A Delegate from the Massachusetts Conference then restated Mr. Antal’s motion. In the confusion over Mr. Antal’s standing, the name of the Delegate properly making the motion was lost. - Recorders notation.) moved that the General Synod attach its name to the pastoral letter written by the Collegium.

07-GS-11 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the motion that General Synod attach its name to the pastoral letter written by the Collegium.

23. ORDER OF THE DAY
Assistant Moderator King called the order of the day.

24. ANNOUNCEMENTS
Ms. King introduced Ms. Edith Guffey who offered the following announcements.

Speak Outs! provide opportunity for delegates and visitors to speak for up to one minute on subjects not on the agenda. Sign up takes place at the end of the previous session.

The Wider Church Ministries dinner will be held on Sunday, not on Friday as the tickets indicate.

Our Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration Saturday evening will recognize those who were present at the 1957 creation of the United Church of Christ.
There is no 'bar of the house' for events held in the Civic Center tonight, Saturday and Sunday. Ms. Guffey invited
delegates and visitors to be gracious by requesting those who were more able-bodied to voluntarily sit in higher
sections.

25. ADJOURNMENT
Ms. King declared the General Synod in recess until 7:30 p.m.

Rev. DaVita McCallister, Minister for Youth, Young Adults, and Outdoors of the Worship and Education
Ministry Team, Local Church Ministries, delivered the sermon at the opening worship.

FRIDAY EVENING – JUNE 22, 2007
Second Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER
Assistant Moderator Kevin Manz called the second plenary of the Twenty-sixth General Synod to order at 8:45 p.m.
He welcomed everyone watching on UCC.org.

2. SPEAK OUT!
Mr. Manz welcomed Speak Out! participants.

   1. Ms. Karen Elizabeth King (PC) announced that Friends of the Penn Central Conference will hold a
dutch treat dinner Tuesday evening.

3. WELCOME FROM THE CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE
Assistant Moderator Elizabeth King called upon Rev. Davida Foy Crabtree, Connecticut Conference Minister, who
welcomed the delegates to Connecticut. Ms. Crabtree introduced Rev. Jonathan Lee and Ms. Sue Butler-
Woodward, Co-chairs of the Local Arrangements Committee, and the team leaders of the Committee. Ms. Crabtree
spoke of the rich history of the State, its diversity and the passion of its people for justice.
Rev. Crabtree then noted the justice decision to move the Twenty-sixth General Synod to the Civic Center and the
challenges that decision posed to those persons with mobility difficulties.
Ms. King thanked the Local Arrangements Committee and the Connecticut Conference for its hospitality.

4. INTRODUCTION OF HONORED GUESTS
Assistant Moderator Manz welcomed the following former moderators to this Fiftieth Anniversary General Synod:

   Mr. John Krueger      Ms. Charlotte Gosselink      Mr. David Dean
   Ms. Denise Page Hood       Mr. Nate Lewis, Jr.       Ms. Nancy Taylor
   Mr. Jack Jackson      Ms. Mary Susan Gast and Ms. Loey Powell

The following former instrumentality executives and their spouses were also welcomed:

   Former Executives of the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society
   Ms. Mary Susan Gast and Ms. Loey Powell

   Former Executives of the Office of Communication
   Mr. Everett Parker and Mr. Arthur Cribbs

   Former Executive for the Council for Christian Social Action that became The Center for Social Action
   Mr. Larold K. Schultz and his wife, Donna Danielson

   Former Executives of the Office for Church in Society
   Ms. Yvonne Delk and Mr. Wally Ryan Kuroiwa

   Former Executive of the Pension Board
Ms. Joan Brannick
Former Executive of the Stewardship Council
Mr. Earl Miller and his wife, Pat Miller

Former Executive of The United Church Board for Homeland Ministries
Mr. Thomas Dipko and his wife, Sandra Dipko

Former Executive of The United Church Board for World Ministries
Mr. David Hirano and his wife, Sandra Hirano

Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte welcomed Ms. Jean Libbey, the widow of Scott Libby who served as the Executive Vice President of The Board for World Ministries

Rev. Jose Malayang welcomed Ms. Ora Shears, the widow of Reuben Shears who was the Executive of the Office for Church Life and Leadership

Former officers of the United Church of Christ and their spouses were welcomed:

Former Secretary of the Church Ms. Carol Joyce and her husband, Neal Luebke

Former Treasurers of the Church Mr. Charles Lockyear and his wife, Catherine Lockyear, and Ms. Doris Powell

Former Presidents of the United Church of Christ Mr. Joseph Evans and his wife, Harriett Evans; Mr. Avery Post and his wife, Margaret Post; and Mr. Paul Sherry and his wife, Mary Sherry

Former Officers and Executive Ministers of Wider Church Ministries Mr. Dale Bishop; Ms. Olivia White and her husband, Terry White; Mr. Bennie Whiten and his wife, Susan Sporte

Former Officer and Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries Ms. Bernice Powell Jackson and her husband, Franklyn Jackson

Assistant Moderator Manz gave thanks for these saints and their ministry.

07-GS-12 VOTE: The Twenty-sixth General Synod, by consensus, granted voice to these honored guests.

Assistant Moderator Manz called upon Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte to lead the delegates in a time of remembrance and celebration for Rev. Scott Libby. Mr. Libbey died on March 13, 2006. He was the former Executive Vice President of the United Church Board for World Ministries for ten years, from 1984 to 1994. Before that he was the highly respected Conference Minister of the Iowa Conference. He also served on the staff of the Division of Christian Education of The United Church Board for Homeland Ministries in Philadelphia and as Conference Minister of the Nebraska Conference. A short video was shown and Rev. Rogers-Witte expressed gratefulness to God for the life of Rev. Scott Libby.

6. INTRODUCTION OF OVERSEAS GUESTS AND MISSIONARIES
Assistant Moderator King called upon Ms. Rogers-Witte to introduce and welcome our overseas guests and missionaries. These colleagues in ministry are from some of the global partner churches and organizations.

From Africa:
Rev. Samuel Muriguh, Secretary General of The Presbyterian Evangelical Church of East Africa based in Nairobi, Kenya
Rev. Dr. Prince and Rev. Cheryl Dibeela, General Secretary of The United Congregational Church of Southern Africa
Rev. Dr. Musonda Bwalya, Principal of The United Church of Zambia Theological College
Rev. Edward Matuvhunye, President of The United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe
Rev. A. G. Mhururu, Chairperson of the UCCZ Ukama/Partnership
Rev. Cyril Fayose, Trinity College, Accra, Ghana

From East Asia and the Pacific:
Dr. Prawate Khid-arn, General Secretary of the Christian Conference of Asia

From Europe:
Rev. Dr. Zsolt Kadar, Superintendent and General Secretary, Collegium Doktorom, Reformed Church of Hungary
Bishop Martin Schindehutte, International Relations, Union of Evangelical Churches (Germany)
Rev. Paul Oppenheim, Regional Secretary for Ecumenical Affairs and Ministries Abroad, Union of Evangelical Churches (Germany)

From Latin America and the Caribbean:
Mr. Ricardo Esquivia, National Coordinator of the Restoration, Life and Peace Commission, The Evangelical Council of Churches of Colombia (CEDECOL)
Bishop Luis Ulises Munoz, President, Pentecostal Church of Chile
Rev. Feliciano Rivera, President, The Evangelical and Reformed Church in Honduras
Mr. Miguel Angel Urrea, Vice President, the Evangelical and Reformed Church on Honduras
Mr. Miguel Villa, Superintendent, Congregational Churches of Mexico

From the Middle East, arriving tomorrow:
Dr. Mary Mikhael, President, Near East School of Theology, Beirut, Lebanon

From Southern Asia:
Dr. K. B. Rokaya, General Secretary, National Council of Churches in Nepal

Personnel serving the United Church of Christ in Southern Africa:  William and Veronica Kyle;
Kim Harris, a Global Mission Intern; Adora Iris Lee

Swaziland:
Wayne and Ingrid Wilson who have just completed their term with the Kukhany’ Okusha Zion Church

Haiti:
Daniel Gourdet

Chile:
Elena Huegel, assigned to the Pentecostal Church of Chile

Colombia:
Michael Joseph who serves with the Restoration, Life and Peace Commission of the Council of Evangelical Churches

India:
Anil Henry who works with the Synodical Board of Health Services of the Church of North India

Turkey:
Alison Stendahl who teaches with the Health and Education Foundation

Hungary:
Zoltan Szucs and wife, Barbara
Ms. Rogers-Witte gave thanks and prayer wishes to these partners on behalf of the United Church of Christ.

Ms. Rogers-Witte moved that voice-without-vote status be granted to these overseas guests.

07-GS-13 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod grants voice without vote to these overseas guests.

7. INTRODUCTION OF ECUMENICAL DELEGATES AND PARTNERS
Moderator Merlyn Lawrence called upon Rev. Lydia Veliko, Minister for Ecumenical Relations, to introduce our ecumenical delegates and partners.
Rev. Veliko welcomed and gave a brief history of the ecumenical partnerships. She then received these colleagues from full communion and other partner churches on stage:

From the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:
   Mark Hanson, Presiding Bishop
   Rev. Randall Lee, Denominational Ecumenical Officer

From the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ):
   Rev. Serene Jones, Professor at Yale University
   Rev. Sharon Watkins, General Minister and President (joining us Sunday and for the rest of the General Synod)

From the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa:
   Rev. Samuel Tialavea, General Secretary

From the Alliance of Baptists:
   Rev. Stan Hastey, Minister for Ecumenical and Mission Relationships

From the Reformed Church in America:
   Rev. Suzanne Hodges, Pastor and her church’s representative to the United Church of Christ’s Executive Council

From the Presbyterian Church (USA):
   Rev. Dana Lindsley, Executive Presbyter for the Southern New England Presbytery

From the World Alliance of Reformed Churches:
   Rev. Dr. Setri Nyomi, General Secretary


Mr. Nyomi addressed the General Synod on behalf of our ecumenical colleagues. He brought greetings and special congratulations on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Church of Christ.

8. PRESENTATION OF NEW CONGREGATIONS
Moderator Merlyn Lawrence invited Rev. Joe Malayang, Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries and Rev. David Schoen, Team Leader for Evangelism Ministry, to recognize new church starts since the last General Synod.

Mr. Malayang and Mr. Schoen indicated that the United Church of Christ, through its “Now Is The Time” program, is committed to developing two hundred fifty new churches by the year 2011 and more than one thousand six hundred new churches by 2021.

“Now Is The Time” celebration recognized the twenty-one churches started fifty years ago and eighty new churches started since the last General Synod.

9. COUNCIL ON HIGHER EDUCATION VIDEO PRESENTATION
Moderator Lawrence called upon Rev. David Greenhaw, Chair of the Council on Higher Education, to introduce the video presentation *A Place of Our Own*.

Mr. Greenhaw reviewed the historic ties the United Church of Christ has to many schools that have, for generations, sustained a vision and a movement to serve the common good through education. *A Place of Our Own* was a moving snapshot of faith and learning, giving a dynamic glimpse into higher and theological education in the life of the schools related to the United Church of Christ.

10. RECOGNITION OF YOUTH VISITORS
Assistant Moderator Kevin Manz introduced a presentation by our Youth Visitors.
Mr. Mark Ganson and Ms. Kepa Kaupu introduced the 50-for-50 Campaign, a grassroots effort to have over one thousand youth and young adults participate in the Twenty-sixth General Synod. Thanks to the support of many local congregations, parents, chaperones and over twenty conferences that provided financial support, their goal was reached. The youth received a standing ovation.

11. EXPLANATION OF COMMUNITY GROUPS AND SYNOD IN THE CITY
Assistant Moderator King called upon Mr. Phil Porter and Ms. Valerie Tutson for a brief introduction of how upcoming Community Groups and Synod in the City will function.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS
Ms. King called upon Ms. Edith Guffey, Administrator of the General Synod, for announcements.
Ms. Guffey noted corrections to block times for Synod in the City.
Ms. King led the delegates and guests in a moment of silence and an evening prayer. She then declared the second plenary of the Twenty-sixth General Synod to be complete.

SATURDAY -- JUNE 23, 2007
The Homily at Saturday morning prayers was led by The Most Reverend Peter Rosazza, Auxiliary Bishop and Vicar General for the Hispanic Apostolate, Archdioces of Hartford, CT.

Sync in the City was a joyous celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the formation of the United Church of Christ. Events, performances and speakers were in various locations around the City of Hartford.

Saturday evening’s birthday celebration featured a video of people who helped shape the United Church of Christ over the last fifty years. Mr. Robert Witham, chair of the Synod in the City planning committee, and committee members were thanked for the outstanding work they did in organizing the entire event. The Pacific Samoan Choir performed a sacred ceremony and Ms. Rachel Pine, concert violinist, also performed. Dr. Charles Towns of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Berkley, CA, inventor of the laser light, Nobel Prize winner, recipient of the Templeton Prize in Religion, and member of the United Church Science and Technology Network was present to introduce the laser light birthday celebration.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 24, 2007
Sunday afternoon worship included a Service of Word and Holy Communion. Rev. John Thomas, General Minister and President, delivered the sermon. Participants included our ecumenical guests and the Collegium of the United Church of Christ, along with a processional celebrating our fifty years.

MONDAY MORNING -- JUNE 25, 2007
Third Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER
Moderator Merlyn Lawrence called the third plenary of the Twenty-sixth General Synod to order at 2:30 p.m.
Ms. Lawrence led the assembly in prayer.
2. SPEAK OUT!
Ms. Lawrence welcomed Speak Out! participants.

1. Mr. R. Michael Lake (KO) of the Military Chaplain’s Association spoke of Holy Joe’s Coffee House Ministry, a safe, informal setting where customers receive spiritual care and conversation.

2. Mr. Bob Styles (CA NV, S) spoke of justice and peace issues.

3. Mr. Doug Anders (SOC) thanked everyone involved in the Gulf Coast Recovery effort. Contributions to Hope Shall Bloom made a difference in the lives of people and churches in New Orleans, Back Bay Mission, and for eighty-seven churches in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

4. Mr. Anthony and Ms. Shannon Sickelma (IS) supported the Church going “green.”

5. Mr. Tom Olcott (HI) welcomed all to General Synod in 2011 and thanked everyone for their response following the earthquake.

6. Ms. Emily Goldthwaite Fries (IA) and Ryan Lambert (CP) announced the United Church of Christ insurance program now covers oral contraception. They urged clergy under thirty to become part of the “20-30 Clergy Network” and encouraged everyone to visit the Parish Life and Leadership booth.

7. Ms. Judy Hjorth (PNW) asked for a DVD of Mr. Bill Moyer’s speech from his Synod in The City presentation. Those in attendance applauded their willingness to pay for a DVD.

8. Mr. Dean Jufii (HI) encouraged everyone to learn more about the Pohnpeian Black Pepper Project. It is a micro-economic development collaboration between Wider Church Ministries, Make-A-Difference Fund and the Hawaii Conference. Check out the Hawaii Conference website and click on the justice and witness icon.

9. Mr. Arnold Thomas (NY) stated gun violence kills more people than all the casualties during the Iraq War. Find out more on God, not Guns Sabbath, September 29 and 30. Information is available at www.godnotguns.org.

10. Ms. Dorothy Lovell Bucklay (CT) encouraged everyone to “green” themselves, green their church, green their Conference, make it all green and sustainable.

In response to the comments regarding recycling, Rev. Davida Foy Crabtree, Connecticut Conference Minister, indicated there are blue bins under Section 103. Recycling is the law in Connecticut and the Civic Center is required to recycle plastics, paper, etc.

3. RECOGNITION OF THOSE RECEIVING AWARDS
Assistant Moderator Elizabeth King called upon Ms. Cally Rogers-Witte and Ms. Edith Guffey to recognize all those who received awards at this General Synod. The following churches and individuals were recognized:

Justice and Witness Ministries
Local Church Award to Amistad United Church of Christ, Reverend Dennis Duhyalungsod, pastor
Social Prophet Award to Dr. Timothy Nonn

Wider Church Ministries
Ministries Heart of Mission Award to Reverends Alan Coe and Shari Prestemon
Awards of Affirmation
Presbyterian Church of East Africa, accepted by Reverend Samuel Muriguh
Dr. Prawate Khind-Arn, General Secretary, Christian Conference of Asia
Dr. K. B. Rokaya, General Secretary, National Council of Churches in Nepal
Reverend Dr. Zsolt Kadar, Superintendent and General Secretary, Collegium Doktorom, The Reformed Church of Hungary
Dr. Mary Mikkael, President, Near East School of Theology
The Child Sponsorship Award
St. Paul’s United Church of Christ, Mechanicsburg, PA, accepted by Reverend Karin Stork-Whitson
Open and Affirming Leadership Award
Ms. Ann B. Day and Ms. Donna Enberg
HIV and AIDS Leadership Award
Ms. Yvette A. Flunder

Local Church Ministries
Excellence in Teaching
Ms. Carolyn Bogott
Ms. Tami Dudo
Ms. Kathy McCallie
Ms. Vickie Sewing
Pilgrim Press Mayflower Awards
Church and Society award to Ms. Laurene Beth Bowers
Leadership award to Reverend Kenneth L. Samuel
Vitality award to Mr. Anthony B. Robinson
Heritage award to Ms. Randi J. Walker

United Black Christians
Ministries award to the four Covenanted Ministries
Local Church awards to Ainsworth United Church of Christ, Portland, OR
Euclid Avenue Congregational Church, Cleveland, OH
Mt. Zion Congregational United Church of Christ, Cleveland, OH
The Congregational Church of Park Manor, Chicago, IL
Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago, IL
Individuals
Ms. Carol A. Brown, Mr. Charles Brown, Dr. Mittie Chandler, Ms. Francine L. Vinson,
Ms. Gloria A. Little, Reverend Dr. Pamela June Anderson, Ms. Brenda James and
Mr. Michael Downs
United Black Christians Chapter
Region III, Washington, D.C.

United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries
Mr. Tyler Greene
Reverend Dr. Robert Loesch
Mr. Joseph Maki

Antoinette Brown Recipients
Reverend Virginia Kreyer
Reverend Talitha Arnold

Fiftieth Anniversary Women of Vision
Ms. Marilyn M. Breitling
Rev. Yvonne Delk
Rev. Anne E. Holmes
Rev. Carol Joyce
Rev. Alice Rosehill Kahokuoluna
Rev. Murdale Leysath
Rev. Candita Mattos
Rev. Rosemary McCombs Maxey
Ms. Louise Wallace
Honored Lay Women
Recognized as a group

Assistant Moderator King corrected the previous statement regarding the blue recycling bins. They are for paper only.

Ms. King then led the General Synod in prayer, giving thanks for the gifts of vision and faithfulness of all those who received awards at the Twenty-sixth General Synod. The recipients were thanked with a round of applause.

4. INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATE FOR WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES EXECUTIVE
Ms. King called upon Rev. Curtis Reuter, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Wider Church Ministries, and Rev. Mary Ann Neevel, Vice Chairperson of the Wider Church Ministries Board, for the introduction of the Rev. Ann Calvin Rogers-Witte, nominee for re-election as Executive Director of Wider Church Ministries.

Rev. Rogers-Witte introduced her counterpart in the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, Rev. David Vargus, Co-Executive of Global Church Ministries. Ms. Rogers-Witte spoke of the loss of over two million dollars, making her job challenging, if not difficult, but always a wonderful experience. She promised two years ago to make our global ministries “our” ministries and that is in process. We’ve always been committed to taking God’s love to the farthest corners of the world. We changed “doing for” others into “doing with” others. We need to keep reminding our churches that Our Church’s Wider Mission is our primary source of funding for working together. Together we can be part of God’s miracles of transformation.

5. INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE PROCESS
Moderator Lawrence thanked the Committee Process Facilitators, Ms. Sheldon Culver (MOMS), Mr. Dennis Frische-Mouri (IK), Mr. Roy Mosely (CA NV,N), Ms. Susan Townsley (CONN) and David Anderson (PNW). She then asked all committee chairpersons to rise and be recognized.

6. RESOLUTION: REGARDING THE TAR CREEK SUPERFUND SITE
Ms. Lawrence reminded the delegates of the process related to the microphones and called upon Mr. Jeff Filkins, Chair of Committee One, to present the recommended actions from that committee.

Mr. Filkins thanked all involved in the process and moved the adoption of the resolution “Regarding the Tar Creek Superfund Site.”

07-GS-14 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the resolution “Regarding the Tar Creek Superfund Site.”

REGARDING THE TAR CREEK SUPERFUND SITE

WHEREAS, during this time the U.S. Federal authorities have spent at least $100 million in the area trying to clean up damage from lead and zinc mining activities of the past 70 years; and

WHEREAS, homes and communities within the Site are located above abandoned mine shafts and are in imminent danger of 250-300 ft. “cave ins” at any time; and

WHEREAS, contamination from the Tar Creek mining operations extends into those areas of the states of Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma adjacent to the Site; and

WHEREAS, contamination has been found to exist in areas of the United States where mining wastes have been shipped from the Site for use as fill material in construction of foundation footings for buildings, parks, school playgrounds, highways, parking lots and various other construction uses; and

WHEREAS, a major portion of the land that is owned by the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma is within the Superfund site; and
WHEREAS, the property values of real estate of residents who live inside the designated superfund site have been
greatly diminished; and

WHEREAS, the damage to the health of the estimated 19,000 persons living in and adjacent to the Site, especially
the small children who have dangerously high levels of lead in their blood, continues while the efforts of various
Federal and State agencies to solve the problem prove to be unsuccessful.

WHEREAS, the Site is not limited to the 40 square mile epicenter on the Quapaw Reserve, but extends downstream
to the Neosho and Spring Rivers to the middle of the Grand Lake o’ the Cherokees where stream and sediment
contamination impact the aquatic life, plants and game in the area. These impacts damage resources utilized by the
Eastern Shawnee, Seneca-Cayuga, Peoria, Wyandotte and Ottawa Tribes as well as low income subsistence users.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

Petitions the appropriate officers and offices of local, state, federal and Native American tribal governments to move
forward immediately to establish and implement a plan to solve this problem which affects persons living in and
adjacent to the Site; and

Sends this resolution, duly signed by the President of the United Church of Christ to the President of the United
States of America, the United States Senators and the members of the United States House of Representatives from
the states of Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma, the Majority and Minority leaders of the United States Senate; the
Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Governors and other appropriate officers of these states
and the Chair of the Business Committee of the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma.

Commends the ongoing efforts of Local Environmental Action Demanded Agency, Inc. of Vinita, OK (L.E.A.D.) to
document and remedy the hazardous situation in the Site; and

Recommends immediate broad based ecumenical and community efforts to facilitate opportunities for those
residents of the hazardous Tar Creek Superfund Site to voluntarily relocate, on a temporary or permanent basis, to
less toxic areas until such time as the Site has been restored to a habitable condition; and

Recommends that the agencies involved determine the extent of the area where contaminates have come to reside
and provide a remedial plan that addresses the contaminant impacts from the Tri-State Mining District to the Spring
and Neosho Rivers and the Grand Lake o’ the Cherokees.

Supports the efforts of the Oklahoma Conference of Churches initiate remedial action in collaboration with local
churches and community groups at the Site; and

FUNDING

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

7. RESOLUTION: A RESOLUTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. Filkins moved the adoption of the resolution “A Resolution on Climate Change.”

Ms. Melinda McLain (LCM) moved to amend the resolution on line 125 by adding “and that Local Church
Ministries develop materials to help churches “green” their buildings.”

07-GS-15 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the amendment adding “and that Local Church
Ministries develop materials to help churches “green” their buildings” on line 125.

07-GS-16 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the resolution “A Resolution on Climate Change” as
amended.

A RESOLUTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

WHEREAS, the impact of global warming, as currently predicted and understood by leading scientists and scientific
bodies around the world in reports of the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, as well as in reports of
the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the National Academy of Sciences, will dramatically and negatively alter God’s gracious gift of creation;

WHEREAS, the effects of global warming are already clearly evidenced in the melting of glaciers and shrinking of the polar caps, threatening the polar bear with extinction and the Native Peoples of the Arctic with loss of food resources, land, ancient traditions and ways of being in the world;

WHEREAS, experts speak with a profound sense of urgency and clearly state that the window of opportunity to avoid catastrophic climate change is rapidly diminishing;
WHEREAS, the predicted impact of global warming will have a disproportionate impact on those living in poverty, least developed countries, the elderly and children and those least responsible for the emissions of greenhouse gases;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ admits Christian complicity in the damage human beings have caused to the earth’s climate system and other planetary life systems, and urges recommitment to the Christian vocation of responsible stewardship of God’s creation, and expresses profound concern for the pending environmental, economic, and social tragedies threatened by global warming, to creation, human communities and traditional sacred spaces;

WE FURTHER RESOLVE that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges the United States Government to respond to global warming with great urgency and firm leadership by supporting mandatory measures that reduce the absolute amount of green house gas emissions, and in particular emissions of carbon dioxide, to levels recommended by nationally and internationally recognized and respected scientific bodies;

WE FURTHER RESOLVE that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges state and local governments to support and invest in energy conservation and, specifically, in sustainable, renewable and affordable systems of transportation, and calls on business and industry to lead in responses to global warming through increased investments in efficient and sustainable energy technologies that are economically accessible and just;

WE FURTHER RESOLVE that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges all segments of the Church to address global warming in their decisions and investments and in their educational and advocacy efforts;

TO THAT END, the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on the Covenanted Ministries of the United Church of Christ, specifically Wider Church Ministries and Justice and Witness Ministries, to address the severe nature of this global warming crisis as one of the most urgent threats to humankind and, indeed, all of God’s precious planet earth and that Local Church Ministries develop materials to help churches “green” their buildings.

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

8. INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATE FOR ASSOCIATE GENERAL MINISTER
Assistant Moderator Kevin Manz called on Rev. Sharon MacArthur, Chairperson of the Executive Council, for the introduction of Ms. Edith Guffey, candidate for re-election as Associate General Minister. If elected, this will be Ms. Guffey’s third and final four year term.

Ms. Guffey indicated she felt best able to support the United Church of Christ in this administrative role, even though she has an enormous passion for Justice and Witness Ministries. She urged each person to find ways to live out his or her commitments. She hopes her commitment and love for the United Church of Christ is clear and that her work exemplifies that. She looks forward to working with enthusiasm, commitment, passion and integrity and to having an honest conversation with colleagues about racial justice.

Mr. Manz thanked Ms. Guffey and instructed that a ballot be completed by the Business Committee to include all persons presented.
9. KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY MS. MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN
Moderator Merlyn Lawrence called upon Mr. Bryant Cureton, President of Elmhurst College to introduce the keynote speaker, Ms. Marian Wright Edelman.

Ms. Edelman spoke of the need to share what we have to do together to reset America’s social compass. The three richest citizens’ combined income in our country exceeds the income of fifty million people living in twenty-five states. People are hungry for leadership and community. As the richest nation on earth, we have thirteen million poor children. Our states spend almost three times as much for individuals in prison as we do for children in school. Ms. Edelman’s message was followed by a short video from the Children’s Defense Fund. She then received a standing ovation.

Moderator Lawrence thanked Ms. Edelman and called upon Ken Medema to lead a lyrical response to Ms. Edelman’s presentation.

10. RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL STAFF
Assistant Moderator Elizabeth King introduced national staff members, who received a long, loud, standing ovation as they assembled on stage. She then led everyone in a prayer of thanksgiving for our leaders and a blessing of our dinner meal.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS
Ms. King called on Ms. Edith Guffey for announcements.

Ms. King then declared the Third Plenary of the Twenty-sixth General Synod to be complete.

Monday Evening – June 25, 2007
Fourth Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER
Moderator Merlyn Lawrence called the fourth plenary of the Twenty-sixth General Synod to order at 7:30 p.m. and led everyone in prayer.

2. SPEAK OUT!
Ms. Lawrence welcomed SpeakOut! participants.

1. Mr. David Claypool (RM) expressed concern that General Synod attendees were receiving a reputation in Hartford for being poor tippers. He emphasized that poor wage earners need good tips and shared the proper formula to figure the appropriate 20% tip.

2. Mr. John Tostenson (NH) lifted up the name of Greg Pitman and his participation in outdoor ministry. He thanked Greg for the lives that have been touched through his work at Horton Center.

3. Ms. Bridgette Nicholson and Mr. W. Mark Clark (SW) announced the search for a new conference minister. They encouraged delegates and visitors to check out the ad in Opportunities and noted the deadline date for applications.

4. Ms. Adrian McCombs Maxey (CAIM) appealed for support of youth programs and their leaders that honor youth and young adults. She invited everyone to acknowledge the work of Eric Smith, Elaina Larson and other leaders of the youth clergy group.

5. Ms. Mary Morton (PW) called attention to the United Church of Christ’s claim to extravagant welcome, open and affirming and a uniting church. She felt this language seeks to fulfill the political agenda and is not in line with everyone’s thoughts. It represents language that is partisan. The United Church of Christ must strive to become more inclusive.
6. Ms. Caroline Jahn (IK) called for prayer and calls to political representatives in the move to end violence, death and destruction in Sri Lanka. Innocent civilians are being abducted and killed.

7. Mr. T. Michael Rock (MINN) and Mr. Kirk Moore (IL) noted i.UCC, the virtual community of the United Church of Christ that offers an online Bible study and prayer chapel for folk who may feel disenfranchised and want to be part of a church community.

8. Mr. Don Christensen (MN) made an appeal for support of Balaam’s Courier, a publication that has been part of the tradition of General Synod since 1975. He invited everyone to make a small donation.

9. Mr. Gayle Kinney (CONN) acknowledged himself as a union member who is proud of the United Church of Christ’s history of solidarity with workers. This solidarity prompted the move to the Civic Center’s space for General Synod. He encouraged everyone to consider the conditions of the workers that are assisting with the God Is Still Speaking material.

10. Ms. Janis Dasher (IS), Chaplain of the United States Air Force, asked that those who have served or will deploy with the armed serves, stand along with parents who have children who will serve in harm’s way. She invited churches to continue their prayers for peace and to extend their welcome to those returning from battle. Especially those who suffer from injuries that are not visible such as post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

The moderator thanked all who participated in the Speak Out!

3. ELECTIONS
Ms. Lawrence explained the stages in which elections would be completed. The first stage is the election of the Executive Minister for Wider Church Ministries and the Associate General Minister. She called upon Mr. Curtis Rueter, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Wider Church Ministries.

Mr. Rueter moved that the Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte be called by the General Synod of the United Church of Christ to a four-year term as the Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries and an Officer of the United Church of Christ.

07-GS-17 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls the Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte to a four-year term as the Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries and an Officer of the United Church of Christ.

Ms. Lawrence called upon Ms. Sharon MacArthur, Chairperson of the Executive Council for the election of the Associate General Minister.

Ms. MacArthur moved that Ms. Edith Guffey be called by the General Synod of the United Church of Christ to a four-year term as Associate General Minister and an Officer of the United Church of Christ.

07-GS-18 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls Ms. Edith Guffey to a four-year term as Associate General Minister and an Officer of the United Church of Christ.

Ms. Lawrence called Rev. Rogers-Witte and Ms. Guffey to the stage to receive a round of applause.

Moderator Lawrence than moved to the second stage of elections and called upon Mr. Aaron Gould, Vice Chairperson of the Executive Council. The remaining elections are for uncontested positions.

Mr. Gould moved that the Twenty-sixth General Synod elect the nominees for the Moderators, the nominees for the Executive Council and the nominees for the Boards of Directors of Justice and Witness Ministries, Local Church Ministries and Wider Church Ministries, and the Office of General Ministries.
07-GS-19 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod elects the nominees for the Moderators, the nominees for the Executive Council and the nominees for the Board of Directors of Justice and Witness Ministries, Local Church Ministries and Wider Church Ministries, and the Office of General Ministries.

Mr. Gould then asked the tellers to distribute the ballots for the Nominating Committee election. Results will be announced Tuesday morning.

4. RESOLUTION: RESOLUTION ON WORKER JUSTICE AT SMITHFIELD

Assistant Moderator Elizabeth King called on committee chairperson Geoff Brace to present the recommended action from Committee Ten. Mr. Brace briefly described the work of the committee. This committee was one of fellowship, worship, diligence, laughter and consensus. Mr. Dennis Pittman was a welcome addition to the dialogue of the committee.

Mr. Brace moved, on behalf of Committee Ten, that the Twenty-sixth General Synod adopt the resolution “Worker Justice at Smithfield.”

07-GS-20 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the resolution on “Worker Justice at Smithfield” as amended by the committee.

RESOLUTION ON WORKER JUSTICE AT SMITHFIELD

WHEREAS, the Smithfield Packing plant in Tar Heel, North Carolina has a history of intimidating, threatening and harassing workers who engage in organizing activities to defend their rights, improve their working conditions and ensure their wellbeing in the workplace;

WHEREAS, Smithfield Packing continues to delay and deny justice for Smithfield workers;

WHEREAS, the efforts of consumers, community organizations, faith-based organizations, labor organizations and legislators will continue to be critically important in bringing justice to Smithfield;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 26th General Synod of the United Church of Christ supports justice for workers at Smithfield Packing and, in particular, the national and local campaign, in which Justice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ participates, that is designed to bring worker justice to Smithfield employees and their families;

WE FURTHER RESOLVE, that the 26th General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges members of churches in the United Church of Christ to become informed about working conditions at Smithfield by examining the extensive background at www.ucc.org/justice/smithfield;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the 26th General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon members of churches of the United Church of Christ, having been informed, to advocate for worker justice at Smithfield, specifically to contact the parent company, Smithfield Foods, and request that management in the Smithfield plant in Tar Heel, North Carolina, be instructed to stop, and refrain from further, abuse, intimidation and violence against their workers and to provide their workers with the same rights that other Smithfield employees enjoy in union plants: a safe place to work, essential dignity and respect, and the protection of a union contract to encourage a culture of safety and respect in the workplace.

FUNDING

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

5. RECOGNITION OF NEW AND RETIRING CONFERENCE MINISTERS

Assistant Moderator Manz called upon Rev. Randy Hyvonen, Conference Minister of the Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference and Chairperson of the Council of Conference Ministers, to introduce those who have begun their ministries as Conference Ministers since our last General Synod.
Rev. Hyvonen introduced the following:

- Rev. Kent Siladi, Florida Conference, beginning July 15
- Rev. Rich Pleva, Iowa Conference
- Rev. Jim Antal, Massachusetts Conference
- Rev. Karen Smith Sellers, Minnesota Conference
- Rev. Gary Schulte, New Hampshire Conference
- Rev. Douglas Anders, South Central Conference

Selected by the Search Committee, affirmed by the Board, yet to be called by the Conference:

- Rev. Robert Molsberry, Ohio Conference
- Rev. Sheldon Culver, Illinois South Conference

Interim Conference Ministers:

- Rev. John Gantt, Central Pacific Conference
- Rev. Jack Richards, Florida Conference
- Rev. Char Burch, Missouri-Mid South Conference
- Rev. Phil Hart, Ohio Conference
- Rev. Lark Hapke, Southwest Conference

Acting Conference Ministers:

- Rev. Jim Langdoc, Illinois South Conference
- Rev. Hollis Bredeweg, Pacific Northwest Conference

Those concluding service:

- Rev. Dan Romero, Southern California Conference, December 31, 2007

Mr. Manz thanked all of the above for their service to their conferences and the entire United Church of Christ.

Rev. Hyvonen then presented the gift of a comma cross to Ms. Edith Guffey in commemoration of the work of the national staff.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moderator Lawrence called upon Ms. Edith Guffey for announcements.

Ms. Guffey announced the offering from Friday’s evening worship totaled $16,000 and will be given to two local Connecticut Conference ministries: Adventures in the City, a summer multicultural enrichment camp-in-the-city for disadvantaged children and to Silver Lake Conference Center serving children and youth in the Conference for fifty years.

Sunday’s worship offering totaled $44,000 and will be given to the Strategic Initiative Fund.

7. CELEBRATION OF THE MINISTRY OF JOE MALAYANG

Ms. Guffey then introduced a time of recognition and farewell for Rev. Jose Malayang, who is leaving his work in the national office. She invited Mr. Rich Flueschtling, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Local Church Ministries, to speak on behalf of Local Church Ministries and Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte to speak on behalf of the Collegium of Officers. They led the General Synod in a service of releasing Rev. Malayang from the duties of Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries and as an Officer of the United Church of Christ. Gratitude and thankfulness was expressed for his time among us.

Rev. Malayang offered a word of thanks and joy for the privilege of serving the United Church of Christ. He acknowledged his colleagues and ecumenical partners who nurtured him in faith, and his family who serves as a source of support and care. The service closed with prayer, led by Rev. John Thomas, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, and a hymn of thanksgiving.
8. RECESS
Assistant Moderator Elizabeth King declared the Twenty-sixth General Synod to be in recess following the evening worship at 9:00 p.m.

The Monday evening worship service centered around a story of light.

Tuesday Morning – June 26, 2007
Fifth Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER
Following gathering music by Mr. Ken Medema, Moderator Lawrence called the fifth plenary session of the Twenty-sixth General Synod to order at 8:30 a.m. with an opening prayer.

2. SPEAK OUT
Ms. Lawrence welcomed Speak Out! participants.

1. Ms. Lori Whittemore (ME) spoke of her recent work team efforts in New Orleans with Ms. Alan Coe. She invited others to participate as well by visiting the Disaster Ministry Booth.

2. Ms. Joyce Watson (MONT-NO.WYO), Chairperson of the Local Church Ministries Board, announced the Board is seeking an Acting Executive Minister. For more information or applications, please respond to lcmsearch@aol.com.

3. Mr. Brian Gaudet (CONN) reminded delegates that Silver Lake Conference Camp in Connecticut was also celebrating its fiftieth anniversary.

4. Mr. Earl Miller (IK) indicated Ms. Marian Wright Edelman’s speech yesterday reminded him that former President Paul Sherry had adopted a “Building a World Fit for Children” campaign during his terms of office.

5. Mr. Max Surjadinata (NY) invited delegates to pray for Palestinian students who could not attend classes due to check points and increasing unrest by the Israeli government.

6. Mr. Ron Trimmer (IS) indicated one hundred United Church of Christ congregations were participating in efforts to address unemployment by assisting in training over one million persons for careers in construction.

7. Ms. Marja Coons-Torn (PC) read in the local Hartford newspaper that the reviews on the newly released Nintendo games celebrated appalling violence. She urged delegates to write Nintendo and for local congregations to study the issue.

8. Ms. Lael Atkinson (MASS) reminded delegates of the notable phrases from key presentations. More than one thousand two hundred people marched for peace yesterday. If God Is Still Speaking, then take that message home.

9. Mr. Ron Trimmer (SOC) offered a word of thanks for the return of his wallet. He expressed his appreciation for the hospitality expressed by that act of kindness and felt blessed to be here.

10. Ms. Janet Stoddard (CONN) acknowledged her eight years as a campus minister in Connecticut, filled with challenges too numerous to list and many joys as well. She urged the United Church of Christ to recognize the great number of students who do not belong to any church and continue to support campus ministries.

3. NOMINATING COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS
Moderator Lawrence thanked all of the nominees who agreed to have their names submitted for consideration, and who were willing to undertake the responsibilities of membership on the Nominating Committee. The following persons were elected:

Lori Jamshire (HI)  Judy Jones (NY)  Gail Holmes (WI)
Bernard Wilson (CONN)  J. Matthew Deal (PW)  Sheldon Culver (MOMS)
Nora Mismangle (MN)  Ray Reed (SOC)  Nelson Spencer (SE)
Norma Lopez (ILL)

4. RESOLUTION: RENEWING THE COVENANT WITH THE RURAL CHURCH

Assistant Moderator Elizabeth King introduced Ms. Sandra Hudson (FL), Chairperson of Committee Seven, for the introduction of resolutions from the committee. Ms. Hudson introduced the resolution “Renewing the Covenant with the Rural Church” indicating the committee had amended the original resolution prior to presentation to the delegates for vote.

Ms. Hudson moved the adoption of the resolution “Renewing the Covenant with the Rural Church.”

07-GS -21 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the resolution “Renewing the Covenant with the Rural Church as amended by committee.

RENEWING THE COVENANT WITH THE RURAL CHURCH

Throughout its history, the United Church of Christ has faithfully lifted up our call to respond to the needs of the poor and the marginalized. Because of this faithful awareness, significant ministries developed responding to the needs of brothers and sisters who have been overlooked because of cultural, ethnic, orientation or racial reasons.

There is, however, a growing distress in Rural America, with its small towns and small congregations, as its communities fade from the landscape. This diminishing of the rural population and with it the very sense of community that has been a source of strength leaves those who remain spiritually, physically and emotionally vulnerable. Inherent with our faith is a belief that God is the source of our hope. We in the United Church of Christ acknowledge that God is experienced most fully when we are in community. Nevertheless, when that sense of community is threatened by forces beyond the reach of the residents, then the experience of God and the hope which God enables for us all is also threatened. While the United Church of Christ has sought in the past to address the predicament of the small rural congregation, its members and pastors, today there is a vast gulf between the needs of rural America and the ability of the United Church of Christ in all its settings to respond. Therefore the following resolution is offered:

WHEREAS, over sixty percent of the churches in the United Church of Christ are located in rural areas of our country, and

WHEREAS, many of these congregations have memberships that are near or below fifty, with an average attendance of less than thirty-five, and

WHEREAS, Rural America is central in our basic faith about God's economy which recognizes that through the cycle of planting and harvesting, God's rich and abundant Spirit is manifested, and

WHEREAS, the health and vitality of the rural congregations, with their historic, covenantal presence, within the body of the United Church of Christ, is as vital to the health of the entire church as any other group of congregations, (Ephesians 4:5), and

WHEREAS, many of these small rural congregations are in communities that suffer from out-migration with declining populations that offer little or no prospect at present for numerical growth, though there are signs of a rural renaissance to which these congregations are similarly ill equipped to respond, and

WHEREAS, many of these congregations have few young folk who can help to carry the financial or duty burden, and

WHEREAS, these congregations frequently find themselves unable to support the usual patterns of worship,
Christian Education and other activities so necessary for healthy church life, and
WHEREAS, these congregations struggle to secure pastoral leadership, and
WHEREAS, many of these rural congregations are located in areas so isolated they provide little or no opportunity
for yoking with other congregations, and
WHEREAS, these rural congregations struggle to provide the basic components of church life, and
WHEREAS, having received, as fully as any other, the call to discipleship and the vision of faith filled church life,
many rural congregations face their inability to fulfill their call to discipleship, because of lack of resources:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod recognizes the critical importance of rural
ministry within the United Church of Christ.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Synod recognizes the special needs of the significant number of
churches in the United Church of Christ that are rural including the need for resources for Christian Education,
small membership Sunday Schools, meaningful worship even when the numbers are very small, outreach in the
midst of isolation, networking to build support, attracting pastoral leadership, and developing a vision that will
guide congregations into the future; and therefore:
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Synod recognizes the need to provide leadership that will empower
small membership rural congregations to address the justice issues that often go unnoticed such as rural poverty,
human rights, domestic violence, youth guidance and development, economic injustice and drug and alcohol abuse;
and therefore:
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Collegium of Officers will organize a task force with representation
including national staff, conferences, seminaries, other educational institutions and rural churches; and therefore:
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force will establish goals and strategies to address the needs and
challenges of rural churches and to identify and develop a strategy for disseminating existing resources for rural
churches; and therefore:
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force report to the Executive Council at each of its meetings and that
the Task Force will present its recommendations for implementation including staffing resources at the Fall 2008
Executive Council; and therefore:
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Collegium will report to the Twenty-seventh General Synod on how the
Collegium is responding to the needs and challenges of the Rural Churches; and therefore:
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that through these programmatic and resource avenues the United Church of Christ
will become a center for information sharing, support, and guidance for the rural congregations and the small
isolated communities they serve.

FUNDING
Funding and implementation of this resolution is to be made in accordance with the mandates and available funding
of the affected agencies.

5. RESOLUTION: TO RECOGNIZE 2007 AS A SABBATH YEAR
Ms. Lawrence invited Ms. Hudson to continue with the second resolution from Committee Seven. Ms. Hudson
referred to several changes from the original resolution made during the committee process.
Ms. Hudson moved the adoption of the resolution “To Recognize 2007 as a Sabbath Year.”
Ms. Asher Reisman (ME) moved an amendment to line 170 “Be it further resolved that the General Synod of the
United Church of Christ encourage ethical investment and business development through the continent. Further that
the General Synod charges the rich world to recognize its moral duty and indeed their own best interests lie in helping their African neighbors establish good governance and stable economies.”

07-GS-22 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the amendment “Be it further resolved that the General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourage ethical investment and business development through the continent. Further that the General Synod charges the rich world to recognize its moral duty and indeed their own best interests lie in helping their African neighbors establish good governance and stable economies.”

Mr. Dan Hatch (HI) alerted the delegates that in line 138, the House Bill is listed as #1130 and should read #2634.

07-GS-23 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the resolution “To Recognize 2007 as a Sabbath Year.”

TO RECOGNIZE 2007 AS A SABBATH YEAR

WHEREAS, the Hebrew Scriptures contain a liberating, just vision of life in community, governed by Sabbath cycles -- the Sabbath Day, the Sabbath Year, and the Jubilee Year; and

WHEREAS, these cycles are reminders of God’s intent that all creatures enjoy fullness of life and the abundance of God’s world; and

WHEREAS, the Sabbath Year is at the heart of Moses’ final instructions to the Hebrew people before they enter the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 15:1-18) ; and

WHEREAS, Sabbath Year observance requires that every seven years debts are canceled and those enslaved because of debts are freed, restoring equal relations among community members and preventing exploitation in which the rich accumulate wealth at the expense of the poor; and

WHEREAS, Jubilee Year 2000 was proclaimed across the world as a way to live out God’s call to remove extreme debt and restore balance in creation and among peoples, and the Millennium Development Goals of the UN were adopted widely as a means to achieve major poverty reduction by the year 2015, and

WHEREAS, seven years later (2007) we are half way to the MDG goal year of 2015 and much remains to be done as poverty has increased in Sub-Saharan Africa and elsewhere, a call to action in recognizing a Sabbath Year in 2007 is one way to continue earlier commitments to live out the Jubilee promises for our time; and

WHEREAS, General Synods of the United Church of Christ, the national instrumentalities of other denominations, World Council of Churches, and many other churches and organizations have called for churches to restore right relationships by supporting the lifting of debt from heavily indebted nations; and

WHEREAS, Jubilee USA Network is a coalition of non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations, and churches, including the United Church of Christ, whose work is education about and advocacy for debt-cancellation for impoverished and heavily indebted nations; and

WHEREAS, the JUBILEE Act (HR 2634) was re-introduced in the U.S. Congress in March 2007 calling for total cancellation of debt for every country which meets the UN Millennium Development Goals; and

WHEREAS, as Christians, we are commended to reveal our love for God and neighbor by our actions within the global family; and,

WHEREAS, Wangari Mathaai and Bishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Prize winners, challenged churches and religious communities at the 2007 World Social Forum in Nairobi, Kenya by asking “Where is the voice of the church? You have the numbers and the money, so why are you silent? The debt is immoral and unjust so let’s raise our voices to cancel the debt!”
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to General Synod Twenty-six recognize and affirm 2007 as a “Sabbath Year,” in response to the Biblical call to cancel debt without conditionality and proclaim Jubilee for impoverished countries today;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that member churches, and all settings, Associations, Conferences, and National Ministries of the United Church of Christ be encouraged to commemorate this Sabbath year and begin working towards Sabbath year 2014, by becoming "Jubilee Congregations," a program based on four simple commitments:

1. Pray for a Jubilee for the world’s poorest countries.
2. Provide a Jubilee contact person who will serve as a liaison between the congregation and Jubilee USA.
3. Contribute one dollar per active member per year to Jubilee USA, the proceeds of a special collection, or another amount to be determined by the congregation.
4. Advocate for debt cancellation by sending the equivalent of one letter per active member per year to a member of Congress or the administration calling on them to “drop the debt.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that churches and all settings, Associations, Conferences, and National Ministries of the United Church of Christ be invited to make Jubilee Justice a continuing part of the worship life of their congregation by holding a Jubilee Sunday service each year and to commemorate the Sabbath Year by participating in Jubilee USA’s rolling, 40 day fast for debt cancellation and an end to global poverty, which will take place from September 6 – October 15, 2007; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the General Synod of the UCC encourage ethical investment and business development throughout the continent. Further, that the GS charge the rich world to recognize its moral duty and indeed their own best interests lie in helping their African neighbors establish good governance and state economies.

FUNDING

Funding and implementation of this resolution is to be made in accordance with the mandates and available funding of the affected agencies.

6. CONTINUATION OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORT / ACTION RELATED TO PUERTO RICO CONFERENCE

Moderator Lawrence called on Ms. Sharon MacArthur, chairperson of the Executive Council, who described a brief history of activity related to the resolution adopted by the Puerto Rico Conference on June 10, 2006 to disaffiliate with the United Church of Christ. MacArthur’s report also indicated the Executive Council had been visited by the General Minister of the Puerto Rico Conference, the Rev. Edward Rivera Santiago.

Ms. MacArthur moved the adoption of “The Resolution on the Ending of the Recognition of the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico as a Conference of the United Church of Christ.”


Rev. John Thomas, General Minister and President, invited delegates to join him in prayer.

ENDING OF THE RECOGNITION OF THE IGLESIA EVANGELICA UNIDA DE PUERTO RICO AS A CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WHEREAS an Extraordinary Assembly of the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico (IEUPR) meeting June 10, 2006, voted to “disaffiliate from the United Church of Christ,” and
WHEREAS subsequent conversations with the leadership of the IEUPR have confirmed the desire of the church to end its historic and existing relationship with the UCC,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ regretfully, but respectfully, receives the action of the Extraordinary Assembly of the IEUPR to disaffiliate from the United Church of Christ; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod acknowledges with gratitude the historic relationship of the United Church of Christ with the IEUPR, stretching back over 100 years to the ministry of the American Missionary Association; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ ends its recognition of the IEUPR as a Conference of the United Church of Christ; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod affirms the work of Local Church Ministries, the Cornerstone Fund, and Justice and Witness Ministries in facilitating a process to resolve outstanding issues related to loans, grants, mortgages, mission projects and support, and deed restrictions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod affirms the continued relationship of the United Church of Christ to the Seminario Evangelico de Puerto Rico and to Ryder Memorial Hospital, and requests that the Council for Health and Human Services Ministries facilitate a process to enable Ryder Memorial Hospital to retain recognition as a health and human service agency related to the United Church of Christ; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod requests the Collegium of Officers to invite dialogue with the leadership of the IEUPR in the hope that a new relationship of mutuality and common mission may eventually be established between our two churches.

7. RESOLUTION: CHANGING THE COMPOSITION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD
Assistant Moderator Kevin Manz explained to delegates the procedural process involved in presenting a substitute motion and introduced Ms. Julie Peeples (SC), Chairperson of Committee Five for the presentation of the resolution entitled “Changing the Composition of the General Synod.”

Ms. Peeples moved the adoption of the substitute motion presented by the committee entitled “Changing the Composition of the General Synod.”

07-GS-25 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the substitute motion as presented by the committee entitled “Changing the Composition of the General Synod.”

CHANGING THE COMPOSITION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD
WHEREAS the intent of the proposed resolution entitled “Changing the Composition of the General Synod” is to change the composition of the General Synod, with the goal of increasing the involvement of local churches in the General Synod, we propose the following motion:

In order to strengthen covenantal relationships and to encourage increased participation of local churches in the work and ministry of the General Synod, while maintaining the mandates for a diverse delegation, General Synod Twenty-six directs the Executive Council to engage in a conversation with the conferences about increasing local church involvement in General Synod, including the nomination and election process for General Synod delegates, and to report back on that conversation with recommendations to General Synod Twenty-seven.

8. RESOLUTION: A REAFFIRMATION OF MARRIAGE BASED ON THE WORD OF GOD
Assistant Moderator Elizabeth King called upon Ms. Ginger Brasher-Cunningham (MASS), chairperson of Committee Three, for presentation of the recommendations of the committee.

Ms. Brasher-Cunningham noted that no proponents of the resolution were present during the work of the committee. She further noted that one of the proponents of the resolution has since left the denomination.

Ms. Brasher-Cunningham moved the adoption of the resolution “A Reaffirmation of Marriage Based on the Word of God” and indicated the committee recommended no action.

Ms. King explained the consequences of a vote to take no action.

Following discussion, Mr. Elliot Munn (ME) moved the previous question.
07-GS-26 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod votes to close debate.

07-GS-27 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the recommendation of the committee to take no action on the resolution “A Reaffirmation of Marriage Based on the Word of God.” (Resolution attached: Page 45.)

A division of the house was requested and the results were 633 yes votes, 135 no votes, and 10 abstentions.

9. RESOLUTION: A REAFFIRMATION OF THE HISTORIC AND ECUMENICAL CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE ON MARRIAGE

Ms. Ginger Brasher-Cunningham introduced the second resolution from Committee Three.

Ms. Brasher-Cunningham moved the adoption of the resolution “A Reaffirmation of the Historic and Ecumenical Christian Perspective on Marriage” and indicated the committee recommends no action be taken on the resolution.

10. ORDER OF THE DAY

Assistant Moderator King indicated that we reached the order of the day. Ms. King stated the body will return to the motion on the floor later this morning.

11. PRESENTATION BY MS. LYNN REDGRAVE

Ms. Melinda Keck (CONN) a member of First Congregational United Church of Christ, Kent, CT, along with her daughter Sara, introduced Ms. Lynn Redgrave, a member of their church.

Ms. Redgrave gave a stirring speech about her encounter with breast cancer beginning in January 2003. She spoke warmly of the love and God’s healing grace that had been extended to her by the members of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Kent. Ms. Redgrave included photographs of her journey.

12. SONG BREAK

Mr. Ken Medema offered a musical response to Ms. Redgrave’s presentation.

13. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Rev. Steven Camp (SOC) requested a point of personal privilege to express appreciation for the results of the StillSpeaking Initiative which most effectively communicates who we are. Rev. Camp noted that it would be most appropriate for us to express our gratitude for the efforts and creative genius of Mr. Ron Buford. The delegates responded with a standing ovation for Mr. Buford.

14. COLLEGIUM REPORT


Rev. Malayang discussed the dissent and conflict within some congregations following the Twenty-fifth General Synod’s vote of marriage equality and the resources that were developed to help individuals and churches study the complex and controversial issues before the church. He also pointed out that two hundred seventy-five new congregations were received into the United Church of Christ since the year 2000, as well as the scholarship and grants available for leadership.

Rev. Rogers-Witte talked of the expanding volunteer opportunities in the United States and overseas for pastors on sabbatical, college students, recent grads, adult professionals, young retirees and others. All of this work is done in cooperation and consultation with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), our international partners and with a variety of ministries in many settings.

Rev. Jaramillo discussed the desolation and disrepair that continues nearly two years after Hurricane Katrina. The United Church of Christ is committed to seeking justice, as well as relief and recovery work for the long haul. Ms. Rogers-Witte also mentioned that The Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ refunded health and dental premiums to two damaged churches, gave Ministerial Assistance grants to members and made special arrangements...
to get medicines to persons in affected areas. Gifts to Our Church’s Wider Mission – to Basic Support and the
special offerings – make these many-faceted responses possible.

Rev. John Thomas spoke of the fact that, even as total giving continues to rise in our local churches, fewer dollars
are reaching the Conference and national settings of the church. He talked of the streamlining and/or reshaping of
management and governance structures. A team of representatives from each body affected has met several times to
see if there is a way to reconcile varied viewpoints. He is hopeful that a creative proposal will be developed that all
can embrace.

Ms. Guffey talked of the continuation of work carried on by each of our national ministries, even in the face of
declining dollars. The production of resources, our liaison work with the conferences, our relationships with
ecumenical partners, personnel, archives, and General Synod, to name a few, continue to occur through the Office of
General Ministries. All of this, and more, is part of Our Church’s Wider Mission National Basic Support and the
four special mission offerings.

The Collegium was thanked with applause.

15. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL INCLUDING BUDGET PRESENTATION AND VOTE
Assistant Moderator Kevin Manz introduced Mr. Don Paterson who introduced Mr. Jim Moos for the Adoption of
the Biennial budget.

Mr. Moos moved, on behalf of the Executive Council, that the Twenty-sixth General Synod adopt a national Basic
Support allocation based on $9.5 million and $9.75 million for the budget years 2008 and 2009, respectively.

07-GS-28 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts a national Basic Support allocation based on $9.5
million and $9.75 million for the budget years 2008 and 2009, respectively.

Mr. Moos moved, on behalf of the Executive Council, that the Twenty-sixth General Synod delegate the
determination of the percentage allocation for Our Church’s Wider Mission National Basic Support for the 2008-
2009 biennium to the Executive Council.

07-GS-29 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the recommendation that the determination of the
percentage allocation for Our Church’s Wider Mission National Basic Support for the 2008-2009 biennium be made
by the Executive Council.

16. RESOLUTION: A REAFFIRMATION OF THE HISTORIC AND ECUMENICAL CHRISTIAN
PERSPECTIVE ON MARRIAGE
Assistant Moderator Elizabeth King indicated it was time to return to the motion from Committee Three made by
Ms. Brasher-Cunningham. Ms. Brasher-Cunningham had moved the adoption of the resolution “A Reaffirmation of
the Historic and Ecumenical Christian Perspective on Marriage” and per her Committee’s recommendation,
suggested no action be taken on the resolution.

Mr. Robert Thompson, representing the Faithful and Welcoming Churches, supported the committee’s
recommendation and stated that as a conservative member of the United Church of Christ, he felt more welcomed at
this General Synod than ever before and expressed his gratitude to the delegates.

Mr. Jim Craig (KO) called the question.

07-GS-30 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the recommendation of the committee to take no
action of the resolution “A Reaffirmation of the Historic and Ecumenical Christian Perspective on Marriage.”
(Resolution attached: Page 46.)

17. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPORT ON
ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM
Moderator Lawrence called on Mr. Carlos Correa for a report on the twentieth anniversary of the Report on
Environmental Racism. Mr. Correa indicated that before 1985, nobody had heard anything about environmental
The study was implemented to look at the inequality of community racism issues faced by African Americans, Latin Americans and Pacific Islanders. Mr. Correa introduced a video and a report from a National Press Club presentation on the issue.

18. POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE
Ms. King called on Ms. Reta Fiero from the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries who requested that sticks be made available to those with disabilities so moderators can be alerted to those persons when they wish to speak.

19. ANNOUNCEMENTS
Ms. Edith Guffey offered the following announcements.

There will be DVD’s available of many of the presentations. Order forms will be on-line.

The difficulties with housing at the University of Hartford have been resolved.

Ms. Linda Jaramillo invited those who have been challenged and moved by Ms. Marian Wright-Edelman to stand in solidarity with our children this evening at worship. In addition to the monetary offering at this evening’s worship, delegates were invited to also write a letter or card to their congress person regarding our concerns.

Ms. Guffey expressed deep appreciation to Mr. Ken Medema for his musical presentations.

20. RECESS
Moderator Lawrence declared the fifth plenary session concluded.

Tuesday Afternoon -- June 26, 2007
Sixth Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER
Assistant Moderator Kevin Manz called the sixth plenary session of the Twenty-sixth General Synod to order at 2:30 p.m.

Mr. Manz thanked the youth stewards from the Connecticut Conference for their outstanding assistance during the meeting.

2. SPEAK OUT!
Mr. Manz welcomed the final Speak Out! participants.

1. Ms. Linda Roosa (PNE) shared her concern for children and adults involved in the global slave trade. She recommended the book entitled “The Global Slave Trade and How You Can Help.”

2. Mr. David Clark (MASS) offered thanks to those who have accommodated and have been willing to work with those who have special needs.

3. Mr. Laverne Joseph (CA NV, S) spoke of the need for affordable housing for all. He encouraged everyone to contact their congressmen and express concern before a bill is introduced in Congress.

4. Ms. Mary James (NH) talked about the United Church of Christ partnership with the United Church of Zimbabwe. She reminded everyone of the current state of human injustice, unemployment and deaths related to AIDS and malaria in Zimbabwe.

5. Ms. Jean Souther (MASS) asked everyone to consider being a mission volunteer and to give to Our Church’s Wider Mission which is the major source of income for Global Ministries, missionaries and their work.
6. Mr. Cody Long (PNE) spoke of youth and young adult ministry and mission affiliated with Lancaster Theological Seminary. The group has raised over $30,000 for the Lesotho Child Counseling Unit in Africa, which works with orphans and those with AIDS. Cody urged everyone to help with these efforts.

7. Mr. Ryan Mathews (OHIO) thanked Ms. Edith Guffey, our national staff members and American Medical Response for their work in transporting persons with disabilities. The staff, assisted by AMR serves as testimony to the extravagant welcome and hospitality of the United Church of Christ.

8. Mr. Bob Inderbitzen (CONN) reported the members of the Connecticut Conference had provided 14,000 dozen cookies for the delegates’ enjoyment and told everyone to “take some home.”

9. Ms. Debra Parson (KO) spoke of the work being done at the Evangelical Children’s Home in St. Louis, which serves homeless and at-risk youth. She asked for prayers and financial support.

10. Mr. William Wildman (ME) issued a challenge and goal for the Twenty-seventh General Synod to do something about seminarian loan debt relief. He intends to work toward a pronouncement that addresses debt relief.

11. Mr. William Hendrick (CAC) spoke of how much hotel management values its employees. We should be careful not to alienate hotel management who identify with the values of the United Church of Christ. While unions are necessary in some hotels, there are many non-union hotels that treat staff well and pay decent wages.

12. Mr. Christopher Jenkins (MASS) requested the United Church of Christ reach out to the mainstream press so the general public is more aware of who we are.

13. Ms. Olgha Sandman (IL) brought words of gratitude for the faithful support of the Immokalee Farm Workers Ministry. This ministry won agreement with McDonalds and continues to work with Burger King until justice is accomplished for its workers.

14. Ms. Mary Brownlow (VT) talked of the desire of the Iranian people for peace and how they have been hijacked by their government.

Assistant Moderator Manz thanked all of the Speak Out! participants.

3. RESOLUTION: A CALL FOR A MORE HUMANE US IMMIGRATION POLICY; END MIGRANT DEATHS; SUPPORT IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

Mr. Manz called on Mr. Rodney Sutton, chairperson of Committee Two, for the introduction of resolutions from the committee.

Mr. Sutton introduced the resolution “A Call for a More Humane US Immigration Policy; End Migrant Deaths; Support Immigrant Communities.” He referenced the grammar correction in line 282 deleting the word “neither” and replacing the word “nor” with “and.” He then moved the adoption of the resolution. Mr. Sutton then invited Ms. Lara Westby to speak to the resolution.

Ms. Phyllis Evelyn (MA) moved to amend the resolution on line 314 to delete the word “and” and add the words “and families facing or in the deportation process.”

07-GS-31 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the amendment on line 314 to delete the word “and” and add the words “and families facing or in the deportation process.”
Mr. William Sawyer (NH) Mr. Mark Furnalt moved amendments to the resolution. Those amendments were defeated.

Following discussion, Mr. Al Thompson (MN) moved the previous question.

07-GS-32 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod voted to close debate.

07-GS-33 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the resolution “A Call for a More Humane US Immigration Policy; End Migrant Deaths; Support Immigrant Communities” as amended.

A CALL FOR A MORE HUMANE US IMMIGRATION POLICY; END MIGRANT DEATHS; SUPPORT IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, Jesus and the scriptures give us clear instruction on how we are to treat the foreigner and neighbors in need; and

WHEREAS, the Biblical heritage of the Judeo Christian tradition specifically identifies the “stranger” in our midst as deserving of our love and compassion; and

WHEREAS, we have been called by the one God to tear down all the borders we have built between us so that we may see each person as a child of God, so that we may learn to love and welcome all of God’s children as members of one family and one world; and

WHEREAS, our consciences are affronted by federal policies and actions that detain immigrants, that prosecute undocumented workers, that fracture families and prosecute those who would give them aid; and

WHEREAS, more than 3,000 men, women and children have died attempting to cross the US/Mexico border since the implementation of the blockade strategy of border enforcement and there is little evidence that this policy has been effective in slowing the tide of illegal immigration; and

WHEREAS, many of us are in local churches and communities where we are aware of migrant peoples, but largely unaware of their personal, communal, and national stories; and

WHEREAS, the United States is affected by the presence of new immigrants from all over the world, and

WHEREAS, although countries have the right to control their own borders, it is not an absolute right; the Church recognizes a basic God given right for shelter, food, clean water and other basic necessities; and

WHEREAS, the blockade strategy of border enforcement has created an underground market for the smuggling of human beings which exploits its vulnerable victims, and has encouraged an upsurge in vigilante activities, fosters an anti-immigrant atmosphere and represents the potential for violence; and

WHEREAS, current immigration policy forces upon migrant families potentially deadly choices which separate and dislocate them from one another, precluding free travel and mobility to return to their families; and

WHEREAS, migrant workers and their families enter the United States to live and work, and the current immigration policy makes that passage dangerous, illegal, disorderly, and inhumane, with very few of the basic rights afforded to all workers under international law; and

WHEREAS, approximately ten to twelve million undocumented workers and their families currently living in the United States are pressured to live covertly, without rights, and in vulnerable situations all over the United States; and

WHEREAS, the root causes of this migration lie in environmental, economic, and trade inequities between the United States, Mexico, and all of Latin America, policies which reduce tariffs and taxes that would support the poor in Mexico and Latin America; eliminate agricultural subsidies and low-interest loans for the poor in Mexico and
Latin America while keeping those subsidies in the United States and in Canada; reduce social spending for health
care, food stamps, and welfare reform in Mexico and Latin America; liberalize land ownership policies, thus
limiting the ability of the poor in Mexico and Latin America to own or share in the land; deregulate environmental
and labor laws in Mexico and Latin America; and limit the rights of Mexican and Latin American workers to protest
or seek remedies for wrongs done to them; and

WHEREAS, the fragile desert environment has sustained severe damage as a result of migrant and responding
enforcement patrols moving through remote desert regions; and

WHEREAS, General Synod XIII of the United Church of Christ (1981) adopted a Pronouncement on Immigration
calling upon all settings of the church to:
   a. advocate for the rights of immigrants;
   b. aid undocumented immigrants in attaining legal status;
   c. aid immigrants in reunification with their families and in placement in areas
      of the country most favorable for their productive participation in society;
   d. assist in meeting the social welfare needs of immigrants; and
   e. be inclusive of immigrants in existing and new churches; and

WHEREAS, General Synod XXIV of the United Church of Christ adopted a resolution supporting Humane Borders,
a faith-based group that offers assistance to those in need by maintaining water stations on and near the border and
recognizing that there is more that can be done within and by the United Church of Christ regarding border issues;
and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ proudly declares an extravagant welcome to all who seek to be in
relationship with Jesus Christ;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that General Synod Twenty-six of the United Church of Christ declares that
the Militarized Border Enforcement Strategy of the United States government has been ineffective and inhumane.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UCC congregations with their congressional representatives, advocate for a
policy that allows immigrant workers and their families to live and work in a safe, legal, orderly and humane manner
through an Employment-Focused immigration program (as opposed to employer focused) that guarantees basic
international workers’ rights to organization, collective bargaining, job portability, religious freedom, easy and safe
travel between the United States and their homeland, achievable and verifiable paths to residency, and a basic
human right of mobility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the conference ministers be urged to participate in delegations and immersion
programs, and that UCC congregations seek out opportunities for face to face dialogue with immigrant communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the congregations and pastors of the UCC study the immigration issue through
discussion and reflection of films such as "El Norte” and “Babel” and books such as “The Devil’s Highway” by Luis
Alberto Urrea.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that congregations and pastors form grass roots organizations working in
conjunction with established groups such as:
   • Border Links
   • Presbyterian Border Ministry
   • Samaritan Patrols
   • Illinois Maya Ministry
   • The New Sanctuary Movement
   • Center for Education and Social Transformation

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that General Synod XXVI urges the Covenanted Ministries of the UCC and the
various settings of the Church to seek opportunities for building and participating in existing interfaith coalitions and
partnering with global and U.S. organizations/institutions that advocate for justice and provide services for those in

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the undocumented community most in need, e.g. abandoned immigrant children, abused women, and families facing
or in the deportation process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we reaffirm the action of General Synod XIII on the resolution JUSTICE IN
IMMIGRATION and General Synod XXIV resolution supporting HUMANE BORDERS.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that General Synod XXVI calls upon the leaders of Conferences, Associations and
congregations to extend an extravagant welcome and radical hospitality to and continue to minister and care for all
who come to our doors.

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

4. RESOLUTION: RETURNING TO UNITY AND DIVERSITY IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Assistant Moderator Elizabeth King called on Ms. Lisa Gardner, chairperson of Committee Four, to present the
committee’s resolution.

On behalf of Committee Four Ms. Gardner moved the adoption of the resolution “Returning to Unity and Diversity
in the United Church of Christ” and recommended no action be taken.

07-GS-34 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod voted to take no action on the resolution “Returning to Unity
and Diversity in the United Church of Christ.” (Resolution attached: Page 46)

5. RESOLUTION: REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO COVENANTAL RELATIONSHIPS

Moderator Lawrence again called upon Ms. Lisa Gardner. Ms. Gardner introduced the resolution “Reaffirming our
Commitment to Covenantal Relationships” and moved its adoption as amended by the committee.

07-GS-35 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the resolution “Reaffirming our Commitment to
Covenantal Relationships,” as amended by the committee.

REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO COVENANTAL RELATIONSHIPS

WHEREAS, 2007 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United Church of Christ, and

WHEREAS, the occasion of the founding of the United Church of Christ was preceded with extensive discussions,
prayer, scholarship, research, and negotiations to establish a common vision for this new venture in Christianity, and

WHEREAS our forebears came to an agreement known as The Basis of Union with Interpretations and summarized
the faith of our denomination in the Statement of Faith, and

WHEREAS, Jesus prayed in John 17:21 “that they may all be one” and these words have been the official motto of
the United Church of Christ, and

WHEREAS, the Twenty-fifth General Synod reaffirmed that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior and the representation
of that central faith tenet by our symbol, and

WHEREAS, it is our desire that the United Church of Christ continue to reflect theological diversity that includes
members and churches who consider themselves to be evangelical, conservative, orthodox, or traditional (ECOT) as
well as centrist, progressive, and liberal,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod, meeting in Hartford, Connecticut,
reaffirms the Basis of Union with Interpretations and the Preamble to the United Church of Christ constitution as
ongoing valued and cherished testimonies of faith that guide our common life and identity in the United Church of
Christ, and under the ongoing guidance of the Holy Spirit, and commends these documents for review, reflection,
and study at all levels of the church.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod calls upon all settings of the church to consider prayerfully its policies and statements in terms of their impact on the unity and future of local churches, associations, and conferences in the UCC.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod recognizes and affirms the efforts of those among us who are encouraging all members and all churches to remain in the United Church of Christ and to increase covenental partnerships through giving to the wider church, by sharing joys and concerns, and by participating in every aspect of denominational life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod acknowledges the existence of a broad spectrum of thought on contemporary issues of theology and ethics, and advocates fair representation of all points of view in all settings of the United Church of Christ.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-Sixth General Synod urges Association, Conference and General Synod meetings to welcome speakers, displays and educational opportunities that exemplify an openness to the wide range of ministries and theological diversity in our churches.

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

6. RESOLUTION: LEGALIZATION OF PHYSICIAN AID IN DYING

Assistant Moderator Kevin Manz called upon Ms. Liza Torres, chairperson of Committee Six, to introduce the resolutions from that committee.

Ms. Torres introduced the resolution “Legalization of Physician Aid in Dying” and moved its adoption, as amended by the committee.

Ms. Martha Jacobs (Chaplain) offered a friendly amendment adding “professional” before United Church of Christ Chaplains. The amendment was accepted by the committee.

Rev. John Thomas (OHIO) posed a question to the committee chair, asking to support the study of the proposal. He then suggested a punctuation change as a friendly amendment. The change was accepted by the chair as part of the text.

Following additional discussion, Ms. Christina Kukock (MN) moved the previous question.

07-GS-36 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod votes to close debate on the resolution “Legalization of Physician Aid in Dying.”

07-GS-37 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the resolution “Legalization of Physician Aid in Dying,” as amended by the committee.

LEGALIZATION OF PHYSICIAN AID IN DYING

WHEREAS, life is both a sacred and a perishable gift from God;

WHEREAS, God intends that created life be more than simply the existence of a human organism (John 10:10);

WHEREAS faith sees death as a door into another room in God’s house (John 14: 2,3,19);

WHEREAS, compassion—love acted out—flows from the heart of God and through God’s children (Luke 10: 25-37);

WHEREAS, from the beginning of our lives to life everlasting, God leads us, sustains us, and is always with us (Psalm 139: 7-12);
WHEREAS, medical technology, pain management and palliative care have made great advances, yet some persons still face intolerable suffering during a terminal illness;

WHEREAS, the Ninth General Synod and the Eighteenth General Synod both passed end-of-life choice resolutions entitled “Rights and Responsibilities of Christians Regarding Human Death,” which did not address the issue of physician aid in dying;

WHEREAS, other faith communities have addressed end-of-life issues over the past 20 years;

WHEREAS, Oregon in 1997 passed a “Death with Dignity Act” permitting a mentally capable, dying adult to request and receive from a physician a prescription to hasten death if the patient finds his or her suffering to be unbearable, but only if strict and specific safeguards are followed;

WHEREAS, in Oregon since 1997 there have been no incidents of abuse of this law, and its use has been a rare choice, since the will to live is the greatest safeguard there is, yet thousands who will never use the law to hasten their own death are comforted to know that this choice is legally available if they should be among the few who need it and choose it;

WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court has affirmed Oregon’s right to have such a law;

WHEREAS, many physicians, religious leaders, dying patients and family members strongly support physician aid in dying with strong safeguards to prevent abuse;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod calls upon the local churches, conferences, and Justice and Witness Ministries in consultation with UCC Disabilities Ministries, Council for Health and Human Service Ministries (CHHSM), UCC Professional Chaplains and Counselors, UCC Faith Community Nurses and Physicians to study the following proposal and report their views through Justice and Witness Ministries to the Twenty-seventh General Synod for further consideration and action:

That on the grounds of compassion and choice, if strict safeguards to prevent abuse are followed, a terminally ill and mentally competent adult should have a legal right to request and receive medication from a willing physician to hasten death if the patient finds his or her suffering to be unbearable.

FUNDING

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

7. RESOLUTION: A CALL FOR SOLIDARITY WITH THE PERSECUTED IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND AN END TO EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLINGS AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Moderator Merlyn Lawrence called on Ms. Sarah Frische-Mouri, chairperson of Committee Eight, for the introduction of resolutions from the committee.

Ms. Frische-Mouri moved the adoption of the resolution “A Call for Solidarity with the Persecuted in the Philippines, and an End to Extra-Judicial Killings and Other Human Rights Violations,” as amended by the committee.

Ms. Jelani McGadney (MI) moved an amendment to strike lines 126 and 127 from the resolution: “future military appropriations from the United States to the Philippines should be conditional . . . “ and to change to “any future appropriations from the United States of America should be conditional on . . . “

Following discussion, a motion was made to close debate.

07-GS-38 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod votes to close debate on the amendment.
07-GS-39 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the amendment to strike lines 126 and 127 from the resolution: “future military appropriations from the United States to the Philippines should be conditional . . .” and to change to “any future appropriations from the United States of America should be conditional on . . .”

Ms. Jelani McGadney then moved a second amendment to the resolution to strike lines 133 and 134: “military appropriations be conditional upon demonstrated promotion of human rights . . .” and replace with “any appropriations to the Filipino Government be conditional upon demonstrated promotion of human rights.”

07-GS-40 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the amendment by general consent.

07-GS-41 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod adopts the resolution “A Call for Solidarity with the Persecuted in the Philippines, and an End to Extra-Judicial Killings and Other Human Rights Violations.”

A CALL FOR SOLIDARITY WITH THE PERSECUTED IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND AN END TO EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLINGS AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

WHEREAS, More than 800 people have been murdered in extra-judicial killings in the Philippines over the past 5 years, and nearly 200 people have been forcibly abducted, with none of these cases solved;

WHEREAS, Those who have been killed or disappeared have been involved in work for economic and political justice within the legal framework, yet characterized by the Philippine government as destabilizers and enemies of the state;

WHEREAS, Our sisters and brothers of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, are subject, as are most of the citizens of the Philippines, to a culture of repression and terror, and additionally live and work with the awareness that 16 of the 27 religious workers killed to date [March, 2007] have been members of the UCCP;

WHEREAS, $179.6 million has been provided by the U.S. government to the Philippines, from 2001-2004 “to equip security forces” [See GAO report, July, 2005] with then-assistant U.S. Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz referring to the Philippines as the “Second Front in the War on Terror” [See on-line AsiaTimes, May, 2003];

WHEREAS, in a country where basic needs for health care, public education, and gainful employment are neglected, the Philippine government has allocated $208 million for military hardware upgrades to combat insurgency;

WHEREAS, As people of faith we cry out to the Most High to “listen and do justice for the vulnerable and the oppressed, so that mortals may bring terror no more;”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that General Synod XXVI calls upon The General Minister and President

- to communicate to the United States Congress that future appropriations from the United States of America to the Philippines should be conditional on the demonstrated promotion of human rights through effective prosecution, trial and appropriate punishment of those alleged to perpetrate, assist, tolerate or are otherwise responsible for human rights violations against civilian populations;

- to encourage Wider Church Ministries, Justice and Witness Ministries, Conferences, and Local Churches to advocate that any appropriations to the Filipino Government be conditional upon demonstrated promotion of human rights;

- to ask individual members of the United Church of Christ, U.S.A., and Local Churches to pray for our partner church, the United Church of Christ, Philippines, in this time of upheaval, and to understand and be ultimately concerned for the economic, political, and religious dynamics of the country;

- to invite our ecumenical partners in the United States to join us in denouncing the extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances in the Philippines;
• to call upon Philippines President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to stop the executions and violence and call the perpetrators into account under the law;

• to call upon U.S. President George W. Bush to reconsider his 2003 description of the Philippines as a “model of democracy” and to pursue the realization of democratic rule in the Philippines;

• to maintain supportive communication with the UCCP;

Wider Church Ministries

• to encourage mission partnerships between Conferences and the UCCP;

• to maintain supportive communication with the UCCP;

• to provide and disseminate information on the current state of the Philippines to Local Churches & Conferences;

Justice & Witness Ministries

• to call upon U.S. government agencies and elected representatives to examine the links between U.S. funds and the violence and repression in the Philippines;

• to identify, through Justice and Peace Network communications, legislators who could be called upon to provide leadership in addressing policy and funding issues pertinent to the violations of human rights in the Philippines;

• to provide information and resources to raise awareness in Local Churches;

Conferences

• to express support and solidarity with the members of the UCCP in living out Jesus Christ’s Gospel message, particularly in promoting economic justice. (Luke 4:18-19);

• to establish linkages (dialogue, conversations, programs, etc.) toward mission partnerships with the UCCP.

Local Churches

• to seek out and employ avenues of advocacy for those persecuted in the Philippines;

• to prayerfully consider forming personal relationships with members of UCCP in affected areas for support and solidarity.

FUNDING

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

8. ACTION RELATED TO THE STILLSPKING INITIATIVE

Assistant Moderator Kevin Manz called upon Mr. Aaron Gould, Vice Chairperson of the Executive Council, to present an action related to the StillSpeaking Initiative.

Mr. Gould stated that in 1999 an action was taken that stated: “Through the Strengthen the Church offering we will share in the growth and future of the United Church of Christ through its local congregations and conferences. We will further our commitment to be a multi-racial/multi-cultural church, accessible to all. We will strengthen and
renew existing congregations and fund leadership for new congregations. We will provide for exciting new
programs for youth and young adults and fund leadership development for the whole church.”

On behalf of the Executive Council, Mr. Gould moved that the Twenty-sixth General amend this action by adding a
final sentence that will read: “We will provide support for the StillSpeaking Initiative,” and authorize Local Church
Ministries and the Office of General Ministries to design a formula that continues to support the ministries currently
receiving funding from the national share of Strengthen the Church and provides for the StillSpeaking Initiative to
receive funding from increased giving to Strengthen the Church.

Following discussion, a motion was made to close debate.

07-GS-42 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod votes to close debate.

07-GS-43 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod votes to amend the 1999 action taken with regard to the
Strengthen the Church offering by adding a final sentence that will read: “We will provide support for the
StillSpeaking Initiative,” and authorize Local Church Ministries and the Office of General Ministries to design a
formula that continues to support the ministries currently receiving funding from the national share of Strengthen the
Church and provides for the StillSpeaking Initiative to receive funding from increased giving to Strengthen the
Church.

Following the above vote, a motion was made and seconded that called for a Division of the House. The final vote
total was: 384 yes – 286 no – 89 abstentions.

Assistant Moderator Elizabeth King led the delegates in prayer following the vote.

Assistant Moderator Manz thanked Mr. Gould and called upon Ms. Marilyn Dubasek, who gave a report on the
StillSpeaking Initiative.

Ms. Dubasek reported that in only three years, approximately sixty percent of our members are in congregations that
claim the brand of the United Church of Christ – that is “No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey,
you’re welcome here.” She stated we are not the same church we were three years ago. God is still speaking, and
God has awakened and breathed life into this movement, this spirit and commitment in us. It is not short term. It’s
not fragile. And it’s not going away. She asked that everyone not underestimate what God can do, what our church
can do, what we can do. Imagine success. Plan for it. Pray for it. Keep at it. Be thankful to God. Be the people
the future demands. Be the United Church of Christ, where God is still speaking.

Mr. Manz thanked Ms. Dubasek on behalf of the General Synod and the whole church for the work she and her staff
have done in the StillSpeaking effort.

Rev. Linda Jaramillo spoke on behalf of the Collegium and expressed gratitude to Ms. Dubasek and Mr. Ron
Buford, whose passion, vision and hard work as the StillSpeaking director gave this effort voice and personality
across our church. She also thanked the Executive Council, boards of the covenanted ministries, conferences, our
StillSpeaking churches and individuals who visited our churches and who took a chance with us. She stated that the
Executive Council approved a plan that returns direction for the StillSpeaking Initiative to the Proclamation, Identity
and Communication Ministry Team and implements a comprehensive fundraising plan.

Mr. Phil Porter and Ms. Valerie Tutson then introduced new StillSpeaking radio and television commercials.
The presentation was followed by a musical selection from Mr. Ken Medema.

Assistant Moderator Manz asked the delegates what their desire was about extending the order of business so that all
resolutions could be considered. A motion was then made and seconded that the agenda be extended until business
is completed.

07-GS-44 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod votes to extend the agenda until business is completed.

Mr. Manz thanked the delegates for their dedication.
9. **RESOLUTION: AGAINST DEPLETED URANIUM WEAPONS**

Assistant Moderator Manz called upon Ms. Carol Stanley, chairperson of Committee Nine, for the introduction of business from that committee.

Ms. Stanley introduced the resolution “Against Depleted Uranium Weapons” and moved its adoption, as rewritten by the committee. Rev. Ino Limvere (NOPL) spoke to the resolution.

07-GS-45 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod votes to adopt the resolution “Against Depleted Uranium Weapons” as rewritten by the committee.

**AGAINST DEPLETED URANIUM WEAPONS**

WHEREAS, the United States government has admitted to the use of depleted uranium weapons in Iraq and Afghanistan AND

WHEREAS, the Parliament of the European Union has on March 13, 2003, passed a resolution to request a moratorium on the use of depleted uranium weapons AND

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut and Louisiana have passed laws to test for the presence of radiation in their veterans from the effects of exposure to depleted uranium; AND

WHEREAS, the uranium oxide depleted uranium created by the explosion of these weapons on impact remains radioactive and harmful for billions of years; AND

WHEREAS, the Pentagon has recently stated that they will not clean up depleted uranium from weapons used in Iraq; AND

WHEREAS, such radioactive weapons including depleted uranium arguably violates the Geneva Conventions on warfare; AND

WHEREAS, the use of depleted uranium violates the historic injunctions of the Christian tradition for the conduct of a "just war" AND

WHEREAS, numerous recent books and websites have pointed to the dangers of depleted uranium weapons for human health; AND

WHEREAS, Jesus in Matthew, Chapter 7, Verse 12 has given us the Golden Rule not to do to our neighbor what we would not want done to us, and to befriend the victim, and because we would not want any part of the world to become contaminated with depleted uranium particles that have the potential to cause cancer and genetic mutations in victims for thousands of years;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, deplores the use of depleted uranium weapons in recent conflicts in Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq, AND

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod calls for a world-wide freeze on the production of depleted uranium, sale and use of depleted uranium weapons, AND

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod calls for an internationally acceptable study of the long-term health effects of battle-generated depleted uranium on our veterans and on the affected citizens in other countries.

LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that we call on the United States government to be mandated to provide health care to members of our armed forces who have been exposed to the effects of depleted uranium weapons.

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

10. INVITATION TO THE TWENTY-SEVENTH GENERAL SYNOD.
Moderator Merlyn Lawrence called upon Rev. Kent Uleri, Michigan Conference Minister, and Ms. Dianne Roberts, co-chair of the host committee, to invite delegates to the Twenty-seventh General Synod in Grand Rapids.

11. REPORT ON COMMUNITY GROUPS
Moderator Lawrence invited Mr. Phil Porter to report on the community groups.

12. THANKS AND RECOGNITION
Moderator Lawrence called on Ms. Edith Guffey to thank the Connecticut Conference Local Arrangements Committee and volunteers. Ms. Guffey invited the Local Arrangements Committee to the stage for a round of applause.

Ms. Guffey reported the total registration for the Twenty-sixth General Synod as 9,089 persons. She also noted receipt of a letter from the service employees union that offered thanks for the United Church of Christ’s support of workers and their right to organize.

Rev. John Thomas reviewed the agenda change that required an adjustment to the worship schedule. He noted the offering would be in support of Our Church’s Wider Mission. He also indicated there would be an opportunity for anointing and everyone attending worship would receive a light as part of the worship service.

13. SECOND REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE
Ms. Guffey reported final registration at 9,089.

14. INSTALLATION OF MODERATORS
A service of installation was held for incoming moderators of the Twenty-seventh General Synod.

15. GENERAL SYNOD WRAP-UP
The Proclamation, Identity and Communication Ministry Team presented the Twenty-sixth General Synod video entitled “50 Years Bold.”

Moderator Lawrence thanked the Proclamation, Identity and Communication Ministry Team members for all their hard work and many long hours to help make this General Synod a success.

Mr. Ken Medema then led the General Synod in a closing song.

16. ADJOURNMENT
Ms. Lawrence thanked everyone in attendance for their participation and commitment to this Twenty-sixth General Synod and called on Ms. Sharon MacArthur, Chairperson of the Executive Council, to present one final motion.

Ms. MacArthur moved the adjournment of the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ at the conclusion of the evening’s worship service.

07-GS-46 VOTED: The Twenty-sixth General Synod voted, with applause, to adjourn the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ at the conclusion of the evening’s worship service.

The closing worship sermon was given by Dr. Mary Mikhael, President of the Near East School of Theology in Beirut, Lebanon.
A Pastoral Letter on the Iraq War

From the Collegium of Officers

United Church of Christ

June 22, 2007

“God expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry.”
(Isaiah 5.7)

The war in Iraq is now in its fifth year. Justified as a means to end oppression, this war has imposed
the new oppression of terror on the people of Iraq. Justified as the only way to protect the world from weapons
of mass destruction, this war has led to the massive destruction of communal life in Iraq. Justified as a means
to end the rule of terror, this war has bred more terror. Every day we look for justice, but all we see is
bloodshed. Every day we yearn for righteousness, but all we hear is a cry.

Thousands of precious American lives have been lost; thousands more have been altered forever by
profound injuries. We grieve each loss and embrace bereaved families with our prayers and compassion. Tens
of thousands more innocent Iraqi lives are daily being offered on the altar of preemptive war and sectarian
violence. They, too, are precious, and we weep for them. In our name human rights have been violated, abuse
and torture sanctioned, civil liberties dismantled, Iraqi infrastructure and lives destroyed. Billions of dollars
have been diverted from education, health care, and the needs of the poor in this land and around the world.
Efforts to restrain the real sources of global terrorism have been ignored or subverted. Trust and respect for
the United States throughout the world has been traded for self-serving political gain. Every day we look for
justice, but all we see is bloodshed. Every day we yearn for righteousness, but all we hear is a cry.

We confess that too often the church has been little more than a silent witness to evil deeds. We have
prayed without protest. We have recoiled from the horror this war has unleashed without resisting the
arrogance and folly at its heart. We have been more afraid of conflict in our churches than outraged over the
deceptions that have killed thousands. We have confused patriotism with self-interest. As citizens of this land
we have been made complicit in the bloodshed and the cries. Lord, have mercy upon us.

In the midst of our lament we give thanks – for pastors and laity who have raised courageous voices
against the violence and the deceit, for military personnel who have served with honor and integrity, for
chaplains who have cared for soldiers and their families with compassion and courage, for veterans whose
experience has led them to say, “no more,” for humanitarian groups, including the Middle East Council of
Churches, who have cared for the victims of violence and the growing tide of refugees, for the fragile Christian
community in Iraq that continues to bear witness to the Gospel under intense pressure and fear, for public
officials who have challenged this war risking reputation and career. The Gospel witness has not been
completely silenced, and for this we are grateful.

Today we call for an end to this war, an end to our reliance on violence as the first, rather than the last
resort, an end to the arrogant unilateralism of preemptive war. Today we call for the humility and courage to
acknowledge failure and error, to accept the futility of our current path, and we cry out for the creativity to
seek new paths of peacemaking in the Middle East, through regional engagement and true multinational
policing. Today we call for acknowledgement of our responsibility for the destruction caused by sanctions and
war, thereby, we pray, beginning to rebuild trust in the Middle East and around the world. Today we call for
repentance in our nation and for the recognition in our churches that security is found in submitting to Christ,
ot by dominating others.

To this end may we join protest to prayer, support ministries of compassion for victims here and in the
Middle East, cast off the fear that has made us accept the way of violence and return again to the way of Jesus.
Thus may bloodshed end and cries be transformed to the harmonies of justice and the melodies of peace. For this we yearn, for this we pray, and toward this end we rededicate ourselves as children of a loving God who gives “light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

John H. Thomas    Linda Jaramillo    Edith A. Guffey
José A. Malayang    Cally Rogers-Witte

Endorsed By

Douglas E. Anders    Jim Antal
South Central Conference    Massachusetts Conference
Charles P. Barnes    Geoffrey A. Black
Rhode Island Conference    New York Conference
Charles Buck    Char Burch
Hawaii Conference    Missouri Mid-South Conference
Stephen C. Camp    Nick Carter
Southern Conference    Andover Newton Theological School
Marja Coons-Torn    Davida Crabtree
Penn Central Conference    Connecticut Conference
John R. Deckenback    Timothy C. Downs
Central Atlantic Conference    Southeast Conference
Roddy Dunkerson    David R. Gaewski
Nebraska Conference    Maine Conference
John M. Gantt    Mary Susan Gast
Central Pacific Conference    California, Nevada Northern Conference
Stephen C. Gray    David M. Greenhaw
Indiana-Kentucky Conference    Eden Theological Seminary
David Hansen    Lark J. Hapke
Kansas-Oklahoma Conference    Southwest Conference
Don Hart    Phil Hart
United Church Foundation    Ohio Conference
Jane Heckles    Susan Henderson
California, Nevada Southern Conference    Vermont Conference
Jane Fisler Hoffman    Randy Hyvonen
Illinois Conference    Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference
Jim Langdoc    Koloman Karl Ludwig
Illinois South Conference    Calvin Synod Conference
Alan N. McLarty    William McKinney
Penn West conference                  Pacific School of Religion
Kita McVay                             Alan C. Miller
United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities Penn Northeast Conference
Gene E. Miller                         Mark Henry Miller
South Dakota Conference                Pacific Northwest Conference
F. Russell Mitman                      David S. Moyer
Pennsylvania Southeast Conference      Wisconsin Conference
Rich Pleva                             Riess W. Poterveld
Iowa Conference                        Lancaster Theological Seminary
Tom Rehling                            C. Jack Richards
Rocky Mountain Conference              Florida Conference
Dan Romero                             Gary M. Schulte
California, Nevada Southern Conference New Hampshire Conference
Karen Smith Sellers                    Wade Schemmel
Minnesota Conference                   Northern Plains Conference
Susan Thistlethwaite                   Kent J. Ulery
Chicago Theological Seminary           Michigan Conference
RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED -- NO ACTION TAKEN BY THE GENERAL SYNOD

A REAFFIRMATION OF MARRIAGE BASED ON THE WORD OF GOD

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ affirms in its membership with the World Alliance of Reformed Churches that “the Word of God given in the Old and New Testaments to be the supreme authority in matters of faith and life;” and

WHEREAS Scripture explicitly defines marriage to be between one man and one woman (Gen.1:27, Gen. 2:24, Matt. 19: 4, Mk. 10:6, I Cor. 11:11-12, Eph. 5:31); and

WHEREAS Scripture clearly condemns homosexuality as a sin (Lev. 18:11, Lev. 20:13, Rom. 1:26-27); and

WHEREAS it is the duty of the church to draw all sinners closer to Christ by loving them, not by affirming their sin (Matt. 22:37-40, Jn. 13:34-35, Rom. 6:1-4, 12-14); and

WHEREAS the resolution from the Twenty-fifth General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirms same-sex marriage as equivalent to marriage between one man and one woman, which is in direct violation of Scripture; and

WHEREAS the same resolution calls upon all churches within the United Church of Christ to engage in serious, respectful, and prayerful discussion of the covenantal relationship of marriage;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ must not allow its core principles to be compromised in response to popular societal movements and trends; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that compromising the core principles of the United Church of Christ as such is denying the true nature and purpose of Christ’s church and subsequently commending activities which lead to spiritual death; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ vehemently affirms that marriage is to be understood as a God-ordained relationship exclusively between one man and one woman; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ reaffirms the Scriptural definition of marriage as being between one man and one woman and in doing so recognizes the error of and furthermore reverses the resolution of Twenty-fifth General Synod entitled In Support of Equal Marriage Rights for All; and

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ to produce study materials accurately representing the non-secular, purely Scriptural perspective on the covenantal relationship of marriage as defined by the Word of God.
A REAFFIRMATION OF THE HISTORIC AND ECUMENICAL CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE ON MARRIAGE

WHEREAS the Holy Scripture describes marriage as a God ordained relationship to be entered into between one man and one woman; and

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ affirms in its membership with the World Alliance of Reformed Churches that “the Word of God given in the Old and New Testaments to be the supreme authority in matters of faith and life;” and

WHEREAS the Constitution of the United Church of Christ declares that our Church “claims as its own the faith of the historic Church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the insights of the Protestant Reformers;” and

WHEREAS both the ecumenical and historical community of Christian churches throughout the world hold that marriage is between one man and one woman, and;

WHEREAS the fairness and justice issues surrounding the granting of legislative and institutional benefits can be legislatively addressed apart from the redefinition of marriage; and

WHEREAS the Twenty-sixth General Synod calls upon all settings of the United Church of Christ to engage in serious, respectful, and prayerful discussion of the covenantal relationship of marriage; and

WHEREAS Executive Council of the United Church of Christ in April 2004 called the church to action and dialogue on marriage; and

WHEREAS the debate surrounding the issue of same sex marriage is too often marred by personal attacks and slander that are antithetical to Christ’s commandment to love one another just as he has loved us;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirms with the ecumenical and historical Christian Church that marriage is to be understood as a God ordained relationship between one man and one woman; and,

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod reaffirms in accordance with the historic creeds of the Christian faith and the insights of the Protestant Reformers that Scripture is the supreme authority for all matters of Christian faith and practice and calls upon General Synod to reaffirm the authority of Scripture in all matters of faith and life within the United Church of Christ; and

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-sixth General Synod recognizes the error of the statement “it is not possible to rely exclusively on scripture for understanding marriage today” contained within the resolution “In Support of Equal Marriage Rights for All” adopted by the Twenty-fifth General Synod; and,

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod calls upon all churches, Associations, Conferences and Covenanted Ministries of the national offices of the United Church of Christ to engage in a serious and substantive discussion of the issues surrounding same sex marriage without the use of vitriol or personal attacks on persons of opposing views; and,

LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod calls upon the Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ to produce study materials fairly and accurately representing a diversity of theological perspectives on the covenantal relationship of marriage.
RETURNING TO UNITY AND DIVERSITY IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WHEREAS, diversity is touted, even celebrated in the United Church of Christ;

WHEREAS, in recent years mottos and marketing materials emphasize only a very liberal theological perspective, causing some conservative congregations to feel alienated if they remain with the theological heritage of the church;

WHEREAS, a climate of misunderstanding has been created by churches objecting to General Synod resolutions;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Forty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Penn Central Conference calls for an end to rhetoric that fuels hostility and misunderstanding towards whose theological persuasion is different than a Conference or General Synod Resolution.

LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Penn Central Conference urge that Association, Conference and General Synod meetings would have speakers, displays and educational opportunities that would exemplify an openness to the wide range of ministries and the inclusion of the theological diversity in our churches.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Penn Central Conference request the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ direct that all promotional materials emphasize the essentials of our faith that help promote unity, rather than non-essentials i.e. one’s sexual preference and one’s interpretation of when life begins, that have become sources of tension and dispute within the church.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Penn Central Conference calls upon General Synod Twenty-six to direct the Executive Council to establish a seat on the Council as a representative of renewal groups in the United Church of Christ and that this seat be filled on a rotating term basis by ones representing the Biblical Witness Fellowship, Focus Renewal Ministries and the Faithful and Welcoming Churches of the United Church of Christ.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Penn Central Conference urge dissenting individuals and churches to remain within the United Church of Christ to maintain our celebrated diversity while raising their concerns in a loving manner that would preserve our unity.
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Sunday, October 14, 2007

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APPENDIX A

IN SUPPORT OF A RENEWED AND BALANCED STUDY AND RESPONSE TO THE CONFLICT BETWEEN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL

SUBMITTED BY:

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SUBMITTED ON: June 1, 2007

SUMMARY:

This resolution calls upon the 26th General Synod of the United Church of Christ to:

• encourage all settings of the Church to engage in ongoing and balanced study of the causes, history and context of the conflict between the Arab and Israeli people in the Middle East,

• publicly condemn the use of the media, textbooks and other educational materials that encourage children and young people to hate and destroy those with opposing viewpoints,

• publicly condemn all ongoing and escalating violence that prevents a peaceful resolution from being agreed upon and implemented, and

• establish a Task Force to study the complex situation in an in-depth and balanced manner.

BACKGROUND:

The 25th General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed two resolutions in 2005 concerning the ongoing violence in the Middle East (“Tear Down the Wall” and “Concerning the Use of Economic Leverage in Promoting Peace in the Middle East”). We continue to be committed to assisting the Palestinian and Israeli people in finding a just two-state solution that will ensure a secure, peaceful and productive future. Because the “Tear Down the Wall” resolution focused solely on the actions of Israel, we also have a responsibility to more fully understand and name the ways other nations and forces have contributed to the situation. Further study of the causes and history of the conflict would bring forth a balanced response that holds all parties accountable in appropriate ways, supports mutual understanding and dialog with people of various perspectives, and contributes in a positive way to the wider community that is committed to justice and peace in the Mideast.

In recent months, we have seen a dramatic increase in violence in the Palestinian territories
bordering at times on civil war, including in the Gaza Strip, from which Israel completely
disengaged in 2005. This tragic violence reveals underlying tensions between the Palestinian
political groups of Hamas and Fatah that threaten the welfare of the Palestinian people and
diminish prospects of a viable Palestinian state. In the first five months of 2007, more than 200
Palestinians were killed and 1,065 injured as a result of internal fighting. Fifty-five of these
deaths occurred during the week of May 13 alone. The potential for Palestinian civil war has
never before been so real. If civil war comes to pass, it would be disastrous for everyone in the
region.

As the possibility for a brighter future for Palestinians is diminished not only by actions of Israel
but also by violent internal battles being waged between Palestinian political parties and militias,
members of the United Church of Christ must develop a broader understanding of the violence
that plagues this part of the world. We cannot raise our voices only to point out the
transgressions of one side. Rather, when innocent lives are being shattered by an atmosphere of
intolerance, incitement and internal strife, we are called to an honest and searching critique of all
of the forces in conflict.

Tensions between the two main Palestinian factions began surfacing following the murder of
three children of a senior Fatah officer in December 2006, and escalating internal Palestinian
violence and a turn towards possible civil war did not become apparent until well into the New
Year. Thus, the need for readdressing the situation based upon these new events which appear to
be independent of the conflict with Israel could not have been anticipated before the January 1,
2007, deadline for submitting resolutions to be considered at the 26th General Synod.

BIBLICAL, THEOLOGICAL AND ETHICAL RATIONALE:

Jesus called his followers to work for peace. “Blessed are the peacemakers,” he said, “for they
will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9). However, this call is not easily lived out.
Creating an environment fostering peace between longtime enemies requires disciplined
peacemakers with flexibility in the face of changing circumstances, compassion for suffering on
both sides, commitment to the possibility of reconciliation, and the ability to delve deeply into
complex issues with discernment and wisdom. The United Church of Christ is called to nothing
less than these ideals.

The conflict between the Israelis and the people of Palestine and the Arab states – one that has
confounded many peacemakers in the past – is one of the most historically, politically,
economically, culturally, and religiously complex situations facing the modern world. Psalm
103:6 says, “The Lord works for vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.” As a
peacemaker, the Church in all of its settings must continue to speak out whenever violence,
hatred and oppression occur, standing in support of all who are oppressed and subjected to
injustice as new realities emerge. God commands it: “Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose
the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke to let the oppressed go free and to break
every yoke? (Isaiah 58:6).

By continuing to humbly study, pray, discern and witness about the conflict in the Middle East,
the wider Church will be led to further truths: “For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk blamelessly, guarding the paths of justice and preserving the way of his faithful ones. Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; prudence will watch over you; and understanding will guard you” (Proverbs 2:6-11).

Finally, in our response to this situation and in our advocacy for peace, we are called to live out the prayer displayed at St. George’s Cathedral in Jerusalem: “Let us pray not for Arab or Jew, nor for Palestinian or Israeli, but let us pray rather for ourselves, that we may not divide them in our prayers but keep them both together in our hearts. Amen.”

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, the 26th General Synod of the United Church of Christ continues to affirm the right of the peoples of both Israel and Palestine to live in peace, side by side in two secure and economically viable states; and

WHEREAS, the 25th General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed two resolutions focusing on the actions of Israel, entitled “Tear Down the Wall” and “Concerning the Use of Economic Leverage in Promoting Peace in the Middle East,” and has yet to fully address other forces contributing to the ongoing violence, oppression and suffering in the region; and

WHEREAS, many children and young people are not being educated for peace but are being exposed to hatred and intolerance in textbooks and the media; and

WHEREAS, in recent months violence has dramatically escalated between the Palestinian factions Fatah and Hamas, especially in the Gaza Strip, in spite of the fact that Israel disengaged from Gaza in September 2005; and

WHEREAS the potential for Palestinian civil war has never before been so real, and if it comes to pass would be disastrous for everyone in the region; and

WHEREAS, the escalating violence between Fatah and Hamas now calls us to consider whether we may have overlooked many aspects of an extraordinarily complicated situation and extraordinarily complicated relationships in the region; and

WHEREAS, we reaffirm our call to act as peacemakers in this war-torn yet holy land;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 26th General Synod of the United Church of Christ recognizes the need for ongoing balanced study, commentary and critique related to the conflict in the region;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the 26th General Synod condemns all media programs, publications, advertising campaigns, textbooks and groups that perpetuate violence instead of
promoting peace; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the 26th General Synod directs the Executive Council to establish a Task Force to engage in ongoing and balanced study of the causes, history and context of the conflict, including appropriate responses to the situation that may or may not lead to further support of economic leverage and removal of the security barrier. The Task Force is to report to the 27th General Synod in 2009 for any necessary further action, and also to report to all settings of the Church so that they, too, may have a deeper understanding of the situation.

IMPLEMENTATION:

The United Church of Christ Executive Council is requested to be the primary implementer of this resolution.

FUNDING:

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

STANDING RULES FOR THE TWENTY-SIXTH GENERAL SYNOD

As approved by the Executive Council April 24, 2006

The Membership of the General Synod

1. The General Synod is the representative body of the United Church of Christ and is composed of delegates chosen by the Conferences, from among the members of its Local Churches, the voting members of the Boards of Directors of Justice and Witness Ministries, Local Church Ministries and Wider Church Ministries, and of ex officio delegates; these shall constitute the voting delegates. The ex officio delegates with vote are the members of the Executive Council, including the Officers of the United Church of Christ, the Moderator and Assistant Moderators. There are also associate delegates who have voice without vote (United Church of Christ Constitution, paragraph 53, and Bylaws 190-191).

Accreditation and Seating of Voting Delegates and Associate Delegates

2. Delegates will be accredited by the General Synod Registrar or the Assistant Registrar or their agents at the registration desk upon presentation of proper credentials.

3. Conference Ministers are responsible for certifying substitutes to fill vacancies in the conference’s delegation. These persons shall be registered by the Registrar or the Assistant Registrar and accredited as delegates.

4. Composition of delegations can be challenged by voting or associate delegates only. Delegate seats which are contested will remain vacant until the General Synod Credentials Committee (Bylaw 204) makes a recommendation to the Synod and a decision is made by majority vote of the Synod.

A. A challenge of a delegation shall be made to the Executive Council and/or the Credentials Committee at least one month prior to the General Synod for appropriate consideration and recommendation to the General Synod.

B. In the event of a challenge to the composition of a delegation, the Credentials Committee shall consider the matter on the basis of the (1) provisions of the Conference for electing its General Synod delegates, (2) provisions as described in paragraph 186 of the Bylaws for the composition of the Conference delegations.

5. Voting delegates (Bylaws 185-189) wearing the proper badge will be seated in the specifically designated delegate section. Conference delegates will be seated with their
conference delegation. Members of the Covenanted Ministries Boards of Directors will be seated with their Covenanted Ministry.

6. Associate delegates (Bylaw 190 and 191) wearing the proper badge will be seated in the specifically designated associate delegate section, except the chairperson of the governing board and the chief executive officer(s) of each Conference who may be seated with their Conference delegation. Associate Delegates to General Synod have voice without vote in all aspects and functions of General Synod, including committees.

7. No other persons will be allowed in the delegate section except Non-Delegates having voice without vote as described below, and persons designated by the General Synod Administrator as General Synod staff, national staff liaisons and persons with press credentials. All delegates, associate delegates, non-delegates having voice without vote and other persons mentioned in this paragraph must have appropriate credentials from the General Synod Registrar.

Accreditation and Seating of Non-Delegates Having Voice Without Vote

8. Any chairperson or chief executive officer of any national program agency, both temporary and permanent, created by General Synod action, or of any of the bodies representing a historically underrepresented constituency (Bylaw 221), who is not either a voting delegate or an associate delegate (Bylaws 184-191) shall be accorded the privilege of voice without vote and of seating with the associate delegates.

9. When the interests of their respective institutions or groups are before the General Synod, the chief executive officers of the institutions related to the Council for Higher Education or the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries shall have the privilege of voice without vote.

10. A group is composed of at least 25 members of the United Church of Christ who have come together because they are persons of a particular constituency or interested in a specific issue or concern. Such groups may have voice without vote under the following conditions:

   A. The General Synod may vote, on recommendation of the Business Committee, to grant to not more than two non-delegate representatives of a group the privilege of voice without vote and of seating with the associate delegates, if the group meets the following criteria:

      (1) The group must consist of at least 25 members of the United Church of Christ and more than one Conference must be represented in its membership.

      (2) The group must show cause to the Business Committee why elected delegates cannot effectively represent its cause or concern.
to the General Synod.

(3) The two non-delegate representatives given voice without vote must hold membership in a local church of the United Church of Christ.

B. Any request for voice without vote privileges at the Twenty-fifth General Synod must be made in writing to the General Synod Business Committee in care of the Office of General Ministries of the United Church of Christ no later than February 15th immediately preceding the General Synod meeting. A list of at least 25 current members including local church membership reflecting membership in more than one conference must accompany all requests.

C. For groups not formally related to the United Church of Christ, privilege of voice without vote ends with the adjournment of General Synod.

11. Honored Guests, Former Officers of the United Church of Christ, Moderators of past General Synods, Chief Executive Officers of formerly Recognized and Established Instrumentalities, and the Commission of Racial Justice, and Ecumenical Guests who are not associate delegates may be accorded the privilege of voice without vote and of seating with the associate delegates by vote of the General Synod.

Procedures for Communicating and Considering Formal Motions

12. Matters of concern to members of the United Church of Christ may be presented in the form of Formal Motions for consideration by a General Synod. Formal Motions are Proposed Pronouncements; Proposals for Action; and Resolutions and Other Formal Motions. All matters submitted by a Conference or Association shall be considered by the Synod. (By-laws 166 and 171). The administrator of the General Synod will recommend to the Executive Council proposed disposition of these proposals for formal motion based on the procedures set forth in this paragraph. The Committee of Reference will then propose recommendations regarding the disposition of these proposals, and report these recommendations to the General Synod.

a. Items that are expected to be routine, noncontroversial, or dealt with in a special hearing will be reported directly to the plenary session by the Executive Council. This might include but is not limited to such items as the budget, amendments to constitution or Bylaws, statements of commendation, recognition and celebration.

b. All proposed pronouncements and proposals for action shall be assigned to committee.

c. Items which are complicated or controversial, which require background discussion and study, which merit and need a hearing process, or which have a system-wide impact will be assigned to a committee. The proposer
shall supply a resource person to the committee.

d. Any item which reiterates previous action shall normally be referred by
the General Synod to the body or bodies implementing such action. If a
proposed motion differs significantly from previous policy, or action of
the two preceding General Synods, it shall be assigned to a committee.
The burden of proof is on those submitting the policy to explain how the
proposal is different or necessary to a timely, current ministry of the UCC.

A. Proposed Pronouncements

(1) **Definition**: A Pronouncement is a statement of Christian conviction on a matter of
moral or social principle and has been adopted by a two-thirds vote of a General Synod.
It is based on biblical, theological and ethical grounds. Until adopted, the statement
presented for consideration by a General Synod is a Proposed Pronouncement. Proposals
for Action shall not be included in Proposed Pronouncements. (See B. Proposals for
Action, below.)

(2) **Sources**: A Proposed Pronouncement may be submitted only by:

(a) a General Synod delegate or delegate-elect with the written concurrence of
at least ten additional General Synod delegates or delegates-elect from two
or more Conferences;
(b) a Local Church, with the written concurrence of at least five other Local
Churches of the United Church of Christ;
(c) an Association;
(d) a Conference;
(e) a Covenanted, Associated or Affiliated Ministry, or other body as defined
in Article VI of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

(3) **Procedures** for Considering Proposed Pronouncements are:

(a) A Copy of the Proposed Pronouncement must be sent to the Office of
General Ministries **at least eight months before the opening of a
General Synod**.
(b) The Office of General Ministries will send the Proposed Pronouncement
to the Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and delegates **at least
six months in advance of a General Synod**. It shall be labeled "Proposed
Pronouncement--Circulated for Discussion and Comments."
(c) The Executive Council shall designate a committee or other group to
review the Proposed Pronouncement and make recommendations to a
General Synod. The initiator(s) of the Proposed Pronouncement shall
designate a person to support the Proposed Pronouncement before the
committee or group designated by the Executive Council. Additional
persons may provide support or opposition.
(d) The Office of General Ministries will receive responses to the Proposed
Pronouncement from Local Churches, delegates, delegates-elect, Associations, Conferences, Covenanted, Associated, or Affiliated Ministries, or other bodies as defined in Article VI of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ including the record of any votes taken. The Office of General Ministries will provide one copy of each response to the committee or group designated to review the Proposed Pronouncement, retaining one copy in the Office of General Ministries. A report shall be made to the General Synod of the volume and character received.

(e) The committee or group designated by the Executive Council to review the Proposed Pronouncement shall have the following duties:

1. To coordinate the responses received;
2. To hold open hearing(s) after proper notice.
3. To present, after such hearing(s), to a plenary session of the General Synod its recommendations for action. Such action may be approval, disapproval, amendment, consolidation, referral or no action. A substitute motion or other amendment which radically alters the basic intent or direction of the original Proposed Pronouncement, however, shall be ruled out of order.

(f) Copies of the Proposed Pronouncement and the recommendations of the committee or group reviewing the Proposed Pronouncement must be distributed to the delegates before action can be taken.

(g) If adopted, the Pronouncement shall be communicated throughout the United Church of Christ and to the public.

(4) Format: A Proposed Pronouncement and its supporting materials shall be submitted and circulated in the following format: (Proposed Pronouncements and supporting materials which do not follow this format will be returned for revision.)

(a) A brief title with an information sheet indicating the source of the Proposed Pronouncement, date of submission, and any other information pertinent to the Proposed Pronouncement.
(b) A brief summary (an abstract).
(c) Background statement indicates significance and rationale for the Proposed Pronouncement.
(d) Biblical, theological and ethical rationale for the Proposed Pronouncement.
(e) The statement of Christian conviction upon which the General Synod will vote.

(5) The Statement of Christian Conviction is the only portion of the Proposed Pronouncement which will be voted on by the General Synod. Committees functioning for the General Synod, however, shall consider and may amend any portion of the Proposed Pronouncement.

B. Proposals for Action
(1) **Definition:** A Proposal for Action is a recommendation for specific directional statements and goals implementing a Pronouncement. A Proposal for Action normally accompanies a Pronouncement. Additional Proposals for Action may also be considered at a later date. (A Proposal for Action may be submitted and circulated in anticipation of the adoption of a Proposed Pronouncement.)

(2) **Sources:** Proposals for Action may be submitted only by

(a) a General Synod delegate or delegate-elect, with the written concurrence of at least ten additional General Synod delegates or delegates-elect, from two or more Conferences;

(b) a Local Church, with the written concurrence of at least five other Local Churches of the United Church of Christ;

(c) an Association;

(d) a Conference;

(e) a Covenanted, Associated or Affiliated Ministry or other body as defined in Article VI of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

(3) **Procedures for Considering Proposals for Action are:**

(a) A copy of the Proposal for Action must be sent to the Office of General Ministries **at least eight months before the opening of the General Synod.**

(b) The Office of General Ministries will send the Proposal for Action to the Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, proposed implementor(s), and delegates **at least six months in advance of a General Synod.** It shall be labeled "Proposal for Action--Circulated for Discussion and Comments."

(c) The Executive Council may designate a committee or other group to review the Proposal for Action and make recommendations to the General Synod, or the Executive Council may present the Proposal for Action with its own recommendation to the General Synod. The initiator(s) of the Proposal for Action shall designate a person to support the Proposal for Action before the committee or group designated by the Executive Council. Additional persons may provide support or opposition.

(d) The Office of General Ministries will receive responses to the Proposals for Action from Local Churches, delegates, delegates-elect, Associations, Conferences, Covenanted, Associated, or Affiliated Ministries and other bodies as defined in Article VI of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ including the record of any votes taken. The Office of General Ministries will provide one copy of each response to the committee or group which may have been named by the Executive Council to review the Proposals for Action, and one copy to the initiator(s) of the Proposals for Action, retaining one copy in the Office of General Ministries. A report shall be made to the General Synod of the volume and character of the responses received.
The proposed implementors shall be required to provide to the General Synod a statement of feasibility and an estimate of the financial implications for the Church at the national level of the Proposal for Action.

Copies of the Proposal for Action and the recommendations pertaining to it, including a statement of financial implications, must be distributed to the delegates before action can be taken.

If adopted, the Proposal for Action shall be communicated throughout the United Church of Christ, to the public and to those named as implementors.

(4) Format: A Proposal for Action shall include the following: (Proposals for Action and supporting materials which do not follow this format will be returned for revision.)

(a) A brief title with an information sheet indicating the source of the Proposal for Action, date of submission, and any other information pertinent to the Proposal for Action.

(b) A brief summary (an abstract).

(c) Background statement indicating the Pronouncement(s) or the Proposed Pronouncement(s) on which it is based, the Synod(s) at which it was adopted or is proposed, and the rationale for the Proposal for Action.

(d) The names of the implementor(s) expected to develop the strategies and program to carry out the Proposal for Action.

(e) The directional statements and goals upon which the General Synod will vote.

(f) A statement that the implementing body is responsible to develop the strategy and program of the directional statements and goals.

(g) A statement that the funding for the implementation of the Proposal for Action will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

(5) The Directional Statements and Goals are the only portions of the Proposal for Action that will be voted on by the General Synod. Committees functioning for the General Synod, however, shall consider and may amend any portion of the Proposal for Action.

C. Resolutions and Other Formal Motions

(1) Definitions:

(a) Resolution of Witness: A Resolution of Witness is an expression of the General Synod concerning a moral, ethical or religious matter confronting the church, the nation, or the world, adopted for the guidance of the officers, Associated or Affiliated Ministries, or other bodies as defined in Article VI of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ; the consideration
of local churches, associations, conferences and other bodies related to the
United Church of Christ; and for a Christian witness to the world. It
represents agreement by at least 2/3rd of the delegates voting that the view
expressed is based on Christian conviction and is a part of their witness to
Jesus Christ. The text of the proposed resolution should be so phrased as
not to bring into question the Christian commitment of those who do not
agree.

(b) Prudential Resolutions: A Prudential Resolution establishes policy,
institutes or revises structure or procedures, authorizes programs, approves
directions or requests actions by a majority vote.
(c) Other Formal motions include actions other than those provided for above
by majority vote.

Sources: A Resolution or Other Formal Motion may be submitted by

(a) General Synod Delegate or Delegate-elect with the written concurrence of
at least ten additional General Synod Delegates or Delegates-elect from
two or more conferences,
(b) a Local Church with the written concurrence of at least five other local
churches of the United Church of Christ,
(c) an Association,
(d) a Conference,
(e) a Covenanted, Associated or Affiliated Ministry or other body as defined
in Article VI of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

Procedures for Considering Resolutions and Other Formal Motions are:

(a) Proposed Resolutions and Other Formal Motions shall be submitted before
the following deadlines:

1. A copy of the Resolution or Other Formal Motion must be sent
electronically* to the Office of General Ministries by January 1
before the opening of the General Synod. The Office of
General Ministries shall make copies available to delegates by
April 1.

2. A Resolution or Other Formal Motions which could not have been
anticipated or submitted in conformance with the above deadline
must be received electronically* by the Office of General
Ministries at least three weeks prior to the opening session of
the General Synod at which it is to be considered.

3. A Resolution or Other Formal Motion which could not have been
anticipated or submitted three weeks prior to the opening session
of the General Synod may be presented to the Office of General
Ministries electronically during those three weeks or by a voting
delegate to the Executive Council on the day of registration or at a
designated point in the agenda of Synod where new business may
be introduced by title only, or when there is no other business
before the Synod, provided that there will remain twenty-four
hours for study before action is taken by the Synod. The presenter
must be accompanied by two other delegates, at least one of whom
must be from a second conference, and must provide at least 1000
copies of the proposed Resolution or Other Formal Motion for
distribution to the Executive Council, Business Committee,
Officers, chairpersons of committees, delegates, and to each
conference.

4. Resolutions or Other Formal Motions submitted by a Conference
or Association (Bylaws 166 and 171) shall be considered by the
General Synod. These proposals are subject to the deadlines
articulated in this section except in cases where a Conference or
Association Annual Meeting takes place fewer than three weeks
before the General Synod. In such cases, the Conference or
Association must provide at least 1000 copies of the proposed
Resolution or Other Formal Motion for distribution to the
Executive Council, Business Committee, Officers, chairpersons of
committees, delegates, and to each Conference.

(b) Every Resolution or Other Formal Motion received prior to the General
Synod shall be referred to the Executive Council or, during the General
Synod meeting, to the Business Committee. The Executive Council or
Business Committee shall, in respect of each proposal, either (1) present
its own recommendations to the General Synod or (2) assign it to a
committee or other group for review and recommendation to the General
Synod. Such recommendations may include approval, disapproval,
amendment, consolidation, referral, or no action. (see Rule 22)

(c) Resolutions or other formal motions addressing issues addressed by one of
the two preceding General Synods would normally be referred by the
General Synod to implementing bodies unless the proposal would
significantly change the previous action or address an urgent and
significantly altered context. The burden of proof is on those submitting
the policy to explain how the proposal is different or necessary to a timely,
current ministry of the UCC.

(d) Copies of each Resolution or Other Formal Motion and the
recommendation pertaining to it must be distributed to delegates at least
one-half day before action can be taken.

(4) Format: Resolutions and Other Formal Motions include the following information:
397    (a) A brief title with information providing the source of the Resolution or
398    Other Formal Motion, the date of submission and any other information
399    pertinent to the Resolution or Other Formal Motion. The title must
400    accurately reflect the intent of the proposed motion. If presented at
401    General Synod, the names and conferences of the delegates presenting the
402    Resolution or Other Formal Motion shall be included.
403
404    (b) A brief summary of the Resolution or Formal Motion.
405
406    (c) The biblical, theological and ethical rationale; and the expected outcome.
407
408    (d) The text of the motion.
409
410    (e) A statement that the funding for the implementation of the Resolution or
411    Other Formal Motion will be made in accordance with the overall
412    mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available. There is no
413    financial guarantee of any kind other than the annual budget determined
414    by the Executive Council (73 GS 81).
415
416    (f) A statement that the implementing body is responsible for developing the
417    strategy and program designed to implement the Resolution or Other
418    Formal Motion.
419
420  13. No more than three Proposed Pronouncements, Proposals for Action, Reports
421    with Recommendations, Resolutions, and Overtures may be admitted to the agenda from
422    any single source.
423
424  14. Reports to be made to succeeding General Synods on a Pronouncement, Proposal
425    for Action, Resolution or Other Formal Motion may be requested for no more than the
426    three General Synods immediately following that General Synod.
427
428 Reports to the General Synod
429
430  15. Reports to the General Synod with no action required shall be placed on file. All
431    reports made within the context of the meeting shall be contained in the official minutes
432    of the meeting.
433
434 Conduct of the Business of the General Synod
435
436  16. A quorum for the conduct of business at General Synod shall consist of one-third
437    of the voting delegates, provided that in this number at least two-thirds of the
438    Conferences are represented by at least one delegate each (United Church of Christ
439    Constitution, paragraph 53).
440
441  17. All proceedings of the General Synod shall, unless otherwise provided for, be
442    governed by the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order (United Church of Christ
18. Main motions, not in distributed printed material, and substantive amendments shall be presented to the moderator in writing, signed by the maker and seconder. Only voting delegates may make motions.

19. When a matter has been referred to a committee or group during the General Synod for review prior to its presentation to a plenary session for debate and action, the recommendation made to a plenary session by such committee or group shall be considered an original main motion fully open to amendment by the General Synod, except a recommendation which radically alters the basic intent or direction of the original matter referred to a committee or group shall be regarded as a substitute motion requiring a majority vote of the General Synod for consideration.

20. The agenda as adopted by the General Synod may be changed by two-thirds vote or general consent upon recommendation of the Business Committee or motion from the floor.

21. Debate shall conform to the following provisions:

A. Delegates and others wishing to be recognized shall obtain use of a microphone, address the moderator and identify themselves by name and Conference or other represented body.

B. Pro and con microphones may be designated by the moderator as required.

C. A delegate may not speak on an issue and conclude by moving the previous question.

D. A delegate may not present a combined motion to close debate on an amendment to a motion and the main motion.

E. No one may speak to the same debatable motion more than twice except to answer questions from the floor or the moderator.

F. A maximum of three minutes for the first speech is allowed the maker of the motion; subsequent speakers are limited to two minutes each, which can be divided into two speeches.

G. During timed floor debates and speak outs, microphones will be turned off at the expiration of a speaker's time provided for in the General Synod Standing Rules.

H. When time restrictions on speakers are required by these Standing Rules, an extension of time may be granted by the presiding moderator to the following persons:
(1) Speakers requiring translation into English from another language (time needed for the translation shall not be counted in the time allotment) and speakers who require sign language translation;

(2) Speakers whose fluency in English is limited and for whom translation is not available;

(3) Speakers with disabilities which affect mobility and/or speech.

A request for an extension of time shall be indicated to the floor parliamentarian who shall notify the presiding moderator.

I. Opportunity will be provided for two delegates speaking in favor and two delegates speaking in opposition to a motion before an amendment can be made.

J. A motion to limit or extend the limits of debate is itself undebatable; such motion requires a second and a two-thirds vote unless decided by general consent.

K. Non-delegates, not otherwise authorized to speak, may speak only by a two-thirds vote of the General Synod.

Voting shall conform to the following provisions:

A. Votes shall be decided by the delegates present and voting. Abstentions shall not be counted in the total.

B. Voting shall be conducted on main motions, amendments and other motions, by the moderator by show of voting cards (not voice vote) except:

(1) When a standing vote is necessary as decided by the moderator; or

(2) When a counted vote is required by decision of the assembly or by the moderator.

Minority Resolutions

23. Requirements. In the case where a Formal Motion, Constitution and/or Bylaw amendment, or Priority is adopted by less than 75% of the votes cast, a minority resolution, expressing a minority viewpoint on the same subject matter, may be proposed at the same or the next business session of that General Synod.

24. Procedures to be followed when a minority resolution is to be considered shall conform to the following provisions:
A. A delegate who plans to propose a minority resolution should, at the time of the consideration of the original proposal, request of the moderator that the percentage of votes in the affirmative be determined and recorded so that eligibility for proposing a minority resolution can be established.

B. A minority resolution is to be voted only by those who voted in opposition to the original proposal. Each Conference shall be responsible to determine the eligibility of its own delegates in such a vote.

C. To become a matter of record of General Synod, a minority resolution shall require a majority vote of those voting as designated in 25.B, above.

D. An adopted minority resolutions shall be attached to the action to which it relates.

Procedures for Nominations and Elections

25. The Nominating Committee shall make nominations from the platform as provided by the Constitution and Bylaws.

26. Biographical information on each candidate shall be made available by the Nominating Committee for those it nominates. The Nominating Committee shall submit its information to the General Synod not later than the opening of the business session in which the Nominating Committee reports to the General Synod.

27. Written consent of each nominee is required prior to election and should be submitted to the Office of General Ministries.

28. There may be nominations from the floor for the positions of Moderator and Assistant Moderators of the General Synod. Nominees for these positions must fulfill the criteria established by the Bylaws for the contested position.

29. Members of the Nominating Committee are nominated by the Executive Council. These nominations are made from the platform by the Business Committee. Nominations for these positions may be made from the floor if the nominees fulfill the criteria established by the Bylaws for the contested position.

30. The person making a nomination from the floor shall submit the required biographical information to the Office of General Ministries by the close of the business meeting during which the nomination is made and provide verification of the consent of the nominee in a form acceptable to the Office of General Ministries pending receipt of written confirmation.

31. All nominations shall be presented by name only. Biographical information for all nominees shall be distributed in printed form.
32. The Business Committee shall administer the nomination and election procedures. Designated representatives of the Nominating Committee will be a resource to the Business Committee in the nomination and election procedures. The Office of General Ministries shall provide adequate staff assistance to the Business Committee and the Nominating Committee.

33. Election by ballot shall be required only when an election is contested. When the election is contested, the sequence of names shall be varied on the printed ballots. Nominations made from the floor shall be so identified on the ballots.

34. All elections shall be decided by plurality except for those specified in Standing Rule 37. Votes for write-in candidates and abstentions shall not be counted.

35. Requirements and limitations for Nominations are set forth on the following chart:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bio.</th>
<th>Floor</th>
<th>Nominating Info.</th>
<th>No.of Noms.</th>
<th>Seconding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Max.Words)</td>
<td>Allowed</td>
<td>(Max.Min)</td>
<td>Allowed</td>
<td>(Max.Min)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderators</td>
<td>(only when contested)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covenanted</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominating</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All nominating and seconding speeches shall be made from the platform.

36. The Moderator and Assistant Moderators of the General Synod shall be elected by majority vote, a majority being based on the number of votes cast for the office. The results and number of votes cast for each candidate, shall be announced to the delegates in a timely manner. If no candidate receives a majority of votes cast on any ballot, the next ballot will include the two candidates receiving the largest number of votes and all other candidates who receive more than the average number of votes cast per candidate on the previous ballot.

**Procedure and Call by Election**
37. In the General Synod year in which the General Minister and President or the Associate General Minister of the Church is to be called by election or reelection, the candidate will be presented to the General Synod by the Executive Council. A single presentation for each candidate may be made, each to be no longer than 10 minutes.

38. In the General Synod year in which the Executive Minister for Justice and Witness Ministries, Wider Church Ministries, or Local Church Ministries is to be called by election or reelection as an Officer of the Church, a candidate will be presented to the General Synod by the Board of Directors of the appropriate Covenanted Ministry. A single presentation for the candidate may be made, to be no longer than 10 minutes.

39. Candidates for the Offices of General Minister and President, Associate General Minister, Executive Minister for Justice and Witness Ministries, Executive Minister for Wider Church Ministries and Executive Minister for Local Church Ministries, may each make a speech no longer than 20 minutes prior to the call by election.

40. An affirmative vote of at least 60% of the votes cast is necessary for each candidate to be called and elected by the General Synod to serve as an officer of the church. The results of the vote for each candidate shall be announced to the delegates in a timely manner.

General Rules

41. Meeting expediters (such as pages) shall perform duties as designated by the Business Committee, and shall be non-delegates.

42. Only printed matter and other matter (including commercial) which has been approved by the Business Committee may be distributed on the floor of the General Synod and within its environs. Such material must contain the identity of the originator.

43. The Business Committee will announce any necessary rules pertaining to photographs being taken during the General Synod meetings. These rules may be changed in the manner as other General Synod Standing Rules.

44. Recording the procedures of General Synod is the responsibility of the Office of General Ministries.

45. Planned demonstrations and celebrations on the floor and visitors’ gallery of the General Synod plenary sessions must have prior approval of the Business Committee or be ruled out of order.

46. There shall be no smoking in the meeting hall during the business meetings of the General Synod.

47. All sessions of the General Synod and its delegate committees are open to the public and the news media while the Synod is in session.
48. The Planning Committee for General Synod 26 in consultation with the host Conference will determine the number of offerings to be received at General Synod 26 and shall announce the offering(s) at the Spring, 2007 meeting of Executive Council.

In the event that an exceptional need arises after the Spring meeting of the Executive Council or during the General Synod itself, the Business Committee of the General Synod may authorize an additional offering to meet that need during the General Synod.

49. These General Synod Standing Rules shall be originally adopted as a group by two-thirds vote. Thereafter, any rule(s) may be amended, rescinded, or suspended by a two-thirds vote.

50. When General Synod is not in session, the Executive Council acting as General Synod ad interim may amend the Standing Rules, as necessary, to facilitate the collection, processing and distribution of items of business for a subsequent General Synod. Notification must be sent to local churches, conferences and delegates regarding such action(s) at least one year prior to the beginning of the subsequent General Synod.

51. Rules governing exhibits at the General Synod are provided in the Standing Rules of the Executive Council.

* Electronic mailings to <synod@ucc.org>